



# WACONIAH

WASHINGTON • ARIZONA • CALIFORNIA • OREGON • NEVADA • IDAHO • ALASKA • HAWAII

Newsletter of the Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Vol. 44 No. 4 Director's Theme: "Look to the Garden Through the Eyes of a Child – A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities"



Pacific Region 2015 – 2017 Director Kristie Livreri

## *Director's Message*

Lately, we have been thinking a lot about change. Some say the only constant in our lives is change. Many of us refuse to accept change and would settle for status quo. Change is good. It keeps us moving forward. It can be rejuvenating and refreshing. Change may be wrought with upheaval. It may be confusing. But, we can make changes without falling apart or ignoring what has been. It is so important to respect our past and learn from it and move forward as we are forever changing.

Imagine the world today without the internet or technology. We no longer rely on the Pony Express to deliver the mail. We can reach one person or thousands of people on the other side of the planet with the click of a button or the touch of a finger on a computer or an iPhone. Isn't that amazing? We can learn how to plant a garden or build a birdhouse on Youtube. We can have virtual meetings, and let's not forget the importance of e-votes. What would we do without Pinterest?

Some things must never change, like the smiles and hugs received at a convention; like walking around the most perfect design and smelling the roses; like

brainstorming ideas on boosting membership or fundraising; like the friendships and memories created when we meet. A pat on the back for a job well-done can't come from an emoji.

We must never change our love and commitment to the world around us. We must never change our determination to educate and inspire children and youth to take care of our planet and to care for one another.

Just like the kaleidoscope, when it gets shaken up or turned around, or changed, it can produce a new beautiful pattern which can brighten and amaze us. And then change will come again.

As a change will be coming soon to the leadership of our National Garden Clubs and to the Pacific Region, we wish to thank you for your support and commitment. The Director's project has unified the Region in reaching out to children of all ages. The friendships created and renewed will continue to be a lasting memory that will never change.

We stand firm in our commitment to Nancy Hargroves as our NGC President as we embrace the changes that may come our way. We stand firmly behind Peggy Olin as she begins the journey as Region Director. We will support her theme and unified project and we move forward as a newly incorporated 501(c)(3) organization. Long live Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. May we never change in our commitment to one another as states within the region and as members of National Garden Clubs.

*Kristie*



**The 2015-2017 Pacific Region Board of Directors:** You are Pacific Region Gems for your strength and support during a difficult term and for dedication to a bright future for Pacific Region Garden Clubs.

~Kristie Livreri

**California Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Sue Bennett, President**

Theme: "Growing Minds, Planting Seeds"



**SHARING IDEAS!**

As my term comes to an end I wanted to share a few ideas that were successful. (In no particular order.)

Meetings with Open Discussions and a facilitator

Time was allotted during business meetings to have members voice their questions.

- The result: Everyone heard the question and everyone heard the answers and the message didn't come from members of the Executive Committee.
  - a. One topic was Awards. Members stated a lot of time is required to apply for an award; give out awards by AWARD not by district; have people who win #1 get up and get the recognition.
  - b. Awards entries are sent in, but no one knows if they have been received. Judge needs to reply that award entries were received.

Use of "empty" space in hallway at hotel

One district held a Table Display Show at the hotel for all to see.

- The result: Members learned new ideas and passersby asked questions. And participants received personal "great jobs!"

Empowerment

The district hosting a meeting, came up with a "Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse Fashion Show." Not knowing all the specifics, I let them run with it.

- The result: Members (models) dressed in all sorts of outfits ranging from plastic bags to hand-me-downs. Each model's outfit tied back to a chairman's title. Very creative and brave. Members also learned a lot.

Leverage

We held a "Leap into Leadership" workshop presented by our very own Robin Pokorski. It was conveniently scheduled immediately after a board meeting.

- The result: Local members could drive in the morning to attend and board members were already there. Each person attending was charged a small fee to cover food, copies and other expenses. But since we already had the room there was no extra charge.

Focus

District Directors were given a topic ahead of time as to what I wanted them to talk about during their presentations. Example: What are their clubs doing to

help with Encouraging Future Gardeners (President's Project)?

- The result: District Directors reported on how much they learned from their clubs by asking the question. They didn't realize how much their clubs were doing.



**Kristie Livreri:**

Thank you, Kristie, YOU are a GEM!

~ Hugs, CGCI

**Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs**  
**Terry Critchlow, President**

Theme: "Back to the Future – One Leap at a Time"



Reflecting on the past two years as Washington's President, I am inspired by the activities of our membership as they support and promote environmental responsibility and community interests, while providing educational opportunities and creative outlets to their fellow members and the public.

As we have continued to move forward, Washington garden club members have expanded their gardening education and practices with more sustainable and environmentally responsible techniques. Our membership has the opportunity to take NGC Environmental Studies and Landscape Design schools this spring and fall broadening their knowledge in the use of native plants and more organic gardening practices that promote environmental health. As the season turns, garden clubs are sponsoring their youth programs and projects with many children's vegetable, flower, bees and butterfly gardens being planted. In addition, spring begins with plant sales, tree plantings, flower shows and club projects.

As history proves, these ideas and activities are not new to our gardeners. From the beginning, garden club members joined together to share knowledge of successful gardening practices. They created floral beauty for their homes and public places in their communities. They looked to their community for opportunities to give service. Together they created ways to share their knowledge and promote their interests. As we continue to move into the future, the next administrations will continue to promote our love of nature and all it holds for us. Washington welcomes Joyce Lounsberry as our next President.

**Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Judy Tolbert, President**

*Theme: "People, Plants and Projects"*



Our newest state **Blue Star Memorial Marker** was dedicated at the Veteran's Pavilion in Sun Lakes Country Club on a lovely day in February. Several groups of American Legion Riders began the program with a drive by flag salute which was impressive. The

"Chordially Yours," a cappella group from Scottsdale, performed the "Star-Spangled Banner" and a lively version of "Proud to be an American." The guest speaker was a city council member from Chandler, in addition to several others, and a local ROTC group posted the colors. It was a very special program and we thank Weeders Garden Club for their efforts in this wonderful project.

LDS Course II was held on March 4 - 5 with 49 students, 34 of which stood for the exam. The speakers were engaging and informative, and there is much enthusiasm for the remaining courses. A follow-up field trip to Tempe's Eisendrath House has been planned in April. Course III is scheduled for January 19 - 20, 2018.

The 2015-2017 President's Project, the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge Contest, has had great participation and the entries will be judged over the next several weeks with awards going to the four clubs with the highest participation. The awards will be used for proposed club projects in 2017 - 2018 and the winners will be announced at the Annual Convention. Members of all participating clubs submitted photos of their registered pollinator garden entries and those photos will be uploaded to our [Flickr](#) page creating an album for the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. We hope to have the page updated early this summer.

We are excited to welcome NGC President, Sandra Robinson, as our guest of honor at the 83<sup>rd</sup> AFGC Annual Convention scheduled on April 21 - 22. Our itinerary will include a tour of the beautiful Mesa Community College Rose Garden, boasting nearly 9,000 roses. We will visit the AFGC **Blue Star Memorial Marker** located in the MCC Veterans Rose Garden. Our memorial service will be conducted at the garden, followed by a butterfly release. President Robinson will install Marcie Brooks as the 2017 - 2019 AFGC President at the installation banquet that evening along with her Board. We also enticed Robin to return for another Leadership Workshop which was so enjoyed in January 2016.

It hasn't been all fun and games this year. We worked hard on our bylaws and we have approved a Record Retention Plan that focuses on digital storage as opposed to hard copy. A new Archive Chairman was added to the Board of Directors who will coordinate with the President to ensure that records are safe and updated.

This has been a roller coaster two years for me, and I have enjoyed many new friends and many fun times. I do admit that it will be great to have a bit more rest and relaxation, but I will never forget or regret these past two years.

**Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.**  
**Janet Petersen, President**

*Theme: "We All Live Downstream. Choices Matter"*



Spring is here! It has been a long, cold and wet winter. We are excited to get out and plant our gardens, start our youth activities, enter Flower Shows and attend our Garden Club Conventions. I always look forward to seeing all my gardening friends. It is with mixed emotions as I approach the end of my four-year term as GCII President. During the last four years we have rewritten our bylaws, our Policies Manual and formed a Group Tax Exemption Program for our clubs. Claudia Hambacker, our incoming GCII President, has been instrumental in achieving all of these administrative changes. She will take GCII to the next level. It is a very exciting time for our state. We have been practicing Zoom so we can videoconference with members throughout the state. Claudia and her incoming officers have many exciting new ideas. We GCII members are looking forward to working with her.



**Brynn Tavasci & Diane Franchini:**

Thank you for showing off the "Best in the Northwest" at the 2017 PR convention in Seattle!

*~ Terry Critchlow*



**WACONIAH Correspondents:**

Thanks for making our region publication award-winning! You are all diamonds in my book!

*~ Robin Pokorski*

**Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Shirley Schmidt, President**

Theme: "Nurture Nature -- Nurture Friendships"



Who would have thought that hearing about fertilizer and receiving a bucket of it at a board meeting might be exciting? Well, that's exactly what happened at our recent spring meeting! We also celebrated the local Fred Meyer manager with a certificate of appreciation for their state-wide program that shares free healthy snacks with children while parents are shopping.

Certificates for all our Oregon stores were made available to our members to share in their local community. And as a third "event" two members of the Oregon Department of Transportation visited us to receive our "Thank You" for partnering with us on the roadside wildflower planting project and acknowledging our organization in their pollinator brochure.

Several years ago we selected a student to receive a scholarship to an Oregon university to be trained in horticulture. Our board members were blessed to visit his nursery and hear him educate us with a landscape design workshop. We presented him with a presidential citation to thank him for allowing us to see the results of our funds used for his education.

All 60 members present at our board meeting were gifted with a beautiful **pink** Regal Geranium to honor those who have breast cancer and to celebrate NGC's project "Plant It Pink."



Multnomah GC (incoming Pacific Region Director Peggy Olin's club), Portland District, Kindergarteners making Rock Frogs.

Diantha Knott was awarded the Suzy Twist-Powell Designer trophy at the June 2016 state convention and has used the container multiple times during this year. We congratulate her again and thank her for sharing these photos of her creations (see right).



Theme: "Grow and Share Your Knowledge"

By Robin Pokorski, Contributor



Alaska is slowly removing the snow. Here in Anchorage we got tons of it this winter. Fairbanks is still deep in winter I'm told. Spring will come as it always does. Meanwhile, we enjoy cut flowers. Several of our members will be heading south to Region and National conventions. Fairbanks is gearing up for their summer projects. Strawberry planting with seniors is one of their events. The Anchorage Wildflower Club will be handing out marigolds to all the children that attend the Garden Day at Sears. Anchorage Garden Club and Ketchikan Garden Club are also busy with their activities also. This will be a very active season for all of Alaska's garden clubs.



An ingenious use of 2-liter bottles

**Hort Tip – Cut Down on Cutworms**



To discourage cutworms from taking out young tomato plants, wrap the base of each seedling with a piece of aluminum foil.



**Pacific Region Director's Project**

By Sandra Ford, Director's Project Chairman

"Look to the Garden through the Eyes of a Child," the theme for the 2015-2017 term of the Pacific Region, is now coming to the end, but not the judging of the contest. The numbers are too close to call.

Kristie Livreri and I, as the project chairman, have applied for the NGC Award of Excellence by a Region. Our eight state presidents and state project chairmen have done an awesome job in your reports and we thank you. **We have accomplished our goal!**

The winning state will be rewarded at the region convention in Seattle.



**Robin Pokorski:**

You are many GEMS within CGCI, thank you!

~ Sue Bennett



**Vicki Yuen, Pacific Region Alternate Director,** is a gem for her dedication to the state, region and NGC and for her friendship.

~ Kristie Livreri



**You know you're old if they have discontinued your blood type.**

**-Phyllis Diller**

## ***Pacific Region Life Membership: Run for the Roses – What a Race!***

*By Alexis Slafer, Life Membership Chairman*



The Pacific Region Life Membership ***Run for the Roses*** saw plenty of momentum and lived up to expectations for the 2017-2019 term of Region Director Kristie Livreri. The entry fees

for this term provided \$1,120 for Pacific Region Scholarships! The ranking was determined by calculating the percentage per capita of Pacific Region Life Memberships purchased by each state to honor its members for their outstanding efforts and contributions.

Unfortunately, pony ***Arizona Star***, scheduled to be ridden by jockey Judy Tolbert, (with Arizona's single Pacific Region (PR) Life Membership) was scratched due to injury.

After a false start, the race was on. The track was slow, but you'd never know it by the speed of the "ponies" and the enthusiasm of the crowd.

The final tote board for this race saw the *Win* going to ***Nevada General***, ridden by jockey Nancy Lee Loesch, who zipped through an opening to pull ahead (with Nevada's nine PR Life Memberships.) Following a shower of rose petals as the ponies crossed the finish line -- the purse of \$180 from this chairman for Nevada's state project was presented in the winner's circle with a horseshoe of roses placed around the winning jockey's neck, along with the presentation of a bouquet of roses and the prize check.



The *Place* ranking went to ***Alaska's Hero***, ridden by jockey Martie Black (with Alaska's single PR Life Membership). While *Show* went to ***Oregon's Dream***, ridden by jockey Shirley Schmidt (with Oregon's five PR Life Memberships).

The rest of the field saw:

4<sup>th</sup> Place going to ***Washington's Choice***, ridden by jockey Terry Critchlow (with Washington's five PR Life Memberships).

5<sup>th</sup> Place going to ***California Gold***, ridden by jockey Sue Bennett (with California's nine PR Life Memberships).

The tie for last place went to ***Idaho Runner*** and ***Hawaiian Surfer***, ridden by Janet Petersen and Ann Swider, respectively. Neither had any PR Life Memberships.

As is obvious, the jockeys were the State Presidents of the Pacific Region. They did an excellent job "riding"

their ponies. Kudos must go to Brynn Tavasci for caring for the ponies (her daughter's My Little Ponies), designing the jockey's colors with the state seals, and getting the ponies to the track in their own special horse trailer. And, a special "thank you" to Robin Pokorski for her support & efforts in preparing so many aspects of this final ***Run for the Roses*** and especially her excellent shower of rose petals at the finish line.

While this term's ***Run for the Roses*** race is over... Don't forget to honor your members and build our scholarship fund by continuing to purchase Pacific Region Life Memberships. This chairman will continue in this position during the next term and will be looking for your applications in the mail!



## ***Pacific Region Convention***

*By Lana Finegold, Correspondent*

"The Best of the Northwest - The Pause that Refreshes" was the theme of the 74th annual Pacific Region Convention in Seattle, Washington at the Embassy Suites hosted by Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs. Director Kristie Livreri conducted the meetings with warmth and a smile. There were 66 full time attendees and 43 part-time plus four spouses. With a voting strength of 50 the new Bylaws and Standing Rules were approved. We enjoyed many programs including young dancers from the Allegro Performing Arts Academy; speakers Kelly Dodson and Sue Milliken of Far Reaches Nursery and Jessica Price, Bridget McNassar and Adam McCurdy from Oxbow Farm & Conservation Center. There were tours to Highline SeaTac Botanical Garden and to Kubota Garden. The design banquet featured local talent from many areas of Washington depicting "The Best of the Northwest" in their area. NGC President-Elect Nancy Hargroves installed the 2017-2019 PRGCI Officers. Incoming Pacific Region Director Peggy Olin announced her theme "Spreading your Butterfly Wings to Fly; Sharing your Knowledge of Gardening" and Region Project to "Plant America" with Native & Pollinator plants for their state. The convention closed with a reception honoring Pacific Region Officers.



We learned some very interesting things about bees while attending a honeybee workshop during California Garden Clubs, Inc. Winter Board Meeting. One of the fascinating subjects that many of us were interested in learning more about was that **bees are being trained to sniff out explosives**. I thought that this would be something more of our garden club members would be interested in reading about so I did further research on the subject. I was amazed by how many projects are currently utilizing bees' extremely developed sense of smell!

Members of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Stealthy Insect Sensor Project team in New Mexico have been able to harness the (*Apis mellifera*) western honeybee's exceptional sense of smell by using the bees' natural reaction to nectar, a proboscis extension reflex (sticking out their tongue), to record a response to a scent. First, they exposed the bees to an odor and some sugar water with it as a reward. Later the bees were exposed to the odor without rewarding them with sugar water, and they responded by sticking out their tongue to lick. This is called classical conditioning. They can train 50 bees in only two to three hours using this traditional approach.



The good thing about bees using their tongues is that humans can see it, so they know when the insects are near something they recognize. One drawback is that summer

bees are more efficient in detecting odors than winter bees, so while winter bees still recognized a conditioned odor, they did not respond as quickly.

Bees can also be trained to sniff out cancer, diabetes, and tuberculosis. It is claimed that the bees can be taught in just 10 minutes. A two-chambered glass dome is used for diagnosis. People exhale into the smaller chamber, and the bees rush into it if they detect on the breath the odor that they were trained to target.

In 2007, Croatia started using trained bees to find unexploded landmines left from the independence

struggles in the Balkans during the 1990s. The bees are trained by researchers at the university facility of agriculture. Per one of the professors, "The bees are faster and safer than sniffer dogs, and when they're not working, they make delicious honey." They can sniff out landmines three miles away!

A group of researchers in Germany use negative conditioning techniques, a mild electrical shock, to train the bees to respond when exposed to vapors from TNT, C4, and TATP explosives. For this training, the bees are placed in a small enclosed chamber that was lined with a metal grid. At each end of the chamber were openings where the odors were introduced. If the bee was positioned on the left side of the chamber, the odor would come from the left side, and vice versa. The bee learned to flee from the smell by introducing a small electric shock each time the drug was pumped into the chamber. As soon as the bee crossed over to the other side of the chamber, fleeing from the scent, the shock stopped. The bee very quickly learned that if she ran from the odor, she did not receive more shocks. Once the bee fled from the smell of the drug, even when there was no electric shock, the learning was complete. **The entire process took less than 15 minutes!** Once the bees are trained, they can be used to sniff out illegal substances for a couple of days and then are released back to their hive.

This project was developed in response to the growing threat of improvised explosive devices emerging as a threat to people worldwide. Currently trained detection dogs are used, but they cannot be



**"No! No! No! You're supposed to be looking for BOMBS, not tennis balls! BOMBS!"**

used very discreetly. Honey bees, however, are small and discreet, offering the element of surprise. They're also inexpensive to maintain and even easier to train than dogs.

Honeybees can pick explosives out of a complicated combination of scents that surround a typical human being. Trained bees can identify explosives whose odors were masked by lotions, underarm deodorants, and tobacco products. The bees are even capable of picking out TNT in motor oil in the presence of insect repellent!

Researchers with the University of Montana's division of biological science have trained bee colonies to detect explosives, meth labs, and dead bodies, but they use a different training approach. The bees are allowed free flight within a large screened area. Feeding stations are placed in several areas but most do not contain food. The food containing stations are surrounded by the scent of the materials the bees are being trained to detect. The bees quickly learn that food is always around the scent. These free-flying bees are allowed to roam large, outdoor spaces. When the bees detect the target scent, they slow down and circle the area. Using audio, video, and laser systems, handlers analyze the flight patterns of thousands of trained bees and produce a density map indicating the most likely location of the target. With tens of thousands of bees searching, they can quickly canvass an area of a mile.



Police and customs officials often rely on specially-trained sniffer dogs, to act as detectors to find concealed illegal drugs. However, the dog's "alert" is no longer enough evidence to allow a search without a warrant or probable cause since cannabis has been legalized in some US states and is decriminalized in many others. We need the dogs to focus only on drugs that remain illegal, and retraining dogs to ignore cannabis is difficult, time consuming, and very expensive. Training a police dog costs an average of over \$55,000, and it can take several years before the dog and its handler are ready for the streets. Dogs also cannot concentrate for a long period of time; they need time to rest, just as we humans do.

The ideal alternative to a dog drug sniffer has to possess good stamina, be quick at learning new skills,

and have a fantastic sense of smell - honeybees have all three of these attributes! Honeybees can learn to respond to the smell of heroin and cocaine as well as to other illegal drugs, either pure or those with cutting agents currently used on the streets today. Analysis indicates that a sensor device containing 40 free-walking, monitored, trained honeybees are able to alert their handler of the presence of heroin with a 95% accuracy rate and the bees are already proven to be more sensitive than many sophisticated man-made devices.

Some claim that trained bees could eventually replace sniffer dogs at airports and border controls. Could bees replace drug and explosive sniffing police dogs? It may be that bees will be used to support the activities of sniffer dogs by providing more specific responses to particular classes of drugs. Can researchers compare the bees' narcotic-hunting skills to those of police dogs? As one researcher stated – "Bees don't have to be better than the dogs. It's fine if they are just as good. I think that would be quite cool."

*And so do I!*



*Ed Note:* Here's a drug sniffer afraid for his job!



**Brynn Tavasci, Pacific Region Convention Chairman**, is a gem for giving her "all" toward giving our region a fun and successful convention.

~ Jeanette Pruin

**All** gardeners derive enjoyment from their gardens – that’s why we garden. But wildlife gardeners experience a whole new dimension of enjoyment from the color, life, movement and interest our wildlife brings, and from the knowledge that we are doing what we can to help nature. Understanding how gardens ‘work’ as ecological habitats helps us to be better gardeners, grow better produce and save money. But gardens are also often where our children first learn about nature and living creatures, as well as how food is grown. We are beginning to understand the many important ways in which getting close to nature helps people’s mental and physical health and happiness, quite apart from the general exercise benefits of being an active gardener. This extends beyond individual gardens, and we now know that whole communities benefit from gardens and green spaces full of wildlife.

**All** gardens have wildlife in them. Looking after your garden wildlife is one of the best ways that you can help nature thrive by your own efforts.

*Being a wildlife gardener means  
you can still grow the flowers you love,  
harvest food,  
indulge your design ideas*

*or have a playground for the kids (and the dog).*

The key thing about wildlife gardeners is that they are aware of and interested in the creatures in their garden and they manage their gardens with wildlife in mind.

(Thanks to [www.wlqf.org](http://www.wlqf.org) Wildlife Gardening Forum for sharing their thoughts and to clipartfox.com for the graphic.)

**Won't you join us in  
Gardening for our Wildlife?**



**TREES:** On May 1, 1959, the Territorial Legislature of Hawaii approved the kukui or candlenut tree to be the official tree of the State of Hawaii.



Joint Resolution No. 3 read, in part, “WHEREAS, the kukui tree is a tree native to all the islands of Hawai’i and WHEREAS, the multiplicity of its uses to the ancient Hawai’ians for light, fuel, medicine, dye and ornament and its continued value to the people of modern Hawaii, as well as the distinctive beauty of its light green foliage which embellishes many of the slopes of our beloved mountains, causes the kukui tree to be especially treasured by the people of the fiftieth State of the United States as an arboreal symbol of Hawai’i.....”

In the statute the kukui tree is also referred to as the candlenut tree and is also known as the Indian or Belgium walnut, the candlenut oil tree, the candleberry tree and the varnish tree.

The kukui nut has many uses. The first Hawaiians used the nuts for its light. The oil of the white kernels was extracted for its use in stone lamps and in ti leaf sheath torches. Now the nuts which come in black, tan or brown are seen in traditional leis. The immature white shells are more rare. The blossoms and leaves of the kukui tree are the official lei material of Moloka’i. The bark, flowers and nuts are all used for medicine. The nuts were used in cooking, and today the kukui nut is a key ingredient in a Hawaiian recipe called inamona which consists of a



roasted and crushed kukui nut mixed with Hawaiian salt. (Our State President from Hawaii, Ann Swider, says that Hawaiian salt is more coarse than Kosher salt). It is a popular addition to a local Hawaiian favorite named poke which is seasoned raw tuna.



The inner bark produced a red-brown dye for cloth and cordage. The soot of burned nuts produced a black dye for tattooing and painting designs on canoes and cloth. The tree trunks themselves were carved into canoes, and the oil from the tree made a varnish.



The kukui tree is not endemic to Hawaii but the seeds of the *Aleurites moluccana* were brought to the islands by Polynesian voyagers. The kukui tree is a classic example of the wisdom of ancient voyaging Polynesians who were thought to arrive in the Hawaiian Islands around 1200 AD. The plants that they chose to bring in their canoes had to serve many useful purposes. The kukui was definitely a prized plant. Today this tree grows wild in the lower mountain forests. Present day Hawaiians plant it in their gardens as a shade tree even though it is messy due to its dropping of leaves and nuts.

*Robyn McCarthy, Trees & Shrubs Chairman*



**HABITAT:** There is a delightful publication titled "Hawaii Backyard Conservation – Ideas for every Homeowner" published by the US Department of Agriculture and your Natural Resources Conservation Service, among others. Visit: [http://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/files/2013/05/PRC\\_HawaiiBackyardConservation.pdf](http://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/files/2013/05/PRC_HawaiiBackyardConservation.pdf)

In it, you'll find practices you can use to conserve and improve natural resources in your backyard, including beneficial insects, composting, managing nutrients and pests, mulching, native plants, terracing, planting trees, xeriscaping, wildlife habitat, plus many more. It also includes additional resources for every topic. And, it's a very pleasant read.

Of course, the rest of us in the Pacific Region are in awe of your native flora, which are listed by type, plant name, habitat, growth rate, height, spread, elevation, and rain requirements. And, suggestions are given for protecting your native animals like the 'elepaio – wren-like flycatchers found on Kauai, Oahu, and Hawaii.

Your Hawaii is like no other and, as you know, can never be replaced! **Mahalo** for your conservation efforts and for being nature mentors to your children and grandchildren!

*Becky Hassebroek, Habitat Chairman*



**BEES:** Hawaii is the most isolated island archipelago in the world. Being 2,500 miles from any other land, it enjoyed a unique biological history until the arrival of humans. Only one type of bee managed to reach the islands on its own: a yellow-faced bee, *Hylaeus*. From that one original species, evolved 63 known endemic species. (Endemic species are plants and animals that exist only in one geographic region.) That is about 10% of the world's yellow-faced bees, more than are found of this genus in all of North America. With no other bees to compete with, they spread to all of the Hawaiian habitats, from the wettest to the driest forests, and from the shore to the alpine desert near 10,000 feet on Mauna Kea.



But change came to the islands with the arrival of the Polynesian people over 800 years ago, and Europeans in the late 1700s. The native diversity has been changed faster than it can

adapt. Having evolved in isolation, the native plants were not prepared for the changes imposed by humans. New plants introduced intentionally or accidentally by people colonize areas quickly and exclude native ones. Rats and domestic animals radically altered the vegetation, changing forests to grasslands and preventing reproduction of some of the most important native plants. Since the yellow-faced bees almost exclusively visit native plants, they have retreated along with their preferred flowers.

Now it is difficult to find the native *Hylaeus*. Although they are still found in the remote native forest and shrub lands of the mountains, they are not found in areas near where people live. Seven species are endangered, and nine others have not been seen in over 80 years and may be extinct.

New challenges continue to arise, especially from invasive species. On the Island of Hawaii, the naio, or false sandalwood (see below), was an important host for bees, but it was devastated by the arrival of the naio thrips in 2008. Thousands of trees died, and the bees are now not found in many of the areas where they were once common just a few years ago. Argentine ants have spread over large areas, eliminating bees as they go. A new alien yellow-faced bee was discovered on the Island of Oahu. Almost extinct in its native range in India, this species has quickly spread to coastal and lowland areas throughout the island. Because of its similar size and habits, they will most likely be a more serious competitor with the native bees than the other alien bees. Sadly, it is inevitable that more invasive species will continue to arrive in the future.



Yet through all this change, the native bees have managed to persist with amazing tenacity. New discoveries continue to be made: 11 new native species have been found in the past 15 years! Six of those have been found in Oahu, which is the most heavily impacted island. While some rare species have not been found at their old sites, others have been found at new ones. Several of the coastal species have adapted to use the introduced tree heliotrope. This has allowed them to thrive in places where the native coastal vegetation has

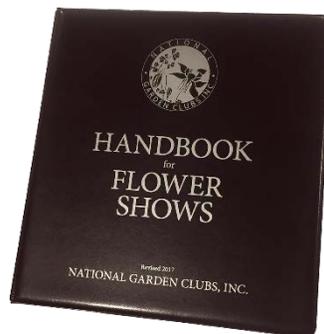
been lost, including the shoreline in front of upscale resorts.

The future is not foreseeable for Hawaii's native bees, but they continue to surprise us with their adaptability and perseverance. The native bees are important pollinators of many of the most important trees and shrubs of Hawaii. While honeybees also visit the same plants, they often act as nectar robbers as their long tongues allow them to reach the nectar without pollinating the flower.

*Josie Goodenow, Bees Chairman*

### ***The New Handbook Debuts***

*By Marva Lee Peterschick, Flower Show Schools Chairman*



The *Handbook for Flower Shows*, – revised 2017 by National Garden Clubs, Inc., is now available to everyone through Member Services by calling 800-550-6007. The price is \$25 plus shipping. You do not need to be a judge to order the handbook.

NGC puts out a new revised handbook every ten years and the 2017 issue has a new look with many changes.

I encourage anyone interested in attending Flower Show School to do so now. You can still start with any course before July 1, 2017. The rules change on that date and all Flower Show School Students must start with Course I. This may take some time to find a school starting with Course I that is convenient to your location. Check the *The National Gardener* and NGC website for schools that are registered and coming up in the future. Additional courses beyond Course I do not have to be taken in order.

You may attend for credit no more than three Flower Show School courses in any one calendar year with a minimum of four months between each course, except for make-up of failures. All the exams must be passed with a minimum score of 75 (not 70 as in the past).

All requirements to become an Accredited Judge must be completed within a seven-year timeframe. NGC Flower Show Accredited Judges are superior to any other because of NGC's strong educational curriculum and their continued efforts to provide the latest materials.

Take time to appreciate everything a National Garden Clubs' member is offered.

### ***Director's (Kristie) Travel Schedule***

May 16-21 NGC Convention, Richmond, Virginia

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian



I sometimes receive questions such as, "What does *Robert's (Rules of Order)* say about....?" or "Where can I find information in *Robert's* about....?"

My first response will invariably be, "Is *Robert's* your organization's **parliamentary authority**?" Some don't know. If *Robert's* is not your parliamentary authority, what it says is largely irrelevant.

Groups (organizations, clubs) generally identify rules of order for their meetings by adopting in their bylaws the rules found in a well-established manual on the subject, which is then known as the organization's parliamentary authority. *Robert's* is the most widely-used manual of parliamentary procedure in America and is commonly used in all levels of garden club, but there are other such manuals/authorities. If *Robert's* is your parliamentary authority, your bylaws should provide: "The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern [the organization] in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order [the organization] may adopt."

My next question is, "What does it say in your bylaws?" Bylaws are the highest level of rules in most groups and contain the group's own basic rules. Always go to your bylaws first. If the answer is there, you probably don't even need to know what *Robert's* has to say about the subject. *Robert's* is consulted for the default position when your bylaws do not address a situation. When referring a question to a parliamentarian always include the relevant section(s) of your bylaws.



**Greg Pokorski:**

Thank you for all you do – you are a GEM between many thorns!

~ Sue Bennett



**Jane McKee,**

**CGCI Communications Director:**

Thank you for putting all our GEMS in order!

~ Sue Bennett



Our new NGC President Nancy Hargroves' theme is "PLANT AMERICA," with a singular focus on garden and gardening. This theme can cover any and every aspect of gardening, horticulture, garden design and community service – even water and conservation issues, as we cannot garden without water! It applies to every kind of garden.

Our Pacific Region Theme:

***"Spreading your Butterfly Wings to Fly;  
Sharing your Knowledge of Gardening"***

Do they know where their food comes from? Did you plant a flower with your kids? Think what would happen if you did. How about the kids at school? Do they know the golden rule? About seeds and sun and the rain that falls? Do they know how it grows? Have they watched the seeds go? Do they know the warmth of sun while they plant those rows? Have they seen the butterflies and the bees? Flitting from tree to tree? From one to another the bees carry things that plants need.

Without birds and bees and butterflies, there will be no more plants. They'll wither and die. Without them, our garden is lost.

Let's share our knowledge and plant our plants. The ones that make the birds sing and the butterflies flit. Not everyone knows which plants will make your honeybees hum, but you do. You know which plants will make the butterflies happy. Share what you know so others can

grow. Watch what happens when you care enough to plant your garden and share your knowledge. The world gets a little greener and a little healthier every time.

Do it for the honeybees and the butterflies and your Garden Club and watch them all grow.

**Our Pacific Region Director's Project:**

All **eight Pacific Region states** can do this. We all have native and pollinator plants that grow in every state. I would like to see each state **"Plant America"** with **native and pollinator plants** that grow in **your own area**.

So let's take a new adventure together and see what we can **PLANT!**

Submit state and garden club plantings to the Pacific Region Director's Project Chairman by November 1, 2018; entries will be eligible for the Pacific Region Director's Award.

***2017 – 2019 NGC Youth Contest Themes***

**Youth Poetry Contest**

2017 – 2018 "Let It Grow" based on the movie "Frozen"

2018 – 2019 "Pop Goes the Seed" based on ideas after reading the new NGC youth book, *The Saved Seed*.

**High School Essay Contest**

2017 – 2018 "Community Garden – A Solution to Blight, Crime and Hunger"

2018 – 2019 "The Impact of Bottled Water to the Environment and the Water Supply"



We will always remember our **VERNA PRATT**, Alaska wildflower expert, educator and author, who was taken from us too soon. She wrote and published several field guides to Alaska wildflowers, taught numerous classes and led hikes through mountains and fields, inspiring generations of Alaskans to

look more closely at the beauty around them and appreciate even the smallest of wildflowers. She received the NGC Member Award of Honor and many other awards. She will always be a gem in our hearts!



Becky Hassebroek

*From Judy Tolbert, AFGC President*

It is with great sadness that I pass along this news of the passing of Sharron Luoma. Sharron passed away January 25, 2017. Sharron served as President of the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. from 2009 to 2011, and was a charter member of Scottsdale Garden Club. Sharron was a Master Flower Show Judge and was a member of the Arizona Flower Show Judges Council and Desert Designers. Sharron impacted countless people in the community and floral industry. Sharron has not only accomplished great things for AFGC, but through it all she and her husband, Fred Luoma, owned and operated Cactus Flower Florists with stores throughout the area. Sharron has received many awards over the years, and the Arizona State Florist Association recently established a full AZMF scholarship in Sharron's name.



***Director's (Peggy) Travel Schedule***

- May 16-21 NGC Convention, Richmond, Virginia
- June 6-9 WSFGC Convention, Everett, Washington
- June 11-13 GCII Convention, Idaho Falls, Idaho



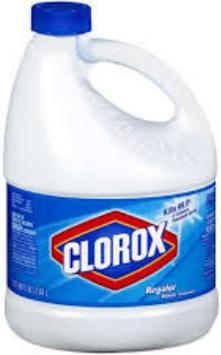
**Kristie Livreri, Pacific Region Director**, is a gem for her patience and good humor.

~ Jeanette Pruin

## What's the Difference Between Chlorine and Oxygen Bleach

Excerpts from Admin

When you hear the word bleach, you probably think of the chlorinated variety. But that's not the only kind of bleach out there. Chlorine and oxygen bleach are two different kinds of cleaners, and oxygen bleach has been growing in popularity since the late 90s. They both have their uses, but deciding which one is right for you depends on your goals.



### Properties of Chlorine Bleach

Its chemical name is sodium hypochlorite but has been used since the 1800s for everything from cleaning toilets to getting your whites whiter. It's easily identifiable by its harsh odor and immense cleaning power. If spilled on colored carpet or

fabric, it will turn them white because it breaks down synthetic dye molecules. Chlorine bleach can even break down fabric molecules, which is why clothes that are often washed in bleach tear and shred. It can also turn wood white, which is why it should not be used on wood surfaces. It will accelerate the corrosion of any metal items it's used on. Chlorine bleach is, however, an excellent sanitizer and will kill bacteria quickly, so the key is to thoroughly rinse areas sanitized with bleach. Chlorine bleach is also toxic and can kill living things – even people. Concentrated gas fumes can kill, which is why ventilation is important when using this chlorine bleach.

It's also toxic to plants. It can kill small ones immediately if it's sprayed on them or absorbed into their roots. Larger plants, like trees and bushes, will die more slowly if the soil around them is saturated – but they'll still die. So be careful how you dispose of excess bleach.

### What Makes Oxygen Bleach Different

Oxygen bleach does all the cleaning and deodorizing that chlorine bleach does but doesn't have the same harmful side effects or harsh odor. In fact, it's completely odorless. Sometimes oxygen bleach is sold as an aqueous solution like hydrogen peroxide. It's also sold as a powder, which is usually a mixture of soda ash or borax and a dried form of hydrogen peroxide.



The powdered form is activated when it's mixed with water, which is why many laundry detergents use it.

When water is added, an extra oxygen ion is released from the hydrogen peroxide molecule. It's this extra oxygen ion that gives this cleaner its power.

### Oxygen Bleach Isn't a Harsh Cleaner

Aside from being a powerful cleaner, this ion is far less destructive than a chlorine ion. If used according to directions, oxygen bleach won't break apart synthetic dye or fabric molecules which makes them safe to use on clothes and fabrics. It also won't damage or discolor wood. Oxygen bleach is non-toxic to people and plants as long as it's used as directed. The only materials it shouldn't be used on are wool, redwood, and silk, which can become discolored.

### Disadvantages of Oxygen Bleach

Oxygen bleach tends to be more expensive than chlorine bleach. But if you're dedicated to using eco-friendly products that are safe to use around your pets, children, and yourself, then oxygen bleach is the way to go. Powdered oxygen bleach takes longer to dissolve in water, which means cleaning with it takes a little longer. However, it is also available in liquid form, which provides the same immediate benefits as chlorine bleach without all the harmful effects.



## Bee Counted!

By Becky Hassebroek, NGC Million Pollinator Chairman



The Million Pollinator Garden Challenge is a nationwide call to action to preserve and create gardens and landscapes that help revive the health of bees, butterflies, birds, bats and other pollinators across America.

We haven't yet reached the million mark!

[Please Plant for our Pollinators and Bee Counted!](#)

Register your garden at:

[Millionpollinatorgardenchallenge.org](http://Millionpollinatorgardenchallenge.org)

For more information, contact Becky Hassebroek [beckyhasse@aol.com](mailto:beckyhasse@aol.com)

By Greg Pokorski, NGC Schools Coordinator



Thanks and congratulations to **Alaska, Arizona and Washington** who currently have school courses listed on the NGC website – Landscape

Design Schools in all three states and an Environmental Studies School in Washington.

Sadly, the Pacific Region is not taking advantage of NGC Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools to a greater extent. NGC provides the infrastructure with these well-established educational programs for you to provide education to your members and to the public. By sponsoring these schools, you should be able to increase the visibility of your state organizations and local garden clubs and the good works they do while attracting some new members, encouraging future gardeners, and hopefully making a little money and developing teamwork and cooperation among those who perform the work of conducting the school.

**Information is available to you** on the Schools pages of the NGC website, in every issue of *Keeping in Touch* and *The National Gardener*, in *Newscape* (Landscape Design Schools web page), in the Gardening Consultants newsletter (Gardening Study Schools web page), and by reaching out to NGC Schools chairmen (listed in these publications and on the website) and Pacific Region Schools chairmen. Some of our Pacific Region states have State Schools chairmen who would be the initial point of contact within those states and they coordinate with NGC chairmen.

As one garden club year draws to a close, it is time to be planning your state and club events, projects and programs for the next garden club year. Why not include NGC School courses and refresher events in your schedule? You may find the experience rewarding and do it more than once. My garden club has held three complete Gardening Study Schools and a Flower Show School. As you make plans, consider referencing and incorporating Nancy Hargroves' theme for the 2017-2019 NGC administration: **Plant America**.

Before this garden club year ends take a day or a week to celebrate and recognize the NGC Consultants in your state on the first observance of **National Consultants Day** during National Garden Week, June 4 to 10. See the articles in the last two issues of *WACONIAH*. What are your Consultants doing for you? And what are you doing for them? As an NGC Schools Chairman, I am not aware of any input from the Pacific Region on this. Please let us hear from you. *Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.* ~Henry Ford

By Sheila Parcel, Schools Chairman

**FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS**

May 2-4, Course II, Port Angeles, WA  
Contact: Billie Fitch, (360) 379-9242

**FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM**

May 23-24, Mt. Vernon, WA  
Contact: Daphne Ruxton, (360) 856-1923

June 26-27: Ontario, CA  
Chairman: Shane Looper (650) 871-0172,  
[SLLooper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:SLLooper@sbcglobal.net)

**Calendar of Events**

- May 16 Alaska Arbor Day
- May 16-21 NGC Convention, Richmond, Virginia
- Apr 6-9, 2018 Pacific Region Convention, Chena Hot Springs, Alaska

**Pacific Region States' Websites**

- Washington: [WAGardenClubs.com](http://WAGardenClubs.com)
- Arizona: [AZGardenClubs.com](http://AZGardenClubs.com)
- California: [CaliforniaGardenClubs.com](http://CaliforniaGardenClubs.com)
- Oregon: [OregonGardenClubs.org](http://OregonGardenClubs.org)
- Nevada: [NevadaGardenClubs.org](http://NevadaGardenClubs.org)
- Idaho: [GCII.org](http://GCII.org)
- Alaska: [AlaskaGardenClubs.org](http://AlaskaGardenClubs.org)

**Gardener's Tip**



To protect seedlings and young transplants from cutworm damage, just save the thick cardboard sleeve, like you see below, that comes around to-go cups of coffee or other hot beverages. When it's time to make sure cutworms don't chew off the stems of new growth, gently open up each ring at its seam and cut the cardboard strip into halves. Tightly roll each piece up again and secure it with clear tape. Set the rings over seedlings and pat them down into the soil to create an effective cutworm collar.





Return Address:  
 WACONIAH Circulation  
 PO Box 1046  
 Naches, WA 98937-1046

WACONIAH  
 Vol. 44 No. 4  
 May 2017

Did you share your  
 colorful, informational and fascinating  
 WACONIAH  
 with someone in your club and district?

*Pacific Region Fundraiser – Unqualified Success*



Fifty-three attended the event where Barbara Baker received a Director's Citation at the Pacific Region Fundraiser for her floral design program. Thanks to incoming Director Peggy Olin and the Multnomah Garden Club for hosting a lovely tea and silent auction. The event was a huge success and opportunity for Pacific Region members to be together.



**Barbara Baker, South Central Region Director**, is a gem for her unselfish donation of time, talent and money to the Pacific Region. We are grateful beyond words,  
 ~ Kristie Livreri

**WACONIAH Staff**

Editor Robin Pokorski [CGCIRobin@gmail.com](mailto:CGCIRobin@gmail.com) 818-361-7873  
 512 Newton St, San Fernando CA 91340-2421  
 Ass't Editor Greg Pokorski [GregPokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:GregPokorski@earthlink.net)  
 Circulation Terry Critchlow [tcritchlow@aol.com](mailto:tcritchlow@aol.com) 509-945-5465  
 PO Box 1046, Naches, WA 98937-1046

**I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them.**

**-Phyllis Diller**