

WACONIAH

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

Vol. 46 No. 3 Director's Theme: "Spreading your Butterfly Wings to Fly; Sharing your Knowledge of Gardening"



2017 – 2019 Pacific Region Director
Peggy Olin

Director's Message

*Stop for a moment and
calm your thoughts.
Let go of your anxieties and
look around you.
What do you see?
You have a world filled with beauty.
You see a life filled with possibilities.
You see dreams being born,
being nurtured and being fulfilled.
Yes, there are challenges.
Yes, there is sorrow.
Yes, there is violence and hatred.
But more than these there is love,
there is goodness, there is joy.
The future is uncertain,
and that means there's no limit as to how
beautiful and joyful you can make it.*

-Ralph Marston

Call to Convention

The year 2019 is well underway with many delightful times ahead. Complete CALL information may be found on pages 3, 5, 9 and attached to this issue.

Our Pacific Region Convention "Soaring to New Heights" in Van Nuys, California is fast approaching.

Pre-Convention Tours planned:

Friday, April 5 - Descanso Gardens and Dinner on the Runway.

Saturday, April 6 - Getty Museum and Pacific Region Garden Clubs...Fundraiser Dinner

April 7 thru April 9 - Convention Activities

April 10 - New Board Organizational Meeting, new State Presidents Meeting

See you in California

Take Care, Peggy



Outgoing Director Peggy Olin is a **GEM!** for her great leadership and always sweet ways.

~ Linda Nelson-Bentsen

State Presidents' Reports

This term, the state presidents are writing their reports based on a common assignment. **This issue's theme is: what is unique about your state's convention or Wildflower Projects in your state.** If your state isn't featured it's because nothing was submitted!

**Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs
Marcella Brooks, President**

Theme: "RAISING ARIZONA – Pollinator, Plants, Participation, Membership"

Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is divided into five Districts – Northern, Southern, Western, Eastern and Central. Although Arizona is a large state geographically, our membership is small. Historically, the responsibility of hosting the Annual AFGC Convention was rotated among the five Districts which meant that the members in each District were almost continuously involved in the planning and production of an AFGC Convention every five years. About ten years ago, it was decided that AFGC would hold their Convention every other year with the result that each District is now responsible for hosting our Biennial Convention once every ten years. AFGC holds an Annual Meeting in the even-numbered years for the purpose of voting for the incoming slate of officers and conducting other necessary business and is a one-day event. The Convention is held in the odd-numbered years and is a three-day event. The installation of the incoming slate of officers, by the National Garden Clubs President, is a part of our Convention agenda.

Due to the variation of the topography in Arizona, there is a big difference in weather conditions throughout the state and some of the AFGC Districts are in completely different weather zones. For example, Northern District has snow in winter which means that plants and birds found there can differ greatly from those that inhabit Central (Phoenix), Eastern and Western (Yuma) Districts, each of which have hot summers and pleasantly mild winters. Because of this diversity, it can be challenging for the host District Convention Committee to include some programs containing content that is applicable to all five Districts and is of interest to all attendees.

Each spring season many of our members depart Arizona for cooler climes in order to avoid enduring the heat of a Phoenix summer. For that reason, our AFGC Convention and Annual Meeting is held early in April before the exodus begins. This is much earlier than most other states hold their conventions.

The AFGC Spring Executive Committee and Board of Directors Meetings are held about one month prior to the AFGC Convention so that any business that must be conducted during the AFGC Convention is minimized, leaving more time to enjoy the presentation of awards, programs and other fun activities.

**Have you heard of the garlic diet?
You don't lose much weight, but from a
distance your friends think
you look thinner.**

**Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs
Joyce Lounsberry, President**

Theme: "Garden Therapy: Calming the Inner Storms"



Springtime brings wonders of colorful beauty shown in fields of wildflowers in bloom. In May our Wildflower Chairman, Joyce Komnick, provided us with a creative, fun day by scheduling a hayride to see fields of flowers.

The workshop to see this beauty was located 10 miles south of Olympia. While there we were shown wildflowers, prairie grasses, and a forest area.

Fun? Yes! Visualize a group of women climbing onto a wagon filled with hay. Even those of us who had physical difficulty were provided with the ability to get onto the wagon without a problem.

We first traveled around a very large area while sitting, then got off the wagon to walk around several tent stations. Here we learned about Planting Wildflowers, Name That Flower tent, Foods of the Prairie, Butterfly Beauties, Birds of the Prairie, Prairie Plant Gardening, and Small Prairie Critters. We were able to choose what we liked to learn from specialists in these fields.

This wildflower walk also taught us about how Native Americans harvest the prairie plants. We then took time to wander around the flowers and enjoy flowers such as Balsamroot and Blue Camas.

There were no charges/fees for members this special day as we were honored as garden club members. Thank you again to our Chairman for this beautiful day.

**Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.
Claudia Hambacker, President**

Theme: "Birds, Bees, Butterflies, Moths and Bats; Create a Living Habitat for Them"

This is a difficult question and an easy question. It depends upon the angle you are coming from. As individual conventions go, the Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. Annual Convention is not much different from any other garden club convention. We have a good time and we eat—a lot! Fellowship and food equal friendships.

GCII annual conventions rotate among our three Districts: Clearwater, Southeast and Southwest. The usual travel to convention is about 5-6 hours one way, and when you arrive you find yourself in an entirely different climate zone from your own. Clearwater is in many respects like an alpine area. There are broadleaf and pine trees in abundance. Because it is so far north it receives much more snow pack. Elevations reach the

We Asked 100 Pacific Region Garden Club Members...

By Alexis Slafer, Life Membership Chairman

5,000-7,000 foot range. This makes for an entirely different type of gardening experience. A convention tour to see an organic garden may mean traveling up a narrow winding mountain road, avoiding logging trucks, to experience a hooped greenhouse used to extend the growing season. Many members live high up on the ridges and receive lots of moisture where other members who live along the Clearwater receive the cold weather and snow. The beauty of the canola fields in the spring and the blackened wheat fields from clear burning in the fall are sights to behold.

When the convention is held in the Southeast, those coming from the Clearwater and the Southwest cross a huge swath of rugged terrain and desert to find themselves next to the Snake River. Although Idaho Falls and Boise are at the same latitude and elevation, gardening is influenced by the wind and the mountains just to the East. Traveling in a dust storm with little or no visibility is not uncommon but does make you wonder if there will be any soil left on the land. The growing season is shorter in the Idaho Falls area but to the south are some of the best agricultural farms, just ask Simplot-the Idaho potato people. We hear how the Idaho Falls area can't plant until later because their last frost is so late and their harvest is earlier. The last 36 degree spring date is about June 28, and their first fall 36 degree day is August 26 according to the National Gardening Association. A tour there will be along the beautiful Snake River to see the lovely long Japanese Garden that has been recognized by NGC and the riverside park with huge boulders and plantings.

Then there is the Southwest District, the high desert. The elevation is 3000 feet near the Boise River where most of the towns are. Having the last rainfall in early June and the next one in September is not uncommon. Thank goodness for irrigation by three huge dams, whose water sources are from high mountain snowfall flowing into the Boise River providing the end flow for gardens and large farms. The growing season is supported by hot summer days and cool nights. Usually a hot spell in late July and most of August causes gardens to just stop growing—but plants can still be watered and come back for harvest.

So what is unique about our convention? It is the land where the gardeners come from. It is the cold late springs, the hot dry summers and the constant wind coming across the mountains. Idaho is a special, different place.

***If winter didn't exist,
no one would appreciate summer.
Said no one EVER!***

The upcoming 2019 Pacific Region Convention is just around the corner. Our Life Membership Dinner will take place on the first night. What a wonderful opportunity to welcome our newest Pacific Region Life Members...and honor our current life members.

Our *Life Membership Bouquet* now contains:

- eight blooms from Alaska
- six blooms from Oregon
- three from California
- one from Washington.

There is just a short time left in this term to honor our members and enhance our *Life Membership Bouquet*. Let's keep adding more sweet blooms – as we add new Life Members. There isn't a better way to celebrate your members' support, guidance and commitment to strengthening your club, state organization, and/or region.

Attendees at this Life Membership dinner will enjoy a "Family Feud" style ***Pacific Region Challenge***. Just like the TV show, the winning team will win a car...and there will be other special prizes to thrill the contestants.



To make sure the survey will reflect the sentiments of our region, we will be sending it to 100 *Pacific Region* garden club members. You might be one of the lucky 100 and your answer might appear on the answer board. When you receive the survey take ***no more than a few seconds*** to answer each question. Please return it as soon as possible...so we can tabulate the answers and prepare for our *Challenge*.

The two teams of four will consist of the Pacific Region state presidents. How perfect that our region consists of eight states! The teams will select their own, very clever names...so the presidents should plan on chatting a little before the convention.

A little reminder: individuals, organizations or districts may purchase a Life Membership ***or*** individuals may purchase their own. These donations support the Region's scholarship program and are fully tax

By Diane Franchini, PR Director's Project Chairman

deductible. The application forms can be found on the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. website:

www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/Forms

Print a copy of the application form to mail with your check. Send completed applications and checks to: Pacific Region Garden Clubs Life Membership Chairman, Alexis Slafer, 6111 South Kings Road, Los Angeles, CA 90056-1630. Or, just follow your state's application process.

New Life Members will receive a lovely Pacific Region Life Membership pin and certificate, along with a welcome letter. Please make your check payable to: **Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc**

We asked 100 Pacific Region Life Members: On a scale of 1 to 10, how likely are you to support your State President in the **Pacific Region Challenge** at the 2019 Life Membership Dinner... The number one answer was TEN.

We look forward to seeing you – along with the other survey respondents -- at the dinner!



**Pacific Region Challenge
Grand Prize**

**A 1930 Rolls Royce
(Actual Prize May Differ)**

Leadership Workshop

By Greg Pokorski, Southern California Garden Club President

Southern California Garden Club, Encino, California extends a warm invitation to all garden club members across the Pacific Region to attend its Leadership Workshop, presented by Robin Pokorski (we got her cheap!). The workshop will be held at the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino on Wednesday, February 20. Cost: \$20. We are excited to have our NGC President-elect Gay Austin join us for this fast-paced interactive and educational event! For information contact: Greg Pokorski, 818-361-7873 or GregPokorski@earthlink.net. We'd love to welcome you to Southern California!

Yikes!! The project deadline is here for every state to submit their projects before the February 1, 2019 deadline. Only three entries have been submitted so far!!!! (Since this is the last of the Pacific Region Director Project articles, I will accept entries for a week after *WACONIAH* arrives in your email, if after the February 1 deadline.)

Pacific Region Director Peggy Olin has asked every state to become involved by planting native and pollinator plants that will thrive in your state or your part of the state. Before the February 1, 2019 deadline, each state is being asked to submit a list of WHO, WHAT, and WHERE in regards to a state, district, or club sponsored activity using native and pollinator plants. For your efforts each club, district or state project will earn a Certificate of Participation as well as a garden flag featuring a butterfly.

Over the last year and a half seven of the eight PR states have been highlighted, regarding native plants of each state that can be used in the landscape. You can review those past articles to see what grows well in Washington, Hawaii, Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada. For this article we are exploring the desert state of Arizona. Like all of the Pacific Region states we can find diverse ecosystems with a wide range of needs and concerns.

By visiting the Arizona Native Plant Society website (www.aznps.com/invasives/GrowNative) I found a wealth of information and helpful guide books for everyone – farmers to everyday gardeners. In a guidebook called *Selecting Plants for Pollinators...* central Arizona was described as an area with long, hot summers, erratic rainfall, and sparse vegetation. The vegetation can include cacti, thorny shrubs, creosote bushes, and mesquite. One fact that I found difficult to even comprehend (coming from wet Washington) is that the average yearly precipitation is 2-10 inches! Western Washington can get that much in a day.

The Pollinator Partnership organization focused on plantings that support pollinators, including bees, butterflies, moths, flies, birds, beetles, and bats. An easy to follow chart showed what might attract each of these pollinators. Besides basic



Verbena - Image Credit: Caldwell

By Sue Bennett, 2019 PRGC Convention Chairman

needs of food, shelter, and water the gardener needs to take into account color, nectar, odor, pollen, and flower shapes. According to Derry MacBride (National Affairs and Legislation Chairwoman, Garden Club of America) "A garden is only as rich and beautiful as the integral health of the system; pollinators are essential to the system – make your home their home."

One of the interesting things that I've learned through researching each of our states is that the reason a plant becomes labeled invasive can vary widely. In Arizona some of the most aggressive invaders crowd out native plants, change the natural ecosystem processes, and provide fuel for unnatural fires. The Arizona Native Plant Society website provided fascinating reading about the most invasive plants and the "alterNATIVES" that can fill a similar function or role in the landscape. One example of an invasive is *Pennisetum setaceum* or Green Fountain Grass that spreads aggressively, alters native wildlife habitats and creates extreme fire hazard to homes, native plants, and wildlife. Unlike other native desert plants that are often killed by hot fires, the fountain grass re-sprouts quickly and cannot only dominate the landscape but also fuel even larger future fires. Listed as "alterNATIVES" are the *Dasyilirion wheeleri* (Desert Spoon), *Digitaria californica* (Arizona Cotton Top), and *Muhlenbergia emersleyi* (Bull Grass).

Gardeners are reminded that they should only bring plants into the region through the nursery trade as these plants rarely become invasive, although a plant can be non-invasive for up to ten years and suddenly become aggressive.

Hopefully there have been lots of native and pollinator plants being put into the ground from Arizona to Alaska to make a positive difference in our landscapes, public gardens, and region. Share the good news of the efforts put forth by your clubs, districts, or states by sending Diane Franchini (franchinisd@gmail.com) a brief list of WHO, WHAT, and WHERE this happened. (Book of Evidence is NOT required but pictures are welcomed.)

See you at the Pacific Region Convention in April.

Pictured previous page: Verbena is one of the "alterNATIVES" suggested to replace invasive plants.

All Who Will Be Serving

All those serving on the 2019 – 2021 Board of Directors for Pacific Region Garden Clubs are expected to attend the Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, April 10 at the Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys, California. Following the Organizational Meeting there will be a State Presidents meeting. See you ALL there!!



Airtel Plaza Hotel

7277 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91406
818-997-7676

Room rate - \$99/night (includes breakfast)

Pre-Convention Tours – optional

Friday, April 5

Tour – Descanso Gardens – 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – a garden with internationally renowned botanical collections

No host dinner – 6:00 p.m. Tucked away next to the Van Nuys Airport, **94th Aero Squadron** is a charming French chateau complete with ivy-covered walls, stone paths, plush gardens and an inviting interior adorned with aviation relics and replica warcraft.

Saturday, April 6

Tour – The Getty Museum, Los Angeles, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. We will be treated to a docent-led garden tour with plenty of time to visit the museum on your own.

PRGC Fundraiser Dinner at the home of Gail & Hank Vanderhorst, hosted by California Garden Clubs, Inc., 5:00 p.m. Imagine having dinner "with the stars" on the most filmed residential street in Los Angeles! Join CGCI as you dine in a comfortable garden atmosphere under the stars, have fun and make new friends with all proceeds going to a good cause - PRGC.

Convention Activities

Sunday, April 7 – Committee meetings, lunch, Fair, workshops, Life Member Banquet/Celebration of Life

Monday, April 8 – Pre-Convention Board Meeting, workshop, lunch, Convention meeting, Design Banquet

Tuesday, April 9 – Convention meeting, lunch, workshops, Installation Banquet – Installing officer Beverly Brune is a former Pacific Region Director. **Glam it up in red, white and blue with our patriotic night's theme!**

Wednesday, April 10 – Organizational Meeting

Come join us in Van Nuys – we'll be **Soaring to New Heights**. Questions? Contact Sue Bennett, Chairman, sue_c_bennett@att.net 916-791-9459 or 916-316-5873 (cell)

**California Garden Clubs, Inc. members
can't wait to greet all of you!**



We don't do this well! By nature, gardeners are a humble sort!

But the time is NOW for us to:

Toot our own horn

Boast

Brag

Crow

Gloat

Grandstand

and

Pat ourselves on the back

for the great work we've all done in increasing pollinator gardens for our pollinators and educating those around us why it's so important!

I have received the "inside word" that a press release is coming soon regarding a national occurrence, and high quality photos, with descriptions of who and where, are needed of people planting pollinator gardens or educating others to plant pollinator gardens.

I know there are hundreds of amazing projects that have taken place across the country by our NGC members. You should be so proud! Now it's time for you to share and, yes, BRAG!

You have a chance to make headlines at a national level – for your members, your club, and NGC! These opportunities don't come often! People outside of our organization don't have a clue what we accomplish unless we show them! There's never been a better time than now!

Please send your photos and who and where descriptions to your Wildlife Gardening Chairman Becky Hassebroek at beckyhasse@aol.com. We need them now!

"A man should never plant a garden larger than his wife can take care of."

- T.H. Everett



The stately great blue heron is the largest of the North American herons. Scientific name is *ardea herodias*.

The imperial heron with subtle blue-grey plumage can be found throughout most of North America as far north as Alaska and the southern Canadian provinces in the summer months. Birds east of the Rocky Mountains in the northern part of their range are migratory and winter in the coastal regions of the southern United States, Central America and northern South America. From the Southern United States southward and on the lower Pacific coast, the herons are year-round residents.

The great blue heron can adapt to almost any wetland habitat in its range. They are waders and can be found in saltwater and fresh water habitats from open coasts, marshes, sloughs, river banks and lakes to backyard ponds. They also forage in grasslands and agricultural fields. Great blue herons are associated with bodies of water that have good fishing and minimal human impact.



Great blue herons have a dark crown, white throat and dark wing feathers with blue-grey feathers on most of their bodies and a plume of feathers on their chests. Herons have a yellow thick dagger-like bill and long legs.

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian



I receive an increasing number of questions about how to get rid of problem officers and how to handle vacancies in officer positions. This serves as a reminder of the importance

of the work done by nominating committees who need to find candidates who will serve their full terms and do so giving priority to the needs of the organization over having their own way or emphasizing their own self-importance. Granted, life happens and people get sick and have unexpected family crises and unanticipated moves, etc., but many problems with officers are triggered by the wrong person being in the wrong position. Some of this can be avoided when nominating committees thoroughly vet candidates, and when jobs being filled are clearly defined without underselling what is expected of the candidate.

If your bylaws do not already address these situations, consider amending them to include provisions on removal from office and filling vacancies. If your bylaws provide that “officers shall serve for x years or until their successors are elected,” the officer in question can be removed from office by adoption of a motion to do so. In such situations, there can be much “saving face” if the problem officer can be persuaded to resign rather than be removed from office but each club needs to have a mechanism to remove the problem person from office when they will not resign.

Bylaws often address what happens when there is a vacancy below the level of president. It may be that the president is empowered to appoint a replacement and it may be required that the replacement be approved or accepted by the executive committee or the board of directors or the membership. But what happens when the president resigns? There may be provisions for one or more vice presidents to move up. In the situations I see, frequently vice presidents cannot or will not move up. So be sure your bylaws address all such contingencies. And remember, nominating committees should seek to find candidates who will move up if they are supposed to move up.

Pacific Region States’ Websites

PacificRegionGardenClubs.org

- Washington: WAGardenClubs.com
- Arizona: AZGardenClubs.com
- California: CaliforniaGardenClubs.com
- Oregon: OregonGardenClubs.org
- Nevada: NevadaGardenClubs.org
- Idaho: GCII.org
- Alaska: AlaskaGardenClubs.org
- Hawaii: [None](#)

The heron stands three to four feet tall, has a wing span of almost six feet and can weigh from four to seven pounds. In flight, the great blue heron curls its neck into a tight “S” shape.

The passage of The Migratory Bird Treaty of 1918 secured protection and saved the threatened great blue heron. In that era, bird feathers and bird parts were being used to adorn ladies’ hats. Also, environmental contaminants such as DDT and other chemicals, plus water pollution and wetland destruction, took its toll on this species. Great blue herons can function as barometers for wetland environments and wildlife.

Breeding birds gather in colonies or “heronries” building nests high off the ground. The female lays three to seven eggs on a shallow platform made of sticks and twigs. The nests can be about three feet wide and one foot deep. The eggs hatch in about a month and chicks will fledge when they are about two months old. Great blue herons nest in the same spot year to year.

Naturalistic Accessories

By Marva Lee Peterschick, Flower Show Schools Chairman

Naturalistic accessories are permitted in **ALL** combination plantings but must be in scale with plantings and container, with theme appropriate to the plants. **HB pg. 59.** The 2007 Handbook allowed for accessories in all types of Combination Plantings except planters, so we have a slight change plus using the term “Naturalistic” for the accessories.

Combination Plantings include: Dish Gardens, Hanging Gardens, Planters, Terrariums, and Troughs.

What does the word “Naturalistic” mean? It is imitating nature or usual natural surroundings. It is pertaining to naturalism in art and literature. A Combination Planting is art that is created by the Horticulturist. It is the intention on the part of the artist or horticulturist to represent objects as nearly as possible under their natural forms.

If naturalistic accessories are realistic looking and reflect the description of “Naturalistic,” then they can be used in a Combination Planting even though they might be man-made or artificial. For example: an imitation or artificial looking rock can be used as long as it is in scale with plantings and container plus fits the theme. There is no way to tell if the rock is natural or naturalistic, if realistic looking, except by touch, and judges are not allowed to touch the exhibit.

Natural means existing in or formed by nature – not artificial, but “Naturalistic” is imitating nature.

Thus, go ahead and use what fits, as long as the exhibitor is conforming to realistic looking accessories! However, read the schedule carefully so you are conforming to a “Combination Planting” exhibit of horticultural art. The exhibitor is truly an artist/horticulturist in Combination Plantings.

Grants Are Available

By Josie Goodenow, Special Correspondent



Saving the U.S. honey bee population has become more important than ever in recent years as parasites, disease, and

pesticides has led to a decrease in the bee population. In 1947 there were 6 million managed honey bee colonies in the US. In 2017 that number had decreased to just 2.89 million hives. This threatens more than \$15 billion in U.S. fruit, vegetable, and nut production that depends on the pollination process. In response to this threat to our food production, the Federal government and some state governments have made grant funds available for businesses that raise honey bees.

The USDA's Farmers Market Promotion Program provides funding to farmers, including those in the business of raising honey bees, to give communities better access to locally produced agricultural goods. Awards typically range from \$5,000 to \$100,000. Grants from this program are made to benefit groups of two or more farms or vendors who produce honey for direct sale to consumers. To be eligible, an applicant must be an agricultural business or cooperative located in any of the 50 states. If interested, check out the information accessible through the Grants.gov website or your state's website.

Another USDA grant program makes grants available to small, rural, nonprofit businesses that benefit their local communities. To be eligible, your honey bee business must:

- Be a nonprofit or private corporation.
- Have fewer than 50 employees.
- Be located in a rural area outside a city with a population of 50,000 or more.
- Have less than \$1 million in annual gross revenue.

These grants typically range between \$10,000 and \$500,000. The funds may be used to buy land and equipment needed for your honey bee business or to renovate existing buildings for your business use.

This grant is administered by your local USDA Rural Development office, and applications are accepted once a year. Check it out!

Do You Know... ?

... what percent of people will give their pets a **Valentine's** Day gift? (Answer on page 9.)

Good News for Bees This Past Year

By Josie Goodenow, Special Correspondent



Just over a decade ago, beekeepers began reporting disturbing declines in honeybee populations. Bees were reportedly leaving the hive and not returning. Known as colony collapse disorder, this issue was alarming, not only because of the central role bees play in life around the world, but also because no one knew why this was happening. Several possible causes have since been identified, but that hasn't prevented the disappearances.

Now, according to a USDA report released December 4, 2018, honeybee populations are on the rise again. As of April 2018, an estimated 2.89 million bee colonies existed across the U.S., reflecting a 3 percent increase from April 2016.

Colony collapse disorder, the combination of the events leading to the death of a hive, makes sustaining a hive difficult. When worker bees abruptly leave, the queen bee is left with just a few nurse bees to raise the remaining immature larvae. Although the colony may be left with ample food following the disappearance of the workers, the hive cannot survive without the worker bees' contributions.

Several years ago, beekeepers began noticing diminishing numbers of colonies surviving the winter. Typically, hives that survived the winter months averaged 28.7 percent. However, the number dropped to 23.1 percent for the 2014-2015 winter and has remained relatively low since.

But newly released figures from the USDA indicate a break in that trend. Fewer colonies were lost during the first quarter of 2017. That loss figure is 27 percent less than the number of colonies reported lost for the first quarter of 2016.

Of course, it is still too early to know if more colonies will survive through this winter, but the numbers look promising so far!

The Future of Gardening

To boldly grow where no one has grown before!

By Sheila Parcel, Schools Chairman

GARDENING SCHOOL

April 8-9, Federal Way, WA
Sally Priebe, (206) 244-4937

TRI-REFRESHER – Environmental, Gardening, Landscape Design

Mar 30-2019, Colfax, CA
Ingrid Elsel, (530)-263-0003

Issue Deadlines and Issue Focus

The deadline for the May 2019 issue is 3-25-19. The issue focus is: How is the venue for your state meetings determined?

Calendar of Events

- Feb 14 Happy **Valentine's** Day
- Feb 20 Leadership Workshop – Encino, CA
- Apr 5-6 Pre-Convention Tours
Descanso Gardens
The Getty Center Museum
Dinner on the runway
- Apr 6 Fundraiser Dinner Event
- Apr 7-10 Pacific Region Convention, Van Nuys, CA
- Apr 26 National Arbor Day
- Apr 29 -
May 2 NGC Convention, Biloxi, MS

GARDENER'S TIP

From *The Busy Person's Guide to the 20 Minute Garden*



If you have trouble getting your plants to produce beans, plant three or four sweet pea plants (*Lathyrus odorata*) in the same container or area. When the sweet peas flower, they encourage bees to pollinate the runner bean flowers, too.



Incoming Director Robin Pokorski is a **GEM!** Osur statuesque, impressive, magnificent future leader.

~ Linda Nelson-Bentsen



Why don't you register for convention right this minute? California members are afraid nobody will come and they've worked hard so you'll have a fun and educational experience! **The registration form is attached to this issue.**

Convention Airport

We recommend flying into LAX (Los Angeles). If not renting a car or having someone pick you up; it is recommended to take the LAX Flyaway Bus as noted below. Burbank airport (BUR) is closer but there is no shuttle service to the hotel.

LAX FLYAWAY BUS (currently running under \$10) LAX FlyAway buses provide convenient, regularly scheduled round-trips between LAX and the Van Nuys FlyAway Terminal. This service is an economical and popular way to reach Airtel Plaza Hotel. At LAX, passengers board buses on the Lower/Arrivals Level in front of each terminal under the green "FlyAway, Buses and Long-Distance Vans" sign. Look for the **Van Nuys Airport Bus**. Once you arrive at the FlyAway Terminal in Van Nuys, pick up the Airtel Plaza Hotel courtesy phone at the kiosk, which will connect directly to the hotel's Front Desk, and a complimentary hotel shuttle will pick you up.

To purchase a ticket for the return trip to LAX, you will need either a debit or credit card, as no cash is accepted at the Van Nuys FlyAway Terminal. For more information and schedules, call (818) 994-5554 or (866) 435-9529.

Answer to Do You Know: According to retail statistics – 3% will give their pets gifts for **Valentine's** Day. **These people need to be in garden club!** The most popular theory about **Valentine's** Day's origin is that Emperor Claudius II didn't want Roman men to marry during wartime. Bishop **Valentine** went against his wishes and performed secret weddings. For this, **Valentine** was jailed and executed. While in jail he wrote a note to the jailor's daughter signing it "from your **Valentine**".





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**Did you share your
WACONIAH AND the convention
information with someone
in your club and district? If you enjoyed
it, maybe they will too!**

Calling All Bee Enthusiasts!

By Josephine Goodenow, A gardener and bee lover living in Missouri



Hello fellow gardeners and bee enthusiasts! Check out this company which was started in 2012 by a mother of three who is also an avid gardener in Vermont. This is a product that all environmentally minded folks should look into. It's called Bee Wraps. I read about it in my February issue of a magazine I subscribe to and their website www.beeswraps is full of useful information.

Bee's Wrap is handmade by their growing team in a Bristol, Vermont workshop tucked at the edge of a winding river.

If you love our earth and truly care for our environment, and who reading this doesn't, why not take a look at this product?

You will use less plastic wrap, aluminum foil, and plastic bags,

which I've read may take up to 2,000 years to decompose! This product is made of 100% organic cotton, beeswax, organic Jojoba oil and tree resin. It can be used multiple times as it is hand washable, and once you are through with it, the wrap may be cut into strips and used in your compost bin!

For our convenience, this product is available on Amazon. I plan on trying it out real soon.

WACONIAH Staff

Editor Robin Pokorski CGCIRobin@gmail.com 818-361-7873
512 Newton St, San Fernando CA 91340-2421

Ass't Editor Greg Pokorski GregPokorski@earthlink.net

Circulation Terry Critchlow tcritchlow@aol.com 509-945-5465
PO Box 1046, Naches, WA 98937-1046

***We could certainly slow the aging process down if
it had to work its way through Congress. - Will Rogers***