



# WACONIAH

WASHINGTON, OREGON, CALIFORNIA CONVENTION HOSTED BY THE ALASKA GARDEN CLUBS

May 2026



**Friends!** Because that is how I see you all, so many wonderful friends! And I am looking forward to the Pacific Region Convention in California in October and meeting new friends! You will find out all about the “Palm Trees ‘n’ Ocean Breeze” convention in this issue of the WACONIAH. I hope many of you will be able to go! It will be FUN!

Before October, I will attend the National Convention in St. Louis, the one-day convention in Las Vegas, the full convention in Washington State and the one-day convention in Oregon. I am looking forward to meeting many new and old friends!

I hope some of you were able to attend our Firewise webinars. Susan Piper, who lost her home more than 30 years ago, to a massive fire in Oakland, CA and has been involved in educating the public to be prepared ever since. She has put this whole series together. We couldn't have found a better promoter for my special project! Thank you, Susan! We finished the first part of our series. The next one will be on Monday August 10<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.: Personal and Family Preparedness Before a Disaster. Let us know what you thought about the webinars. I know some of them are not gardening related, but still extremely important for anyone.

One of the jobs of the Pacific Region Director is to review the scholarship entries that National Garden Club has received. I was warned that it is a big task and to start early. Well, it is time consuming, but it was inspirational! All the entries were worth a scholarship! All these amazingly smart, dedicated, innovative and hardworking young people who have dreams. I learned a lot from all these applications!

For example: Have you heard of a soft-landing garden? It features native plants beneath a keystone tree, intentionally designed to support insects and birds. Ninety percent (90%) of caterpillars require both a tree canopy and the ground below it to complete their metamorphosis. A lawn monoculture below the tree compacts the soil and removes leaf litter, reducing cocoon survivorship and biodiversity.

Each one of the applications had something unique that they wanted to study. I wish I could invite each and every one of them to come and speak to the Garden Club!

I have hope for the future! One of you sent me a pretty card with a beautiful saying: “In the Garden of Life, Friends are the Flowers”.

Love to all my friends from Tanja!  
Pacific Region Director



Congratulations are in order!! The Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc is extremely excited and pleased to have completed Class 1 and Class 2 of the AFGC Landscape Design School Series 3. Thank you to Peggy Ahola, AFGC Design School Director, and Jennifer Moreland, AFGC President for getting the AFGC Landscape Design School back underway after several years! And very special Thank Yous to the School Instructors, Alba Rodriguez, Erin Hutton, Liz Lonetti, Noelle Johnson, Kristen Battafarano, and Robbie Cole, who did a marvelous job in sharing their expertise, understanding, and perspectives on the various Landscape Design topics.

Everything went very smoothly with the Zoom format (one good thing to come out of COVID!) which allowed participants from all over the country to join in for these Classes. Garden Club members, Master Gardeners, Landscape professionals, and every day gardeners were well represented.

The AFGC will be continuing the Landscape Design School Series 3 with Class 3 and Class 4 coming in November and December of 2026. Please watch for more details coming soon. Course topics are listed on the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc website under Sponsored Schools.

And plans are already being drawn up to offer the Landscape Design School's Gardening Class in 2027! We hope you will join us for all these exciting educational opportunities!

*Jan Wells - AFGC Schools Marketing Coordinator*

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**Looking for a unique gift for graduation, Mother's Day, Father's Day, a birthday, or a special thank you? Consider a Life Membership donation to support the PRGC Scholarship Program - honoring someone while making a difference.**

**A \$75 donation (fully tax deductible) grants Life Membership, a pin, certificate, and welcome letter.**

**To apply, complete the application ([://pacificregiongardenclubs.com/life-membership](http://pacificregiongardenclubs.com/life-membership)) and send it along with your check to:  
Pacific Region Garden Clubs Life Membership Chairman,  
Sue Bennett: [sue c bennett@att.net](mailto:sue_c_bennett@att.net).**

**Hope to hear from you soon,**

**Sue Bennett  
PRGC Life Membership Chairman**



**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**82<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention**  
*Palm Trees 'n' Ocean Breeze*  
**Thousand Oaks, California – October 12-14, 2026**

**Hotel Information & Reservations**

**The Palm Garden Hotel**  
**495 N Ventu Park Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320**

**Call the hotel to make reservations at 805-716-4200. Our group rate is \$129 + local taxes and fees for a standard room and \$159 for a courtyard room. Parking is free. Breakfast is included each morning across the parking lot at Mikey's Restaurant (vouchers received at check-in). Our group rate is valid Friday, October 9 through Thursday, October 14.**

**Restaurant on site: Seattle Sorelle**

**Sunday: 5pm-9pm, Monday: Closed, Tuesday: 5pm-9pm, Wednesday: 5pm-9pm,**

**Thursday: 5pm-9pm, Friday: 5pm-10pm, Saturday: 5pm-10pm**

**Several other restaurants and fast food is available nearby.**

**Travel Information**

**Automobile: The hotel is located just off the US 101 North Freeway.**

**Airport: Burbank Airport (BUR) is 35 miles from the hotel. There is no shuttle to hotel. \*\***

**Amtrak: Disembark at the Moorpark Station (11 miles from the hotel) OR Simi Valley Station (15 miles from the hotel). \*\***

**\*\* Tammy Eacker, Transportation Chairman, will do her best to arrange shuttle service from Burbank Airport, or the Amtrak Stations to the hotel. [Eacker74@gmail.com](mailto:Eacker74@gmail.com) or 818-400-3625**

**2026 Convention Highlights**

**Art in Design – floral displays**

**Raffle Baskets – Districts from all over California have provided raffle items to entice you to open your checkbook.**

**Saturday, Oct 10 – Tour: Strathearn Historical Park, The Hat, Moorpark Teaching Zoo**

**Sunday, Oct 11 – Tour: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library**

**Monday, Oct 12**

**Workshop Extravaganza – Enjoy a plethora of idea-laden workshops.**

**Fun & Games Evening Under the Stars – Enjoy the autumn evening reconnecting with friends and making new friends.**

**Tuesday, Oct 13**

**Lunch – Jorge Ochoa brings his live projected microscope to examine bugs up-close and personal.**

**Dinner – Celebrate our Pacific Region Life Members, welcome our newest Life Members and find out the winners of the Region awards.**

**Wednesday May 13**

**State Presidents Meeting – for Pacific Region state presidents**

**Round Table Discussions – for everyone else**

**Lunch – Nicholas Staddon will take us on a pictorial tour of Pacific Region flora.**

**Dinner – Enjoy our final evening together with a special Pacific Region Bingo.**

**THOSE REGISTERING BEFORE AUGUST 1  
WILL BE ENTERED IN A DRAWING FOR A FABULOUS PRIZE!**

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, October 10, 2026** – Tour Strathearn Historical Park, The Hat (lunch), Moorpark Teaching Zoo

**Sunday, October 11, 2026** – Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

**Monday, October 12, 2026**

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Finance Committee meeting

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Organization Committee meeting

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Workshop Extravaganza

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Executive Committee meeting

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Reception – social hour

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Buffet dinner

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Fun and games

**Tuesday, October 13, 2026**

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Pre-convention Board of Directors Meeting

11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Opening ceremony

12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch w/speaker - Bugs

2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Convention meeting (including Memorial Service)

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Reception – social hour

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Buffet dinner

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Life Membership / Awards presentation

**Wednesday, October 14, 2026**

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. State Presidents meeting / Round table discussion

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Round table discussion

12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch w/speaker – Tour of Pacific Region Through Its Flora

2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Convention meeting

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Reception – social hour

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Buffet dinner

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Entertainment – Pacific Region Bing



**PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**  
**82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention – October 12-14, 2026**  
*Palm Trees 'n' Ocean Breeze*

The Palm Garden Hotel, 495 N Ventu Park Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320  
 All attendees MUST register...ONE person per registration form...no walk-ins...no exceptions  
 Last day to register is September 30—NO registrations will be accepted after September 30

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

State Garden Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Pacific Region Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Status:  PR Board of Directors Member  Delegate\*  Alternate Delegate\*  Non-voting  
 \*- As authorized by State President

**BADGE INFORMATION – Please check all that apply:**

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGC President                  | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Chairman            | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Life Member            | <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse or Guest             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Director        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Officer  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Former Pac. Region Director |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region State President | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club Member         | <input type="checkbox"/> First-Time Attendee         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Show Judge              | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Consultant    | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Consultant   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Design Consultant |

**PACKAGE PLAN REGISTRATION – NO refunds after September 30.**

Package Plan includes: \$100 Registration (\$20 for CGCI workers), 2 Lunches, 3 Banquets, all workshops.

Full-time Package – received by September 15	\$320	\$ _____
Full-time Package – CGCI workers – received by September 15	\$240	\$ _____
Full-time Package – received AFTER September 15 – add additional	\$ 40	\$ _____

**PART-TIME REGISTRATION – NO refunds after September 30.**

Part-time Registration Fee (meals not included; add below as desired)		
– received by September 15	\$ 100	\$ _____
Part-time CGCI workers Registration Fee – received by September 15	\$ 20	\$ _____
Registration received AFTER September 15 – add additional	\$ 40	\$ _____
Spouses, Guests and Companions – Registration Fee waived	\$ 0	\$ _____
Meals – Open to all members, spouses, companions and guests		
Monday, October 12 Dinner – Fun and Games	\$ 52	\$ _____
Tuesday, October 13 Lunch – Don't Bug Me!	\$ 38	\$ _____
Tuesday, October 13 Banquet – Life Membership / Awards	\$ 58	\$ _____
Wednesday, October 14 Luncheon – A Tour of the Region's Flora	\$ 38	\$ _____
Wednesday, October 14 Banquet – Pacific Region Bingo	\$ 58	\$ _____

Diet Restrictions:  Gluten-free Other \_\_\_\_\_

**TOURS:**

Saturday, October 10 – Strathearn Historical Park, The Hat, Moorpark Teaching Zoo	\$ 25	\$ _____
Sunday, October 11 – Ronald Reagan Presidential Library	\$ 35	\$ _____

**CONVENTION/TOUR TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**No Refunds after September 30.**

Pay by credit card: <https://pacificregiongardenclubs.com/convention-2026>

OR make check payable to "Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc." or "PRGC"

Mail registration and check to:

Launa Gould, 1212 Avenida Buena Suerte, San Clemente, CA 92672  
[Launa.gould@gmail.com](mailto:Launa.gould@gmail.com) or 949-275-3974

Convention Chairman: Robin Pokorski  
[CGCIRobin@gmail.com](mailto:CGCIRobin@gmail.com) or 818-425-3247 (cell)

For Office Use	Amount: <input type="checkbox"/>
Amount: _____	Confirmation: _____
Check # _____	Received: _____
Refund Due: _____	Refund Check: _____
Balance Due: _____	Bal Paid Ck#: _____

**PRE-CONVENTION FUN:**

***Tour Schedule***

**Saturday, October 10 – \$25**

Tour begins in the hotel lobby at 8:45 a.m.  
Strathearn Historical Park  
Lunch – The Hat (on your own)  
Moorpark Teaching Zoo  
Return to the hotel ~ 3:30 p.m.

**Sunday, October 11 – \$35**

Tour begins in the hotel lobby at 9:45 a.m.  
Ronald Reagan Presidential Library  
Lunch on your own at the Library  
Return to the hotel ~ 2:45 p.m.

**CONVENTION FUN: Workshops will be ongoing – you can come and go as you wish**

***Enjoy a Workshop Extravaganza*** – Monday, October 12, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Check if attending

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recycle Snowflakes          | <input type="checkbox"/> Napkin Art             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make & Take Pressed Flowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Whimsical Stick People |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Succulent Pumpkins          | <input type="checkbox"/> Operation Gratitude    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Nesting Bags           | <input type="checkbox"/> Tissue Paper Flowers   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Napkin Ring Art             | <input type="checkbox"/> Surprise               |

***Enjoy Palm Trees, Ocean Breeze & Each Other – Dinner*** Monday, October 12

Dinner and games will be available as well as good conversation.  
This is an informal gathering to celebrate getting together again!

***Enjoy Bugs (But Not for Lunch) – Lunch*** Tuesday, October 13

Jorge Ochoa will thrill us with an up-close and personal view of bugs.

***Enjoy the Best of the Pacific Region – Banquet*** Tuesday, October 13

Celebrating our Pacific Region Life Members and our Award Winners.

***Enjoy a Tour of the Pacific Region Through its Flora – Lunch*** Wednesday, October 14

Nicholas Staddon will enthrall us with a peek at new plants and introductions.

***Enjoy an evening of Pacific Region Bingo – Banquet*** Wednesday, October 14

Robin Pokorski will entertain us with customized bingo games with fabulous prizes.

**Oh, come on!**  
**Join us – it's going be**  
**great fun!**



## PRGC Judging of NGC Awards

By Pat Clayes, PRGC Award Liaison to NGC



Last fall, Marilyn McDonnell, NGC's Awards Chair, asked the eight Regional Directors to help judge "several" NGC award entries. Pat Clayes (California) volunteered to serve as PRGC's Award Liaison.

The following volunteered to be part of the PRGC judging team:

- Sue Bennett (California)
- Jane McKee (California)
- Sheila Parcel (Alaska and Arizona)
- Judy Stebbins (Nevada)



The "several" entries turned out to be fifty-five entries and were evaluated by the four judges, including Pat Clayes. The entries assigned to PRGC: CE-4B Roadside Plantings; EC-3 Wildlife Survival; G-1 Container Gardening; MAE-4E Manuals/Handbooks; MAE-4D Newsletters/Magazines/Bulletins over 24 pages; and MAE-2B Website Professionally Designed.

PRGC was the first Region to complete its judging task, well before NGC's deadline!

If PRGC is asked to help judge "several" 2026 NGC award entries, more judges will be needed. Please do not hesitate to volunteer to help. Judging is a great way to see what other NGC organizations in the country are doing!



## **Spread the Word !**

State Presidents, District Directors, Club Presidents, PRGC Board Members and All Garden Club Members in the Pacific Region: The 2026 Region Convention will be hosted by California Garden Clubs, Inc. in Thousand Oaks, California October 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. Tours will take place on October 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. The Call to Convention is included in this issue of WACONIAH and posted on our website. You can register now and those who register before August 1<sup>st</sup> will be entered in a drawing for a fabulous prize. By the time you read this online registration by credit card will be available.



Mark your calendar. Share the news with your club members. Submit your registration. Come to sunny Southern California in October for Palm Trees 'n' Ocean Breeze.

Greg Pokorski  
Convention Publicity Chairman

## **Pacific Region Governing Documents**

By Greg Pokorski, Organization Study Committee Chairman



Governing Documents for Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. are the Bylaws, the Standing Rules and the Convention Procedures. These are posted on our website. Board members (including officers, state presidents, former region directors and all chairmen) should be familiar with all of these. Suggestions for changes (which are enacted at our annual conventions) may be sent to this chairman for consideration by the Organization Study Committee. In order for changes to be considered at the 2026 convention, please submit any recommendations soon, and no later than July 15<sup>th</sup>. [GregPokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:GregPokorski@earthlink.net)

## **Parliamentary News**

By Greg Pokorski, Pacific Region Parliamentarian



February of this year marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first publication of Robert's Rules of Order in 1876. Henry Martyn Robert was not trained as a lawyer or politician. He was a general in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who became interested in meeting procedure after being asked to preside over a church meeting that quickly became confusing and disorderly. That experience led him to study parliamentary law and create a practical guide that ordinary citizens could use, not a scholarly treatise. He wanted a guide that would help real groups conduct real meetings.

It is remarkable that a 19<sup>th</sup> century book still shapes meetings today. The original pocket-sized volume has evolved into a more detailed and comprehensive work. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised remains the most widely used parliamentary authority in the United States. For 150 years it has helped groups move from disagreement to decision in a fair and orderly way. That is worth celebrating.

Reference: 150 Years of Robert's Rules of Order by Jim Slaughter



## PACIFIC NATIVE TREE: DOGWOOD (*Cornus nuttalli*)

Lori Robinson, Chair – Wildflowers

**Phenology:** *Bloom Period:* April-June, flowering may occur again in late summer. *Fruit ripens*-September to October.

**Propagation:** Seeds should be collected in fall, removed from their fleshy fruit covering and planted immediately into outdoor seed flats. Germination may take 18 months or more. Scarification and a warm stratification at 60°F (15°C) for 60 days followed by a cold stratification at 40°F (4°C) for 3-4 months may hasten germination. It is also possible to propagate by layering.

**Use by People:** Natives used the hard, dried wood for harpoon shafts and other implements. The wood has also been used to make thread spindles, golf club heads and piano keys.

**Use by wildlife:** Deer and elk will browse the leaves. Small mammals and birds such as grosbeaks, cedar waxwings, and woodpeckers eat the fruit. It is an impressive sight– Pileated Woodpeckers and Flickers in a Dogwood tree feasting on the berries!

The “Dogwood” blooms at Easter in the Pacific Northwest. Jesus was crucified on a Dogwood Tree. It used to be a hard wood tree; but now it is weak. I notice red veins on the petals of the flowers in the fall. It is supposed to represent the blood of Jesus Christ. The flowers are beautiful when the tree is in full bloom.



Pacific Dogwood, *Cornus nuttallii*

**Pacific Dogwood**

**The Dogwood Family–Cornaceae**



***Cornus nuttallii*** Audubon ex Torr. & A. Gray (KOR-nus new-TAL-ee-eye)

**Names:** Pacific Dogwood is also known as Western Flowering Dogwood. It was named after Thomas Nuttall, an English botanist and zoologist.

**Relationships:** There are about 100 dogwood species worldwide found primarily in temperate regions. Three Dogwood trees and a couple of shrub species are found in the eastern or Midwestern United States. In our region, besides the Pacific Dogwood, we have a shrub, Red-Twig Dogwood, *Cornus sericea*, and a groundcover, Bunchberry, *Cornus canadensis*.





*Distribution of Pacific Dogwood from USGS ( "Atlas of United States Trees" by Elbert L. Little, Jr. )*

**Distribution:** Pacific Dogwood is found from southwest British Columbia, western Washington and Oregon and on the west slopes of the Californian mountain ranges. There is also a disjunctive population in northern Idaho.

**Growth:** Pacific Dogwood usually grows to about 20-30 feet (7-10m), but can grow to be 90 feet (30m). It may live to be 150 years old.

**Habitat:** Pacific Dogwood prefers moist, well-drained sites and is most often found as an understory tree in fairly open, mixed forests.

*Typical parallel veining pattern of a dogwood leaf, turning red in fall.*

**Diagnostic Characters:** The Pacific Dogwood leaves have the veining pattern typical of all dogwoods, where the nearly parallel secondary veins branch from the midvein and curve towards the tip as they near the leaf edge. Like most dogwoods, they have opposite leaf arrangement. The tiny, greenish, purple-tinged flowers are pressed into tight hemispheric clusters. These clusters are surrounded by 4-6 white (sometimes pink-tinged) bracts, creating a showy inflorescence with the appearance of one large flower. Each flower cluster develops into a bumpy ball of hard, red fruits in the fall.



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**In the Landscape:** This attractive tree is often one of the most sought after native for gardens, but unfortunately larger specimens do not transplant well, and it is sometimes difficult to grow in containers. Small trees may sometimes be available in specialty nurseries but they are usually in short supply. Pacific Dogwood is also very susceptible to a fungus disease called Dogwood Anthracnose. This disease causes large brown blotches on the leaves and will also cause twig dieback. Many people are willing to accept this risk in order to enjoy the spectacular floral display this tree provides in the spring. Tall, flowering, Pacific

Dogwood trees are most glorious when they are pressed up against the edge of a Douglas Fir forest. This tree's beauty continues into other seasons with red berries, pinkish fall foliage, and an attractive branching pattern.



*Lots to celebrate between now and the next issue in August.*

*Memorial Day, Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>*

*Juneteenth, Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>*

*Independence Day, Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>*

*Wishing you all a fun and safe celebration day for each of these special moments.*

*After all the festivities, don't forget to send in your contributions to the August edition, between July 15<sup>th</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>, with August Waconiah in the subject line. Thank you.*

*Happy Summer Gardening!!!*

*MyrnaCabanban, Editor*

*[PrgcWaconiah@gmail.com](mailto:PrgcWaconiah@gmail.com)*

