



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

The Prez Sez



Welcome back to the Watercan, Paradise Garden Club's monthly newsletter. I'm hoping that none of you suffered much damage with those atmospheric rivers we had barreling through the North state. We were in Chico ourselves and were barely able to make it up the hill with flowing water running down the length of Skyway with all the requisite hydroplaning and traction issues. We had nigh on 6 inches of rain and a spectacular light show all in the space of a few hours. Needless to say, our yard got a good dowsing. Our veggies enjoyed the rain also.

There are a lot of exciting things going on in the club. The meeting last month on propagation courtesy of the Master Gardeners was both engaging and informative. We also had volunteers representing the club at the Johnny Appleseed festival for both days where we were able to get information about the club and sell quite a few bags of daffodils in hopes that they will be planted on the ridge to add some spring color in town. Field trips are also happening. We secured an entire table at the Red Bluff Garden club's luncheon and as I write this, we have another fieldtrip planned for the Empire Mines in Nevada City for this Saturday and hopefully a good lunch at a local eatery.

As always, I hope you have a good month and are able to get out and enjoy your gardens. Our own winter garden is planted and starting to fill out. Fingers crossed we'll have veggies to share in the future!

Todd

PGCI General Meeting, November 13 at 1:00 p.m.

Our speaker: Kay Perkins, Master Gardener

Topic: Gardening for a Lifetime

Upcoming Events

Bring a friend!

	Index
1	Prez Sez & Next Meeting
2	Upcoming Events
3	Beautification Report & Thanks to last speaker
4	Field Trips
5	Gardening for Wildlife
6	Board Minutes
7	General Minutes
8	Succulents, CGCI
9	Barrell Me In, NGCI
10	Archive Page
11	Contemplate

Paradise Garden Club Fall Schedule

at the Terry Ashe Recreation Center

Monday, November 13, 1:00-3:00: Kay Perkins, Master Gardener, "Gardening for a Lifetime"

Gardens and gardeners grow and change with time. And though the garden beckons as strongly as ever, tasks such as pulling weeds, pushing wheelbarrows, digging holes, pruning, hauling, and moving heavy objects become increasingly difficult with advancing years. But the idea of giving up our passion is unthinkable for most gardeners. To stay healthy and active in the garden, we offer practical advice that will help transform daunting chores into sustainable activities. We will share ideas about plants, labor saving techniques, and tools. Because cultivating good body balance and maintaining strength is important so we can continue to garden, this workshop includes a demonstration of easy yoga positions for gardeners.

Monday, December 11, 1:00-3:00

Back by popular demand! We'll be making wreathes or swags at our December meeting so be thinking about how you might like to decorate yours and what greens or other items you might be able to contribute, e.g. ribbon, berries, flowers, or whatever brings you joy. We'll also bring finger food to share.

Monday, January 8, 1:00-3:00: Kathleen Elliott, "Hardwood Cuttings"



**Welcome
to Fall**

Reminder! Kathleen Elliot has a sign up sheet for her organic olive oil. \$110 for one gallon. Payment needed by November 15, 2023.

Contact Kathleen: kdelliot2014@gmail.com or 925-209-7702

UC Master Gardener Workshops Registration Information and class details & location addresses at <https://ucanr.edu/sites/bcmg/Workshops/> *CLASSES ARE FREE AND FILL UP QUICKLY*

Neighborhood Habitat Certification, Saturday, Nov.4, 1:30-3pm

Plant an Acorn; Harvest a Community, Tuesday, Nov.7, 1:30-3pm

Espalier, Wednesday, Nov.8, 2:30-4pm

Gardening for a Lifetime, Nov.13, 1-2pm

Wildcrafting, Monday, Nov.20, 1:30-3pm



Beautification Team Report



The Beautification Team started the annual daffodil bulb planting by placing 200 at the Library Mound. The following week, with permission from Paradise Public Works, a large group of us planted in front of the police station. Having time, energy and bulbs we continued across the street in front of the Depot Park planting a total of 250. A week later we put in 100 bulbs on the slope of the Veteran's parking area which will be a burst of yellow as you drive on Elliott near Skyway. Even the

monument area at Clark & Elliott received daffodil bulbs. At the end of October we planted along the street in front of the Gold Nugget Museum. At Bille Park there are plans to put in bulbs near the pavilion and at the animal memorial.

Please let us know if you see an area around town that needs a bright flash of color and we'll see if it's possible to add daffodils there.

Remember you can purchase bags of bulbs to plant on your own property or share with neighbors. They are \$30 for a bag of 100 bulbs.

You are very welcome to come plant with our great team. Contact Jeudie so she can notify you of our plans.



ADVICE FROM A PUMPKIN

Be well-rounded. Get plenty of sunshine. Give thanks for life's bounty. Have thick skin. Keep growing. Be outstanding in your field. Think big.



Thank you to last month's speaker, master gardener Jenny Marr who spoke animatedly to us about propagation. Every minute of this engaging presentation was hands on information that covered seeds, cuttings of all types, potting soils, type of pots and everything a gardener needs to know. She brought startling news that many plastic pots you purchase your plants in are made with neonicotinoids. Neonicotinoids in the plastic go into the plants and pollinators get harmfully effected. A motivating reason to start with seeds!



Jenny brought plant samples to divide, cut and share and Ellen brought seeds.

Garden Club Field Trips

Empire Mine State Historic Park and Gardens Field Trip



Our members have expressed a desire for more field trips this year, so our first scheduled trip was on Saturday, October 21st to Empire Mine State Historic Park and Gardens. Empire Mine SHP was previously owned by the Bourne family who also lived at Filoli Gardens in Woodside visited by a few members in the Spring.

Six of us met at Ace Hardware and carpoled to Grass Valley, a beautiful drive all by itself. The weather was perfect and the gardens were at their fall perfection.

Two tours were offered at the park, one of the gardens and one of the home of the Bournes and the grounds. We took advantage of those but had to pass on the mine tour as it was lunchtime and we were hungry. After a bit of looking for a special restaurant we thought we could find, we decided on Mexican for lunch, then went to one of the many nurseries in the area. Betty and Melissa continued on to other nurseries before heading home and a fun day was had by all.



Red Bluff Garden Club's Fall Luncheon and Program

"Friends of the Garden Tea Party" By Anne Pace

We had a table of eight at the Tea Party on October 14, with an addition from Anderson (she also won the best hat) to fill the table. The event was held at Rolling Hills Casino and the room was filled with creative centerpieces and silent auction items.

The beautiful centerpiece on our table was won by Cheryl Habriel, and Ward was the winner of several silent auction baskets and goodies as was Margaret. Our lunch was excellent with packages of homemade cookies for dessert and the Bug Guy kept our interest with his presentation. It was great fun to support the Red Bluff Garden Club!



Gardening For Wildlife

Linda Goddard



Photo by Linda Goddard

The Hummingbird Invasion

Have you noticed an abundance of hummingbirds in your garden lately? These beautiful tiny birds have shown up in large numbers in my yard, prompting me to wonder: why are there so many hummingbirds in Paradise right now, and are they gathering to migrate?

One of the primary factors contributing to the surge of hummingbirds is the abundance of nectar-rich flowers that continue to bloom in our area. Hummingbirds are well-known for their love of nectar, a primary source of their energy. Plants such as fuchsia, trumpet vine, salvia, and penstemon provide a great source of nectar.

The sudden gathering of hummingbirds could also be attributed to the area's importance as a stopover point during their migratory journeys. While many hummingbirds are considered year-round residents in California, some species are known to migrate.

In particular, the Rufous hummingbird is one species known for its amazing migration. These birds breed in Alaska and Canada and travel thousands of miles to their wintering grounds in Mexico and Central America. California is a crucial refueling station for Rufous hummingbirds on their journey.

Paradise has mild winters and warm summers, creating a great habitat for hummingbirds year-round. Our moderate temperatures, along with a wide variety of habitats including forests, gardens, and meadows, provide an ideal setting for hummingbirds to thrive.



Board Minutes

October 9th, 2023 - Start time: 11:30 - Terry Ashe Recreation Center

Attending: Margaret Hawe, Joyce and Todd Hummel, Alison Denofrio, Anne Pace, Cheryl and Ward Habriel, Nancy Howe, Jeudie Lovell and Wendy Wicklund

Todd opened the board meeting at 11:30A. Todd started the meeting by talking about Johnny Appleseed days and said the event went well. Bags of bulbs were sold but bulb tally was not in yet.

Treasurer's Report: Margaret stated we have \$31, 976.61 in the bank and are doing well.

Margaret said in the future we should have receipts for bags of daffodils bulbs sold in case we ever get audited.

Wendy received the transaction sheet for September.

Garden Tour: Nancy, Cheryl, Linda and Joyce (Home Garden Search Team) will start looking at homes to consider for our 2024 garden tour this coming Thursday October 11th.

Ad procuring group consists of: Jeudie, Margaret and Cheryl. The group will get underway contacting last year's businesses to hopefully renew their ads.

Beautification Report: Jeudie said 200 daffodil bulbs were planted at the library last week. Jeudie is looking at other locations to plant bulbs and to beautify.

OTHER: Ward said 3000 daffodils will be planted at the Depot Park on November 5th as part of Days Across the Ridge.

Camp Fire 5th Anniversary. Suggestions on what should be said, if any, as a remembrance for the 5th anniversary of the Camp Fire, at our next meeting in November. Maybe as we sit in a circle and start our November meeting, we would not only introduce ourselves, as we usually do, but say "What we are grateful for now"?

Note: Kathleen Elliott was approached by a lady at Johnny Appleseed days as to whether we would consider broadening scholarships for high school students interested in horticulture/environmental sciences, and also set aside monies towards certificates for supplies and tools. Kathleen suggested contacting Jeff & Linda Marcus to contact the high school and Jeff Roble who coordinates the Ridge Rangers regarding scholarship ideas. The Habriel's will contact the Marcuse's.

Concern: Margaret expressed concern over our vacating the PRPD building space by 3p and not go over our allotted time frame. Many suggestions were made on how we might exit the building by 3p. A few were: combining our welcome to members and guests as they enter and encouraging them to help themselves to a snack plate before sitting down for the meeting and/or presentation? Or should we start cleaning up the last 15 minutes of our speaker's time? Or should we signal the speaker that they are nearing the end of their time? Or should the speaker start a bit earlier in order to finish earlier?

The Meeting adjourned at 12:42p Respectfully submitted, Wendy Wicklund, Recording Secretary

General Meeting Minutes

October 9th, 2023 - General Meeting notes - Terry Ashe Recreation Center

President Todd Hummel called the meeting to order at 1:00P. Followed by the pledge of allegiance. There were approximately 50 people attending.

Treasurer's Report: Margaret reported that the club has \$31,976,61.

Penny Pines: Joanie explained how our monthly donations are used to replant forests. A collection jar was passed around.

Master Gardener Moment: Ellen not at meeting.

Beautification: Jeudie shared 200 bulbs had been planted at the library last week and asked for suggestions on where to plant bulbs around Paradise. Attendees responded with ideas.

Stars Award: Todd asked the membership to consider who they'd want to nominate in November. The award is to honor a member who has served PGCi with excellence.

Guest Speaker: Jenny Marr is a botanist and a Master Gardener. Jenny and her two helpers passed out a sheet of propagation basics step by step guide to help us follow along. She began with tools used and cautioned us that many store purchased pots have neonicotinoids included in their manufacture. These toxins go into the plants, from plants to bees and can cause hive collapse. She detailed how to handle seed planting and saving, how to grow healthy seedlings, and the use of grow lights and heating pads. She showed how to divide iris and various types of plants and how to prepare cuttings. The instruction sheet also included several book references. "Joe Gardener" online is a useful resource too. She also brought a variety of plants and seeds to share.

Good of the Order

Ward talked about daffodil bulbs and a cart with bulb's that were for sale, located back by the check in desk.. All bulbs bags in cart were sold. Monies were given to Margaret as sales were made.

Red Bluff Garden Club's luncheon at Rolling Hills Casino on Oct 14th. Signup sheet being passed around.

Kathleen talked about purchasing her Picholine olive oil. Sheet going around with information and signup sheet..

Anne passed around a signup sheet for the Empire mine field trip in Nevada City on October 21st.

Anne asked for a show of hands interested in making wreaths again during the December general meeting.

Meeting ending 2:45p

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Wicklund, Recording Secretary



HORTICULTURE

SUCCULENTS

By [Ellyn Meikle](#), Cactus & Succulent Chairman



Aloe

Succulents are booming in popularity because they are beautiful, nearly indestructible, and waterwise. They store water in their thick, fleshy (succulent) leaves, their stems, or their roots. These plants have adapted to survive dry conditions throughout the world from Africa to the deserts of North America. They have become the go-to plant for gardens in drought-ridden California.

As a group, succulents include some of the most well-known plants, such as the Aloe and Agave. Cacti are a unique subset of the succulent group. Succulents are also commonly used in dish gardens.

No matter what kind of succulent you are growing, the rules are similar between the different species. Here are basic guidelines for successfully growing succulents:



Agave

Light: Succulents prefer bright daylight. Watch the leaves for indications that the light level is correct. Some species will scorch if suddenly exposed to direct sunlight. The leaves will turn brown or white as the plant bleaches out and the soft tissues are destroyed. Alternatively, an underlit succulent will begin to stretch, with an elongated stem and widely spaced leaves. Some succulents will thrive indoors with bright daylight.

Temperature: Ideally, succulents prefer daytime temperatures between 70°F and about 85°F and nighttime temperatures between 50°F and 55°F.

Water: Succulents should be watered generously in the summer. The potting mix should be allowed to dry between waterings, but do not underwater. During the winter when the plants go dormant, cut watering back to once every other month. Overwatering and ensuing plant rot is the single most common cause of plant failure. Be aware that an overwatered succulent might at first plump up and look very healthy. However, the cause of death may have already set in underground with rot spreading upward from the root system. A succulent should never be allowed to sit in water. The following are signs of under- or overwatering:

- **Overwatering:** Overwatered plants are soft and discolored. The leaves may be yellow or white and lose their color. A plant in this condition may be beyond repair, but you can still remove it from its pot and inspect the roots. If they are brown and rotted, cut away dead roots and repot into drier potting media, or take a cutting and propagate the parent plant.
- **Underwatering:** Succulents prefer generous water during the growing season (spring and summer). An underwatered plant will first stop growing, then begin to shed leaves. Alternatively, the plant may develop brown spots on the leaves.



Dish Gardens

Potting Soils: Succulents should be potted in a fast-draining mixture that is designed for cacti and succulents. If you do not have access to a specialized mix, consider modifying a normal potting mix with an inorganic agent like perlite to increase aeration and drainage. These plants generally have shallow roots that form a dense mat just under the soil surface. The former WaterWise Garden Center's standard soil recipe was 50% cactus mix + 50% perlite.

Fertilizer: During the summer growing season, fertilize as you would with other plants. Stop fertilizing entirely during the winter.



Barrell Me In Charlotte Swanson

A good while ago, there was whiskey in my barrels. Growing up in the South, I am familiar with distillers aging whiskey in oak barrels. While whiskey is not my choice of drink, I do favor whiskey barrels for container gardening. They are generous in size, sturdy, long-lasting, and age gracefully. Rabbits tend to ignore lettuces planted in them. They offer good resistance to all but wind-borne weeds. Keeping them watered can be a task, but not an unpleasant one. One gallon from a watering can tends to be enough. While pausing to water the barrel, one can also view the rest of the garden. Another watering tactic is using liter bottles outfitted with a cone-shaped nozzle that slowly delivers water. Optionally, drip systems have elevated tubing that can adapt to these containers.

Over the years, my barrels have hosted a variety of plants. For a few seasons, they held my dwarf apple trees until they found a permanent in-ground spot. The barrels are not insulated against frigid winters. A few straw bales around them can safeguard against freezing to a reasonable degree (minus 15 to 20 in my zone).

Most of the time, we chose annuals for whiskey barrels. What is especially helpful is that barrels are early to warm up and are available in the spring for cool season crops like leaf lettuce, kale, and spinach. It is a small and easy task to till them and add fresh amendments to the potting soil left over from previous summers. While waiting for the frost-free days, one is rewarded with the knowledge that the cool crops are getting a head start.

Beets and carrots prefer a friable, loose potting soil enriched with vegetable fertilizers. Container-sized tomatoes adapt quickly also. Last summer, even my sizable artichoke found the barrel a cozy and productive place to be!

Of course, all sorts of flowering cultivars grow in barrels. Petunias do not complain; shorter versions of zinnias, salvia, and nasturtiums thrive in them. Plus, they offer a convenient spot to experiment on a small scale before deciding on a bigger stage for the "new kid on the block."

Plenty of container choices exist, but few stack up well against the reliable whiskey barrel. It boasts of being recycled, repurposed, long-lived, generous in size, friendly to flowers and veggies, and ready for the gardener's hankering to experiment.

I leave the whiskey to others, just give me the barrel!



Charlotte Swanson is a NGC Gardening Consultant and a long time writer for The National Gardener.

2009

2009

From the PGCI Archives

GARDEN OF THE MONTH

To honor an outstanding Residential and Commercial garden each month

G

GARDEN TOUR

Open to the public, we showcase six exceptional gardens. Our major fund raiser of the year, to help provide funds to benefit our community.

O

HORTICULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS

Support Butte College Horticulture Dept. students with \$1000.00 scholarships. 5 were awarded last year

GRAMMY GARDENERS

A program for school children To save seeds and nurture plants for our future gardeners

A

HORTICULTURAL CONTEST

A judged contest for members to show off their very best gardening specimens, and plant identification. Held at meetings

BENEFIT DRAWING

Donated items are raffled off at our monthly meetings, to help with club expenses.

L

PENNY PINES

Work towards renewing our forests

HUMBOLDT FIRE VICTIMS

Gift certificates provided to fire victims in cooperation with PGC and Paradise Garden Center.

S

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Each month a newsletter for members is published with all club news, announcements and garden information

PGCI Goals in 2009 were great. What are PGCI goals now? Please email Nancy or Linda G.; contact info in roster. Our updated goals will be printed next month.

Contemplate



Leonotis Leonurus (Lion's Tail), gloriously grown by Anne P. Photo & naiku by Nancy Howe

Sit outside, listen.
Birds, butterflies, bees
rejoice in autumn.