

WACONIAH

Washington • Arizona • California • Oregon • Nevada • Idaho • Alaska • Hawaii

Vol. 50 No. 4

Director's Theme: **"One Green World"**



2021 – 2023 Pacific Region
Director Lana Finegold

Director's Message

Dear members of PRGC,

Thank you for the honor of serving as Director 2021-23. It has been a wonderful ride filled with magic moments and our enthusiastic energy. I have traveled to many of our eight states and everywhere I find dedicated, fun-loving, inspiring people. Together we created One Green World.

EACH DAY IS A GIFT

I've worked very hard and I am enough.
I've focused my life on all the right stuff.
Taught water aerobics eight wonderful years.
Taught people to garden in spite of their fears:
Weeded in sunshine, weeded in rain.
Miraculously I heard no one complain.
Taught fun with flowers many a day.
Encouraged each person creatively play.
Managed a gift shop. Bought then displayed
Wrote many ads, had much to say.
Managed to schedule each volunteer.
Wrote shop procedures so all was quite clear.
Now is my time to step down from it all.
Gardening takes time, especially in Fall.
Raking the leaves, planting bulbs too.
Pruning and digging – so much to do.
Filling a yard waste container each week.
Walking and workouts...when do I sleep?
The earth is on loan to us. Will it survive?
A gift to unwrap and treat well with pride.
So make each day special. Make each day count.
Each day is priceless. A precious account.
What we do matters. We create change.
Saving our world is in our range.

Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs

By Anne Sullivan, WSFGC President

I'm so ready for glorious spring flowers and warmer, sunny days. My garden club, the Oak Harbor Garden Club on Whidbey Island, will be celebrating its centennial in October. To help publicize the event, one of the many activities we have planned for our celebration is that club members planted over 6,500 daffodils around the city last fall! Some of the bulbs are already peeking through the soil. We've done much advertising about our centennial. It is very important that garden clubs advertise what they do for their communities. It is also a great way to recruit members to our clubs.

I'm looking forward to the Pacific Region Convention, *Going Green – Together*, that WSFGC is hosting at the Embassy Suites in Lynnwood, WA. I always enjoy meeting garden club members from other states. PR Conventions are fun, interesting and an educational time.

During my two year tenure at WSFGC, I have enjoyed visiting the clubs and districts in Washington State. I learn so much and get such inspiration from all the creativity of these groups. I'm going to miss that the most when I am no longer WSFGC president.

The last few years have been a roller coaster for all of us. We've had to revise how we operate on numerous levels in our lives, not just garden clubs. I appreciate the help from so many of our members in revising the ways we do things. It has been a learning experience. My best to all. Keep growing in all aspects of your life including your gardens.

"Flexibility and an open mind allow us to grow our abilities and our gardens. Do not audit life. Step up and make the most of your life now."



How a Botanical Garden Engages with Local Community Gardeners

By Susan Crevensten, Community Gardens, Fairbanks, Alaska

Many Botanical Gardens across the nation are expanding their role from being showcases of meticulously cultivated plants to involving people in building community. As an example, the Georgeson Botanical Garden (GBG) at the University of Alaska Fairbanks houses programs that focus on horticultural success, what works, and what grows well in our local conditions. Volunteers have played an important role in establishing the garden over the years.

The GBG provides a platform for public education and demonstration of local horticultural research. The garden is a hub for horticultural knowledge that we Community Gardeners can use in our gardens. Two people whose work currently contributes to the GBG's role as a community-building space are Katie DiCristina, the Manager of the GBG and Glenna Gannon, Assistant Professor Sustainable Food Systems University of Alaska, who directs the Vegetable Variety Trials Program. Katie DiCristina, the Manager of the GBG, noted that sustainability includes the topics of composting, herbicides, natural systems and beneficial insects. This topic is directly addressed as part of the GBG Harvest Project Collaborative (HPC) program. The Vegetable Variety Trials Program helps local gardeners and farmers to select the most successful varieties to grow in Alaska. This can ultimately contribute to a stronger local food system that is adapted to local conditions.

A new, and popular, element to promote "urban agriculture" is GBG's Harvest Project Collaborative (HPC) initiative to grow more gardeners. HPC teaches students how to grow food crops, and its success is demonstrated by the thousands of pounds of locally grown produce donated to local hunger relief organizations. At the same time HPC works to build a future community of gardeners and food producers, it ensures this community is more engaged and informed about our local food system.

In conclusion, because of the Georgeson Botanical Gardens, our local Community gardens and Garden Clubs learn research-based techniques for successful gardens.

Katie DiCristina and Glenna Gannon will be our featured speakers at the Alaska Garden Clubs State Convention in March, 2023.

Picture left by: JR Anchetta, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Penny Pines Report

By Claudia Hambacker, Penny Pines Chairman

We are at the end of our journey for the Ponderosa Pine seed. The last stop for our little seed is to be planted at one of the six nurseries within our PRGC region. The Lucky Peak Nursery, USFS, is one of two nurseries located within the Pacific Region Garden Clubs area. Located adjacent to the Lucky Peak reservoir, it is about 18 miles outside of the city limits of Boise, Idaho. Lucky Peak Nursery is in Region 4, the Intermountain Region. It was established in 1959. It serves the National Forests of Southern Idaho and two of the Pacific Region Garden Club states, Nevada and Arizona. It also serves Western Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico. This is a huge geographical area and the nursery is only about 60 acres in size. However, this nursery is able to provide 2 - 6 million trees and shrubs per year.

The primary mission of the USFS Nurseries is to grow seedlings to reforest areas that have been destroyed by fire, pests, and decaying wood. As some of you may be aware, harvesting trees is a good part of our western economy and when they are used for this purpose the areas must be completely replanted too. Large volumes of seedlings are not only to address the problems of the forest but also reforest a major commercial product for the West's economy. The nurseries also develop complex seed mixes that include grasses and forbs (herbaceous flowering plants) to restore areas to their natural condition and thus fend off grasses that may make their growing areas more susceptible to burn. The mixes also work to minimize the growth of the flammable cheat grass and improve and restore habitats in riparian and wildlife areas.

When I visited the nursery, I was surprised to find that it is also a seed cold storage repository. There are viable seeds stored from 1960! Another mission of the nursery is education. Helping the public, especially school children, appreciate the process and the importance of growing seedlings. As gardeners, we are all familiar with this concept and knowledgeable about "Save the Seed" projects and books supported by NGC. Educators are a part of the staff at most sites and will conduct tours for adults and school children.

Lucky Peak Nursery has a 32,000 square foot green house where at least 1.5 million seedlings are nurtured. It is also the receiver of seeds from Idaho Fish and Game whose citizen volunteers collect forb seeds. The Nursery functions as a mini extractor to process seed and keep it local for planting. It is not

uncommon for volunteers to plant far more than a thousand plants in a volunteer work day.

Thanks to NGC headquarters, we have the Penny Pines Donations from January through December 2022. Overall we did increase our numbers; however it is not fair to compare this one full year of data to previous data since it was for a 17-month period. Some states have elected not to have an official Penny Pines Chair and other States have chosen to send a portion of their donations to other collection centers for reforestation. These numbers are only reflections of funds directly donated to NGC Penny Pines.

<u>STATE</u>	<u>DONATIONS</u>	<u>PLANTATIONS</u>	<u>Trees</u>
Alaska	\$68.00	1	
Arizona	\$3,128.00	46	
California	\$5,168.00	76	
Idaho	\$612.00	9	
Nevada	\$340.00	5	
Oregon	\$6,800.00	100	
Washington	\$3,196.00	47	
GRAND TOTALS	\$19,312.00	284	65604

This will be my last article for the PRGC newsletter. Another individual will take over this position with the new administration. It has been an honor to serve and I do hope that garden club members have a better understanding of the Penny Pines Program. Thank you.



Why Bananas Are Curved

Negative geotropism is to blame for why bananas are curved.

This means they are growing against gravity.

They grow towards the sun as opposed to towards the ground.

Flower Show Schools

By Marva Lee Peterschick, Flower Show School Chairman

Flower Show Schools are well worth the time to attend, even if you are a certified NGC Flower Show Judge. Sometimes refreshing some material that you covered years ago can be even more valuable the second time around. For instance, I recently attended part of a Flower Show School, just one day and it was Horticulture. I had forgotten about entering just a cut piece of a Container House Plant. How many times have members of a club stated "I can't bring my cactus, it's too big to handle." If the schedule has a place for cut specimens of Houseplants, either flowering or foliage, then take a cutting the right size according to the schedule, put in water and take it to the show. It works for large houseplants that are difficult to transport to the show. A club should always have a place for Indoor Container Plants as they can end up being the backbone of the Horticulture Division if weather takes an unexpected turn and damages the local horticulture. Just remember, even if the flower show schedule didn't list a place for cut specimens of Indoor Plants, the committee might make a place for it if the exhibit is show worthy. If members are going to participate in a show, they need to be accommodated for easy participation.

And the Silver Medal Goes to: Moths and Butterflies

By Dave Kollen, Pollinators Contributor

My previous article introduced the main groups of pollinators and went on to explain why bees are the most important pollinators. There are a few exceptions, such as the tiny flies that pollinate cacao flowers. Without those flies we wouldn't have the beans from which we make chocolate. Nevertheless, bees took the gold medal at the Pollinator Olympics.

After that article a butterfly flew up and landed on my shoulder. It proceeded to complain, saying "Hey, what the heck, I'm important too ...", to which I replied, "Very much so, but where would you find nectar if it weren't for bees?" The somewhat miffed butterfly then shrugged its wings and flew away.

I think I was out in the backyard when that happened. Or maybe it was a dream? The old memory isn't what it used to be. Regardless, it's time to look more deeply into pollinator roles in our food

webs. Not surprisingly, this ties in nicely to our pledge. Specifically, "so we may become caretakers of our . . . land and wildlife."

Our land is the substrate upon which our local food webs either flourish or founder, with ourselves to a great extent determining which outcome we will have. Moths and butterflies, what biologists refer to as Lepidopterans (and a term I will use going forward), are a critical part of our food webs. Let's have a quick food web review and then see why Lepidopterans are so critical.

As we all know, everything starts with the sun. All the creatures in our food webs need to eat something, but only plants can "eat" sunlight. Why do we need pollinators? Well, 70% of the plant species on the planet require pollinators. Plants are the food for herbivores and this energy makes its way into the food web through them – stuff we learned in grade school. So, what's the big deal about Lepidopterans?



Studies have shown that caterpillars are the champions of transferring plant energy into the food web. For instance, a pair of chickadees might

gather many thousands of caterpillars to get a single clutch prepared to leave the nest. Given the importance of caterpillars, what can we do in our caretaker role to help and promote them?

We can do this by focusing on what are called keystone plants. Like the keystone in an archway, these plants help keep the local food web from crumbling. They support a diversity of pollinators, not just Lepidopterans. As Doug Tallamy advises, "focus on plants that support local moths and butterflies, and the pollinators that support those plants."

A list of keystone plants for our region can be found here (click on your region, e.g., Marine West Coast Forests):

<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/keystone-plants-by-ecoregion>

Education Division in Flower Shows

By Ann Kronenwetter, Birds Chairman

The purpose of the Educational Division is to inform garden club members and the public about the goals and objectives of NGC.

Objectives: to aid in the protection and conservation of natural resources and further interest in

horticulture, conservation, environmental protection and civic beautification.

An Educational Exhibit at the Flower Show promoting Birds is an excellent way to inform those attending the show. Having an educational exhibit on how to create a Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary in your garden can spark an interest and help birds in your area. Handouts on Habitat information would assist those attending the flower show. Habitat consists of food, water, shelter and space.

An Educational Exhibit about your state bird is an excellent way to educate the public and garden club members.

Showing how having birdfeeders, birdbaths and plantings in community centers, nursing homes, schools, parks, etc. can contribute to helping birds and promote civic educational services and beautification.

An Educational Exhibit could be about the trees, shrubs and flowers that attract Birds in your garden. Or you could choose a specific bird and show what that bird needs; for example: a hummingbird.

A Bird Migration Educational Exhibit is informative. Handouts on what areas the public and garden club members can go to view the birds would be educational and promote interest in saving wetlands, marshes, feeding and breeding grounds.

As garden clubs are now having flower shows, hopefully this article on Educational Exhibits about birds will inspire you to enter the show.

Happy Birding!

Sustainability

By Gail Vanderhorst, Sustainable Consumption Chairman

The word "sustainable" means "able to create and maintain conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic and the requirements of present and future generations".

So again, it means recycling and/or reusing products more than once. Most of us are doing just that and contributing to the sustainability of the planet. We, as garden club members realize the importance of taking care of our earth and being responsible with the products that we use. So here are a few products that fit that criteria: Reusable water bottles are one way to make a meaningful contribution to reducing one's carbon footprint and preventing billions of single-use plastic containers from littering the planet. Here is one from Costco: The ThermoFlask 32 oz and 40 oz tumblers are available.

Some ideas from *Good Housekeeping*

Here is a sock recycler: Smartwool.com has a waste-reduction program that will recycle donated socks into dog beds; they will take any brand of sock. Check out Smartwool.com.

Patagonia, a leader in sustainable textile practices, has released a line of coats using NetPlus material, made with fully traceable 100% recycled fishing-net fabric sourced from fishing communities in South America. This has multiple benefits. It keeps 'ghost' nets from harming marine ecosystems and provides economic benefits for the fishing communities. Patagonia.com is the source.

ThredUp extends the life of clothing and makes it easy to shop secondhand. You can send in items via the brand's Clean Out Bag. If clothes are in good condition, ThredUp lists them on its site, and you get a percentage if they sell. It recycles clothes that aren't sellable, or you can pay a fee to have them returned to you. Resale of clothing is certainly not new, but ThredUp has made it more glamorous. More information at ThredUp.com.

Continue doing what you are doing with regard to recycling and add one or two more ways you can reduce the waste and carbon footprint on our planet.

Pollinators in a Wildflower Habitat

By Judy Unrine, Pollinator Chairman

Originally a La Niña was predicted for California this winter. Traditionally, a La Niña would bring another winter without rain, further worsening drought conditions across the state. Those of us who care for the varied habitats across California groaned at the idea that we would again have a winter without rain.

Without rain there can be no wildflowers. The greater the struggle for rain the more beautiful the wildflower bloom. It may not be easy but without rain, the wildflower seeds will wait for another day.



Brittlebush – *Encelia farinosa*

Besides rain, wildflowers require years of drought to kill off invasive grasses called brome. Brome seeds

cannot survive drought as long as wildflower seeds. Wildflower seeds are coated with thick or waxy coatings. They can hibernate for decades. To bloom, wildflowers require the right amount of sunlight, moisture, and space.

Super blooms are a rare event. They occurred in 1940-41, 1973, 2005, and 2016. The recent super bloom occurred at the end of the COVID shut down. Hoards of people descended on the flower fields, damaging the flower beds. There are species of wildflowers that haven't bloomed in so long they are considered extinct.

The cycle of seeds sprouting and wildflowers blooming support other life cycles in the desert. The Sphinx moth caterpillars are abundant and hungry. They hatch and eat the wildflowers. Birds and small rodents eat the caterpillars. The food chain continues with hawks, snakes, and small mammals.

We may not be experiencing a super bloom, but hillsides are covered with yellow flowers. In lower elevations the desert floor is covered with purple.

Photo by George Urnine

Poster Contests

By Charlotte Tucker PRGC Poster Chairman

We didn't have very much participation in the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest at the PRGC level. We received only 21 posters, from four of the eight states in our region.

BUT . . . only 15 of them qualified to be judged at the PRGC level. Six of the posters submitted as **WINNERS** broke the rules and were disqualified from competition before they even got to the judging table.

Posters should not get to this level of judging with mistakes that make them ineligible for judging. The local clubs should have caught the broken rules before they judged them, and then the state judges should have been another check on the rules before they got to the Region level.

PLEASE check your posters for correct size, correct motto, child's name on the front of the poster, etc.

There are six students who could have had a chance at the PRGC level who didn't get that chance because disqualified posters won over them. The five 1st place winning posters from PRGC are in the mail to NGC to be judged at that level. I was told the NGC judging will take place sometime in April so we won't have any more information until after that happens.

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Bylaws note: PRGC bylaws may be amended at any Annual Convention and standing rules may be amended at a Board of Directors meeting. Proposed changes for consideration at the Lynnwood, Washington Convention were emailed to the distribution list on April 3. If you did not receive them or have questions about them please contact Organization Study Committee Chairman Greg Pokorski.

Oregon

By Cheryl Drumheller, OSFGC President

My President's Theme: "Promote our Pledge, Protect our Pollinators"

Oregon's Pledge "I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife."

I chose this theme because it meant a lot to me regarding protecting and conserving the natural resources of the planet earth. Through education we become better caretakers of our air, water, forest, land, and wildlife.

Air - Air pollution can cause diseases, allergies, death to humans, and harm to animals and food crops. To decrease air pollution outdoors – decrease driving your car and walk, or ride public transportation, plant trees, or use recycled products. To decrease air pollution inside – open windows, use air purifiers, or use natural products.

Water -Pollution from water runoff can be harmful to people, plants, animals, and fish. One example is when fertilizer is improperly applied to your lawn such as over-fertilizing. Another is through improper disposal of household products and chemicals that enter nearby water bodies. To decrease water pollution, be mindful of the proper use and storage of household and lawn chemicals.

Forest and Wildlife - People enjoy camping in a forest as the sight of majestic trees delight them. Camping usually involves a campfire for everyone to enjoy. The campfire provides warmth and light and may be used for cooking meals. If it is not correctly built, maintained, and extinguished, it can become hazardous for people, animals, and the surrounding forest. Always ensure the fire is extinguished completely before leaving the campsite. When it comes to the wildlife, stay clear of the animals. You never know which one will strike or chase you.

Land - A caretaker of land may mean general grounds upkeep, clearing buildings and driveways of debris, leaves, and snow. And being mindful of the pollutants that can harm the land. To continue having

quality air, water, forest, land, and wildlife we need to be active caretakers.

Protect our Pollinators - Avoid pesticides, create habitats for nesting bees, and plant milkweed for monarch butterflies.

Youth Are the Future!

By Sue Bennett, Youth Coordinator

As the Pacific Region Youth Coordinator, this chairman can't believe the term is coming to an end. I went back to see what was accomplished by the committee. At the beginning of the term, we held a Zoom meeting where not only Youth Chairman, but all members who were involved with Youth attended. Feedback: it was a great meeting.

In Las Vegas, the Youth Committee met. Outcome from the meeting was to set up another Zoom to talk about job descriptions/responsibilities; unfortunately, it never happened.

Here we are today. The Youth Committee is available to help answer questions, motivate state Youth Chairman, and encourage folks to motivate kids to apply for awards. The number of youth entrees is dwindling. Why? Let's blame it on Covid. Hopefully, we can rebound now.

When we think about youth, we have a ton of items that come to mind and not just gardening. Gardening is important – it teaches children to get outside; but it also teaches them, with our help, the importance of eating locally, buying locally, better yet growing your own. We can teach children about Recycling, Smokey Bear (fires) and Woodsy Owl (trash) to name a few. One can take this further and share what this means to our environment, their environment: the importance of trees, pollinators, good bugs in the garden.

If you are involved with Youth, this chairman suggests looking into the following websites, which I belong too. Lots of valuable information and ideas are shared.

- Kids Garden Community
<https://community.kidsgardening.org/home>

Join a growing community of other educators, parents, caregivers, and volunteers like yourself bringing the job of gardening to kids.

- Junior Master Gardener (search and find one local)

Growing good kids by igniting a passion for learning, success, and service through a unique gardening education.

There are many others as well.

The Youth Committee will be meeting in Washington at the PRGC Convention, in fact.

There will be a Youth Engaging Youth Workshop on Tuesday the 18th at 1:45 - 2:45; Baker Rm. I hope to see you there.

It has been a pleasure being the Youth Coordinator. This Chairman will be moving onto a different position.

Parliamentary News

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian

This Parliamentarian has long cautioned against having co-officers because they are not provided for in *Robert's Rules of Order* and because it is generally not the best approach from a leadership perspective. With co-officers there can be a tendency for nobody to take full responsibility for a position. Perhaps more importantly, having co-officers can exhaust the pool of potential leadership candidates twice as fast as having one officer in each position. However, we have all seen situations where a position cannot be filled unless someone agrees to take it on with another member. If this keeps the club or organization alive, then it may be a necessary evil. I have taken the position that if you have co-officers your bylaws need to provide for them.

This issue was recently discussed in one of the parliamentary groups to which I belong. It was stated that the concept of co-officers is anathema to parliamentarians. With co-officers, where does the buck stop? National Association of Parliamentarians would not allow its member units (equivalent to individual clubs) to have this. And check the laws governing your state, especially if you are incorporated, as these may not permit such practice. Since *Robert's* does not provide for co-officers, the use of co-officers should be in your bylaws. *Robert's* does not even like co-chairmen of committees. Section 13:17 states "If the committee's task is heavy and will require some time to complete, it often is advisable to appoint a vice-chairman. The anomalous title "co-chairman" should be avoided, as it causes impossible dilemmas in attempts to share the functions of a single position."

Suggested bylaws wording to provide for co-officers:

After listing the officer positions that are or may be held by more than one person, you might say: "These offices may be held individually or shared."

Or: Two or more persons may share an office.

You might want more detail, but with such brief wording you can make this practice permissible.

You might want to add that such action may be taken with the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors, or some other criteria.

If you provide for co-officers, you should address how the duties will be divided. This might be done in the bylaws (which generally define the primary duties of each office) or in standing rules or procedures. But don't leave the division of duties open to guesswork.

Photo Phundraiser

By Tanja Swanson, Photo Contest Co-Chairman

Thank you to all the members from our Region who entered the Photo Phundraiser. I thought every single picture was beautiful, but our judge Steve Spencer from Leo's Camera store here in Klamath Falls looked at each picture with a photographer's eye.

The winners will be announced at the Pacific Region Convention in April. I will make a PowerPoint of perhaps not all but many of the pictures if you are interested in seeing them. The winners will be shown in the next issue of the *WACONIAH*.

This is how many pictures were entered in each category:

Landscapes – 34

Animals – 15

Insects/Birds – 23

Single Bloom – 47

Director's Choice: "One Green World" – 16

TOTAL ENTERED - 135

If we do a photo contest next year, I might change some things.



Thank you again for taking the time to send in your pictures!

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WACONIAH is an equal-pet-opportunity publication!

Last minute Convention Information GOING GREEN TOGETHER

Madeline West is supplying a keystone plant educational display at the upcoming PRGC Convention in WA. Keystone plants are mentioned in the above story (page 4 - 5) by Ann Kronenwetter. There will be many educational displays at Convention provided by PRGC chairmen: Awards, Native Edible Berries, Grab-n-go Garden Book Bags, Backyard Wildlife Habitat, Pollen Pushers, Youth Topics, Photo Contest, Keystone Plants, Pollinators. Be sure to look at the **Opportunity Drawing Baskets and Silent Auction items including floral design stuff. There will also be books for sale written by Garden Club people.**