



Newsletter of the Paradise Garden Club, Paradise CA newsletter@paradisegardenclub.org ParadiseGardenClub.org

The Prez Sez



Spring has finally sprung, better late than never but, wasn't that a wild winter! Atmospheric river after atmospheric river, who would have thought. As of now in this area we are sitting pretty in our own little watershed, we can even sit in a kayak if we want. Most of us though have sustained more than slight damage to our gardens and our properties. At our place, the weeds are out of control.

The weather is warm and beautiful, a perfect time to get out and undo some of that wild nature and prep your beds and yards for hopefully all those little budlings and sprouted seeds. Most important of all please enjoy your time out there.

Todd



Photos by Joyce Hummel

PGCI General Meeting, May 8 at 1:00 p.m.

Your May Garden Preparations

& Final Details for the Garden Tour & Plant Sale

This summer's garden.... Just pumpkins? Wildflowers? Cucumbers? Let's talk.

Plus we'll review our tasks as we lean into our 2023 Garden Tour & Plant Sale



Beautification Team Report



April has brought us true spring like weather. The daffodils that began their emergence in February and March really put on a brilliant show all over town in April. Deciduous trees have signaled the end of winter dormancy with bursts of new leaves and blossoms. After the long but welcome rains, our Beautification Team got busy outside. We have done considerable cleanup of the remaining snow damage at the Elliott triangle, and we applied a generous application of fertilizer to the soil around each plant to help them thrive.

At Foster triangle we are going to challenge the voles with new plants. We have treated the area with Vole Scram in our ongoing efforts to make the area inhospitable to those critters and send them elsewhere. We will let you know if these newest ventures succeed.

All of this would not be possible without teamwork. We have fun getting things done. Will you join us on a Thursday morning? Contact me, Jeudie, at beautification@paradisegardenclub.org. Or just stop by when you see us out there working.

Jeudie



Thank you so much!

Our thanks go to Janeva Sorenson and Janel Luke from the **Camp Fire Restoration Project** for being our April speakers. Their discussion on ways to improve our soil through different types of composting gave us a lot to think about as we compost our food scraps and yard waste. There was a lively question and answer time throughout the presentation. For more details read the Minutes on page 7 of this newsletter.



Upcoming events, volunteer opportunities & donations: www.campfirerestorationproject.org

Upcoming Events

Paradise Garden Club Event Calendar

Monday, May 8, 1:00-3:00pm May Gardening, PGCI 2023 Garden Tour, The Final Details & Board Nominations

Monday, June 12, 1:00-3:00pm After Party (of Garden Tour) & Voting for open Board positions

Monday, July 10, 1:00-3:00pm Installation of Officers/Pot Luck/PGCI Gardens Slide Presentation

Monday, August 14 NO MEETING! Put your feet up, sip icy lemonade, go swimming, have fun.

Paradise Chocolate Fest

Saturday, May 13
Terry Ashe Park Paradise 10am-5pm
chocolatefest.us 530/342/4896



California Nut Festival

Saturday, May 13, 11am-4pm
Patrick Ranch Museum, 10381 Midway, Durham

UC Master Gardeners of Butte County Plant Sale

Sunday, May 14, 9am-noon
Demonstration Garden at Patrick Ranch, 10381 Midway, Durham

Classes below are presented by UC Master Gardeners of Butte County
Register online <https://ucanr.edu/sites/bcmg/Workshops/> **Classes fill up fast.**
Usual limit per class: 20-30 people

Basic Soil Tuesday, May 16, 10-11:30am Demonstration Garden, limit 20

Drip Irrigation Tuesday, May 23, 10-11:30am Demonstration Garden, limit 20

Magalia Farmer's Market Mobile **Sundays**, 10:00-1:00 Magalia Community Center (parking lot)
Corner of Andover and South Park Drive, just off the Skyway

Chico Farmer's Market **Wednesdays** North Valley Plaza Mall Parking Lot Pillsbury Road adjacent to Trader Joe's YEAR ROUND, RAIN or SHINE 7:30am - 12pm

Chico Farmers Market **Saturdays** Downtown Chico Municipal Parking Lot 2nd St. & Wall St.
YEAR ROUND, RAIN or SHINE 7:30am - 1pm

Party in the Park Music & Marketplace 2023

Wednesdays, June 14-August 2, 6:30-8:30p.m.
Paradise Community Park, 5570 Black Olive Drive

Johnny Appleseed Days at Terry Ashe Park, Paradise
Saturday, October 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, October 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Coming Soon!





Gardening For Wildlife

Linda Goddard

Here are some spring chores to consider to keep your wildlife happy and healthy

1. Clean and maintain bird feeders and bird baths

Spring is a time when birds are nesting and raising their young, so it's important to keep their food and water sources clean and filled. Consider alternating feeders weekly to keep them cleaner and disease free.



2. Plant native species

Consider adding some native plants to your wildlife habitat. Native plants provide food and shelter for local wildlife and are well adapted to the local climate. Choose a variety of plants, including early spring and late summer bloomers.

3. Clean up debris

Spring is a good time to clean up any debris that may have accumulated over the winter months. Fallen branches, dead leaves, and other debris can be a safety hazard and can also harbor pests and disease.



4. Check and maintain nest boxes

If you have nest boxes in your wildlife habitat, now is a good time to check and clean them out. Remove any old nesting material and make sure the boxes are in good repair.

5. Provide shelter

Consider adding some additional shelter for wildlife in your habitat.

This can include brush piles, rock piles, and other natural features that provide cover and protection.

6. Monitor water sources

If you have natural or man-made water sources in your habitat, it's important to monitor them for quality and availability. Make sure that they are clean and filled regularly.

By following these spring chores, you can help maintain a healthy and thriving wildlife habitat in Paradise.



Share your pictures and experiences with our Garden Club on Facebook!

GARDENING LIKE AN ASTRONAUT

by Anne Barrett

Part 5: The 411 on wicking

When we set up our tent garden we didn't know how much water would be needed. Turns out to be between one and five gallons per day, depending on how many potato plants I've got going at any time.

Providing that much water to stand-alone container plants, however, has its own problems — in addition to the time it takes, even a little bit of standing water in that small, warmed space is an invitation to bugs and algae growth. Clearly, this called for another solution.

Enter David Bainbridge's Mother Earth News article "[Wick Watering: Simple and Efficient](#)." It made immediate sense: allow the plant to "sip" the water it needs from a reasonably constant supply, rather than be briefly inundated every day or so with water from the top. I was already using wicking to water my African violets: concept proven. However, this article introduced me to wicking on a different scale. We got some plastic tubing and nylon line, in both "potato plant" and "basil plant" sizes, and started converting the tent into a wicking wonderland. (The plastic tubing is to keep evaporation to a minimum. You also could work without the tubing; just be prepared to refill reservoirs more frequently.)

Happy to tell you that it seems to work! There are some healthy plants in the tent that I haven't watered (directly) in two months. They water themselves. Nor do they seem to need nearly as much water as before: they are merely *sipping*. The whole arrangement seems fairly water-wise. Nevertheless, here are some lessons learned:

- For seeds and cuttings, remember that until roots grow long enough to reach the moisture supplied by a wick (usually, this is near the bottom of the container), the plant still will need top-watering.
- You'll know when the plant *does* achieve the needed depth as the level of water in its reservoir will start decreasing at a faster rate. (Therefore, select reservoirs with necks wide enough to allow easy filling, but not quite wide enough to permit easy access to bugs.)
- Be mindful that algae is a potential problem in clear/translucent reservoirs, such as (cleaned) gallon jugs and soda bottles. (Cleaned milk containers do better in this regard; they're nearly opaque.) I change out any reservoirs that acquire a faint green tinge, always grateful that Bainbridge recommends nylon line over cotton with regard to avoiding algae fouling.
- With about 50% of my tent plants now under wick watering inside tubing, evaporation was reduced and the humidity levels in the tent dropped. (Forehead slap.) I added a bucket of water and closed the windows a bit, and humidity again bobbed up around the desired 50-60% range.

Next time: lessons learned to date, and then a break until any new developments warrant a revisit.



Charlie, a month-old Quercus douglassi, sipping. Charlie is part of my Blue Oak Project.

References: There are different setups for wicking; see this YouTube vide on [Wicking Bucket Containers: Budget Built for patio container gardening](#).



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.

STATE DONATIONS PLANTATIONS Trees

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.

Minutes from last month

Paradise Garden Club. Inc. General Meeting April 10, 2023 Terry Ashe Recreation Center

Todd Hummel called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. There were approximately 15 people attending.

Treasurer's Report

Margaret reported that our current balance is \$31,000. The budget for 23-24 has been drafted and will go out in a Mailchimp.

Elections

Todd stated that the position of 1st VP will be opening up because Nancy is stepping down. He asked for any person interested in nominating someone to let him know.

Master Gardener Minute

Ellen shared information on dos and don'ts of gardening during the rainy season.

Garden Tour Update

Garden tour sign-ups were on the back table. We still need people to ask businesses for donations of items to sell at the boutique. We also need to get donations for items to put in baskets that people will buy tickets for. Sandy suggested we ask places like antique consignments shops to ask their vendors for donations.

Guest Speakers

Janeva Sorenson and Janel Luke from the Camp Fire Restoration Project spoke about composting to improve the soil. They run Sol Sanctuary on Round Valley Ranch Road off lower Clark Road by the airport. They are funded by a grant to collect food waste from restaurants, stores, etc. to compost it and keep it out of the landfill. They also do community education about composting.

Static composting (set it and forget it) takes a long time; you will only get an inch of topsoil every few years. Active or thermal composting, where you turn the pile regularly, is quicker. You should aim for a mix of 60% browns (wood chips, dried leaves, shredded paper), 30% greens (vegetables, grass clippings), and 10% high nitrogen (e.g., coffee grounds). The Bokashi system is good for food waste. It can also be used for pet waste, but you should let it break down for a year, and only put it on non-food plants. There is a type of composting system called the Johnson Su bioreactor. You can see a demo of them in lower Bille Park.

Upcoming educational events include a rainwater catchment workshop on April 30th, and a fruit tree giveaway at the Paradise Gem and Mineral show. There was a question about why there is an emphasis on "no till." The reason is that tilling can create a compaction layer. They suggested tilling at different depths and using broad forks to break soil apart rather than turn it over.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Michels, Recording Secretary



Several PGCi ladies and friends attended the annual Paradise Elks Women's Club Tea Party. The lively group had a fun time. Pictured here from left to right: Grinnell, Joyce, Nancy, Sandy, Linda, and Anne. Grinnell and Anne won prizes! Thank you, Wendy Wicklund, for letting us know about this local event. Mark your calendars for next year. (Just \$10, Elk membership not required.)



Filoli Gardens Field Trip

By Joyce Hummel

Todd and I have visited Filoli Gardens several times and are always awed by the beauty of the grounds. The experience changes according to which time of the year you visit. We try to make it a family event and have our daughters visit at the same time. Mother's Day is a favorite time to gather and wander together. When the roses are in bloom, we can spend hours photographing them and meandering up and down the rows smelling each variety and smiling with pleasure. Our youngest daughter loves the shady fern grove and I enjoy looking for the beautiful peacock who resides in the gardens.

We drove down on April 19th with Jeudie and Anne and had lots of time to visit and learn about each other. The hours flew by.

The weather was perfect, and the tulips were spectacular! I bet they were even more beautiful a week or two earlier. Timing is everything, but we were not disappointed. Color was everywhere!

We had lunch in the courtyard cafe, found souvenirs in the gift shop, and each bought a matching plant to remember our lovely day together. We ran into Candice and Carol from Chico Horticulture who had taken the tour bus. Candice said we were lucky to have driven because they had to be back on the bus at 2:30 and she would have liked more time to enjoy the gardens without feeling rushed.

We self-toured the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bourne. It is such a lovely estate and there is always something new to see that we missed on earlier visits.

I am hoping we can have a garden club field trip to visit Filoli's sister estate, Empire Mines State Historic Park, in Grass Valley. It is also a gem worth visiting.







Photos by Joyce Hummel & Friends





Trees

Nature's Stormwater Managers

Melinda Myers

Major storms and flooding have become more frequent in recent years. These weather extremes make planting trees more important than ever before. Many have long celebrated the connection between trees and the environment on Arbor Day, but their role in managing stormwater was generally overlooked. As gardening experts, you can share the importance of planting and caring for our trees as part of stormwater management.

As rain falls onto a tree the leaves and stems help slow its velocity. The leaf canopy captures some of that water and it eventually evaporates back into the atmosphere. The rest travels down the trunk and branches at a much slower speed than the rainwater that lands directly on the soil. This slower rate of travel allows the soil to absorb more of the rainfall so less of it runs off into the street.

Leaf litter, groundcover or mulch beneath the tree protects the soil from erosion and lessens the risk of compaction. These organic materials also help capture some of the stormwater. This, combined with the pathways created by their roots, allows water to infiltrate the soil. As the water passes over the tree, through leaves, stems, mulch and roots; many of the pollutants are removed.



Sequoia sempervirens • melindamyers.com

Trees lessen the impact of stormwater by intercepting rainfall, absorbing and transpiring moisture from the soil into the air and increasing the infiltration of water into the soil. Here is how it works:

As mentioned, trees intercept rainfall reducing the amount of water that reaches the ground. Rain landing on a tree collects on the leaves, branches and trunk. This water either evaporates back into the atmosphere or the tree absorbs it thus reducing the amount of water entering our storm drains.

Evergreens intercept more water likely due to the greater surface area of the many leaves and needles. Plus, the foliage persists year-round, unlike deciduous trees that seasonally lose their leaves. Large mature trees, with expansive dense leaf canopies, intercept more rainfall than young and newly planted trees. One study found a typical medium-sized tree can divert or capture as much as 2380 gallons of rainfall each year. This means we need to not only plant new trees but also take care of our existing trees to promote mature growth and longevity.

Continued next page



Gymnocladus dioica • melindamyers.com

Trees absorb water from the soil that travels from the roots, through the tree and is eventually released in a gaseous form through small pores in the leaves known as transpiration. Research has found that a healthy 100-foot-tall tree with 200,000 leaves can absorb 11,000 gallons of water from the soil and release it into the air as oxygen and water vapor in a single growing season.

Many factors including rainfall, humidity, wind speed, temperature and soil type impact the rate of transpiration. It is difficult to measure the transpiration rate for individual tree species since the tree's health, size, age and soil moisture all impact transpiration rates. Plants growing around the trees also absorb and transpire water impacting the tree's transpiration rate.

Rainfall infiltration occurs when surface water moves through the soil. Tree roots and organic matter make it easier for water to move into the soil. This reduces the amount of rainfall that runs off the soil surface and potentially into nearby waterways and storm sewers. Mature trees have the greatest impact. As tree roots grow, they open entryways for the water to enter the soil. As the old roots die, they add organic matter to the soil.

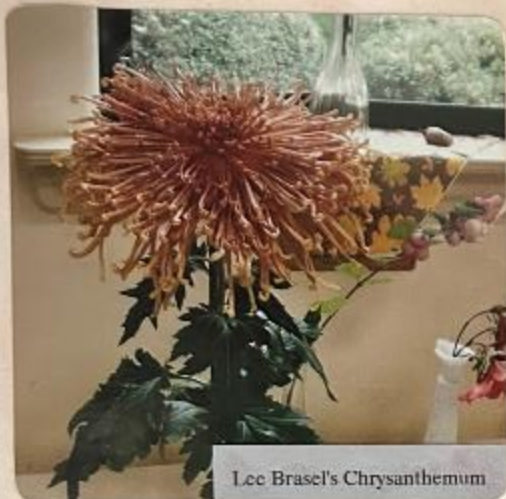
This, combined with the leaf litter they drop, increases organic matter and microbial activity thus improving the soil structure. These better growing conditions improve tree health and increase the amount of water the soil can hold and the speed at which the water enters the soil.

Trees are amazing structures that do much to improve our environment. Let us all look for opportunities to plant and tend trees throughout our community. Together we can make a difference now and for future generations.

Melinda is a TV and Radio host, author, columnist and speaker. She is the instructor for the Great Courses: How to Grow Anything DEV and Instant Streaming series. She has a Master's Degree in Horticulture and over 35 years of horticulture and gardening experience. Visit www.melindamyers.com for gardening tips, webinars and more.

From the PGCI Archives

Each of the lovely blooms below depict a garden and a gardener's love. You may recognize some of the names below. Not long ago, these gardeners worked as part of Paradise Garden Club. Post fire, several now live and share their talents in Chico. Look around you outside, these plants are coming back into bloom again in Paradise. Yesterday's gardens, today's joys, tomorrow's dreams.



Contemplate



Filoli Gardens, April 2023, photo by Joyce Hummel