

**Nurture People ~ Nurture Plants ~ Nurture Our Planet
June 7, 2023**

Hello to everyone and thank you for being here this evening.

I am in awe of the all the amazing club members in this room and the wonderful things you have accomplished for your communities. Your reports during meetings have been inspiring – from stunning flower shows ...to civic beautification... to work with our youthand continuing education. You are dedicated and loyal. I am proud to be your new President and to help this organization continue to grow and thrive, and have a positive impact on our world.

During the process of preparing for my term as your President I took a few moments to think about our mission, “to coordinate the interests of garden clubs to provide education, resources and networking opportunities for its members to promote gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.” I also thought about how much our lives have changed in the last few years and what I could possibly do to help us navigate through the years to come as we continue to be true to our mission.

What came to me was the word nurture, defined as “the process of caring for and encouraging the growth or development of someone or something.” I’m sure you’ll agree that our world, its people, its plants, and the entire planet need nurturing in a very big way.

But what does this look like for us as we fulfill our mission? This is the question we will answer together as we move through the next couple of years. We’ll look at how we can nurture each other in our club, district, and state activities. We’ll learn how we can nurture our gardens and wildlife to continue to sustain through the challenges of climate change and finally, what we can do to reduce the destructive impact of us living on this planet.

These are just a few of the efforts we plan to initiate.

Nurture People

- **We will emphasize kindness, respectfulness and inclusiveness in all our communications.**
- **We will continue to improve Communications with one another**
 - **We're going back to the complete directory, with revisions to Awards, programs, Committees, and NGC and Pacific Region sections and the printed copies will be distributed at the fall Board meeting in Pasco.**
 - **We'll hold monthly Zoom meetings for Executive Committee members (Officers and District Directors) and the "Get Connected" forum will shift to being open to all Club Presidents. to share successes and challenges with their peers across the state.**
- **Dorrie Carr will chair a new Committee "Garden Club Websites" to help clubs increase their visibility on the internet. This will be a direct link from the WSFGC website to an internet location for each Club that would like to participate. We're being told very frequently that is how the clubs that are growing are finding their new members.**
- **We'll work on supporting virtual Club and District meetings with training to districts and clubs in central locations.**
- **Members will be encouraged to network with other clubs, districts and plant societies by attending their flower shows and special events such as plant sales. Clubs could also invite local plant societies to become an WSFGC affiliate. It's a win-win as there are numerous benefits both ways.**

Nurture Plants

- **Starting in August, Tara Keen will do a presentation at each Board meeting on pollinators, native plants, and other horticulture.**
- **We're energizing the Penny Pines program. Our new Chairman will be talking about this tomorrow. Diane Couraud will have a challenge for each club.**
- **Let's focus our efforts on learning more about native plants for birds and other wildlife., (yes, even squirrels!) building pollinator gardens to draw the most butterflies and bees.**
- **We'll plant more trees! Clubs will be encouraged to share their Arbor Day plans with the public in their communities, the WSFGC Arbor Day Chairman and Website Editor.**

Nurture our Planet – it is our mission to be civic and environmentally responsible

- **Committee Chairman will be encouraged to hold Zoom – not in-person - meetings. This will reduce the carbon footprint of Committee members having to travel across the state.**
- **We're adding a new page to our website that contains links to other organizations who share our mission. Could you find these sites with Google? Of course, you could, but going to a compiled list of organizations who you know share our mission on the website will be even faster.**
- **Tomorrow you'll learn about the Trex Bench Challenge project from our new Chairman Jackie McCoy. With this project we will make an even bigger impact on plastic recycling.**
- **Our new Legislation Chairman, Marva Lee Peterschick, will keep us abreast of changes at the state level & what we can do to support conservation efforts.**
- **Clubs will be encouraged to educate the public to understand the effects of pesticides, the role of native pollinators and plants, and the importance of leaving natural areas in our lawns, parks, and forests.**
- **District Directors and CAL Presidents will be asked to share environmental activities in their community, and bring new ideas to Board meetings so we can learn from each other.**

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Brenda Moore and National Garden Clubs..... and Pacific Region Garden Clubs for your leadership. Also the WSFGC Officers, District Directors, Board Chairmen, Garden Clubs members, Clubs at Large, Affiliations and all the member volunteers who have stepped up to join me on this journey. I appreciate each and every one of you for the time and talents you have committed to WSFGC and its mission.

Let the journey begin and let's have some fun!