



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

The Prez Sez



Happy December gardeners! As we are heading into what is predicted to be a very wet El Nino winter, we are battenning down the hatches, hopefully cuddling up, and waiting for spring to well... spring!

The club is doing really well. Our membership is growing (Welcome new members!) and we are experiencing increases in both guest attendance and meeting participation. At the last club meeting our members voted overwhelmingly to continue next

year's garden tour with a full six home, two day extravaganza. We also hope to continue with the very successful collaboration with local musicians and artists. Thanks, Sandy!

We have very informative speakers scheduled and when (such as in November) a speaker must cancel, we are having open forums and round robin conversations where any member who has experience or some little nugget of advice to give can feel free to speak or can ask if they themselves need advice.

Our fieldtrips are continuing. We went to the Empire Mines in Grass Valley to see the gardens and the estate and then to a few local nurseries followed by a nice meal at Maria's Mexican restaurant. Plans are underway for more field trips and if you have any suggestions, please feel free to share your ideas!

Our beautification team is taking a short seasonal break after diligently beautifying the town all season long. Jeudie really went all out in coordinating daffy plantings everywhere we could think of, (and could get permission for).

The December meeting will be the much anticipated, back by popular demand, wreath, swag, and centerpiece making gathering. It is organized again by our dynamo Nancy and is a great opportunity to create your own holiday masterpiece.

During the December meeting we will be presenting our Paradise Garden Club Star Award. It was a remarkably close vote count this year as we have two members who have both dedicated their time and energy to making our club run smoothly. Congrats to both our Winner and to our First Runner up! Your club appreciates all you do! The winner will be announced at the meeting when the trophy will be presented.

So, as you can see, it is going to be an exciting month in the club so come and join, us wont you?

In appreciation, T3 (Too Tall Todd!)



Todd

PGCI General Meeting, December 11 at 1:00 p.m.

Activity: Making a Christmas Wreath, Swag or Center Piece

Bring to share: Clippers, evergreen branches, pinecones, ribbons, etc.

Plus bring your favorite Christmas cookies or nibble to share.

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Upcoming Events

Wreath or Swag Making for Christmas

December 11, Monday, 1:00—2:45, A donation of \$5 for pre-purchased materials is appreciated.

WHAT TO BRING:

A. Fresh evergreens 6 to 10" long, enough to share.
*Keep alive in a bucket of water but drain the water before you bring them in a bucket or box.

B. Hand clippers for clipping greens (Wreath base & wire is supplied.)

C. Decorations: Your favorite dollar store decorations: ribbons, bows, little pinecones, whatever suits your whimsy. Please bring enough to share a few with others. Make one to keep or share with a neighbor. Limit one wreath per attendee.

D. Cookies: Bring your favorite to share.



Many of us are new at making wreaths. There are plenty of people to help and guide you. At first it feels like it's never going to look great and then you realize it's beautiful. If you have ever greens in your yard or nearby, bring to share. Cuttings should be at least 10" long.

December 1, Friday 4 to 7pm: Paradise Tree Lighting at Paradise Double Ice Complex, FREE
The festivities begin with the Kin Club of Paradise's annual Christmas Raffle (turkeys and cash prizes up for grabs), then live performances by Mackenzie Critch and Holly Thompson at 6:00 p.m. then at 6:30 p.m. the Christmas tree will light up.

Free hot chocolate & treats provided, to reduce waste, please bring a reusable mug.

Chico Farmers Market Saturday, December 9, 7:30am–1pm
Parking Lot, E 2nd St & Wall, Chico



January 8, 2024, 1:00 Kathleen Elliott: "Hardwood Cuttings Workshop" This is the perfect time to learn how to make hardwood cuttings. Join us as we learn together from an expert.

Beautification Team Report

During November, the focus of the Beautification Team was to continue the planting of daffodils. It was fun looking for new areas that allowed us to plant the bulbs.



1. We started by putting 100 near the Skyway/Neal intersection to welcome travelers heading up from Chico.
2. Then 200 bulbs were planted at the Paradise sign on Clark Road to be seen as folks come up Clark.



3. The following week, 150 bulbs were planted around the walkways at the Lutheran Church which can be seen from the Skyway.



4. Our last bulb planting day of the season was at the big Welcome to Paradise sign on Skyway where we planted 150 bulbs. We discovered road base rocks around the sign that made it impossible to dig right next to it. So, we succeeded in planting nearby, further to the west, on the roadside embankment. Daffodils also went into the ground on the northside of Skyway there as well.

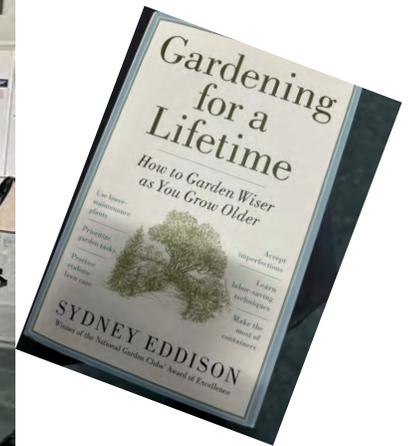
We really want to have a flourish of daffodils close to the big sign, so hopefully, with the permission from Rotary, we are going to build raised beds and place them on top of the road base rocks at the base of the Welcome to Paradise sign on Skyway. The planters will be filled with good soil and hundreds of bulbs that hold a blast of color to burst forth with jubilation in spring.

The past two months have been productive bulb planting! The Beautification Team will take a break over the holidays. I'm sure the weeds and sweet peas will be there when we regroup in January and the cold weather will slow their growth.

May your blessings be many, and your joys be great this wonderful Christmas season.



Jewdie



Thank you to last month's speakers Ellen, Jeudie & Todd. They stepped in for the scheduled speaker who had to cancel due to a family illness. Many tools were displayed, use demonstrated, and maintenance reviewed. Lively group feedback made this gathering interactive fun.



An encouraged task to preserve wooden handles: gently sand down the wood, then rub them down with five or six coats of linseed oil. Be sure to let the oil soak in between coats.



Joanie, our colorful Penny Pines representative at each meeting, prepared pots to hold our monthly donations toward our national forests plantations. Every dollar counts toward reforestation. The Las Plumas National Forest is closest to Paradise.

A 2024 Garden Tour Task List will be going out in a mail chimp soon. Please volunteer. We need all of you involved.
Thanks much!





A few pix from around our place this time of year. May each of you enjoy happy & comforting holidays.
— Anne Barrett



Gardening For Wildlife

Linda Goddard

Where Do Native Bees Go In Winter?

Native bees in Northern California, like many other regions, have various strategies to survive the winter months. Here are some common ways native bees in this area cope with the cold:

Hibernation: Many native bee species hibernate during the winter. They seek shelter in protected locations, such as underground burrows, dead plant stems, or in crevices in rocks or trees. Hibernating bees enter a state of torpor, a state of reduced metabolic activity, to conserve energy during the colder months.

Solitary bees: Most native bees in California are solitary bees, meaning they do not form large colonies like honeybees. Instead, each female bee builds her own nest and provisions it with pollen and nectar before sealing it off. The bee eggs develop within these nests, and the mature bees emerge in the spring or early summer.

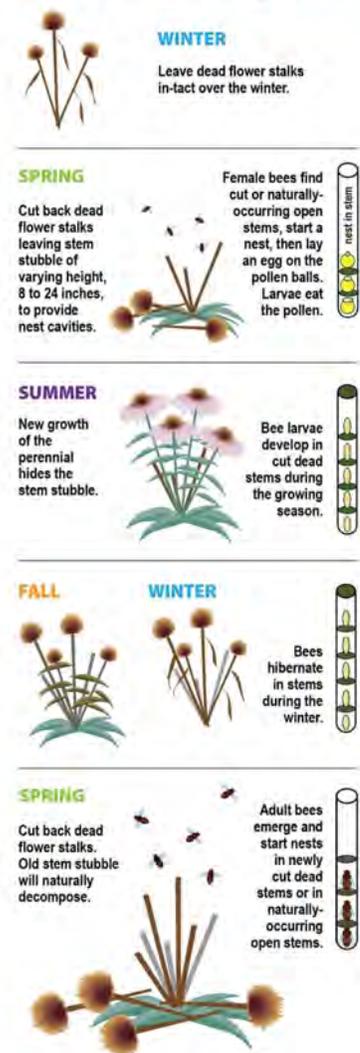
Bumblebees: Bumblebees are social bees, and their colonies typically die off in the fall, except for newly mated queens. These queens seek shelter in underground burrows, such as abandoned rodent burrows or other suitable locations, to survive the winter. They emerge in the spring to establish new colonies.

Mason bees: Mason bees are a type of solitary bee that often overwinter as fully developed adults inside their nests. They seal themselves inside a protective cocoon within their nest, waiting for the warmer temperatures of spring to emerge and start foraging for food.

Weather-dependent behavior: Native bees are adapted to the local climate, and their specific behavior can depend on the severity of the winter. During milder winters, some bee species may remain active and forage sporadically. Still, during harsher conditions, they will enter dormancy or hibernation to conserve energy.

Providing suitable habitat and resources for native bees, such as leaving leaves and stems from wildflowers, can help support these vital pollinators throughout the year.

How to Create Habitat for Stem-nesting Bees





Heather's Buddy with his Christmas blanket.

Nancy's Zaya plays nightly soccer with the balls she knocks off the tree.



**Pets
at
Christmas**



Joni's furry grandkids, "They belong to my daughter, but I have known them both since they were tiny." The gray and white is Marco and the multi is Dustin. A few years ago they became certified support animals.



Todd, "a chillin'" with his first dachshund, then as a "quazi adult" with their adult dachshund, and Blaze recovering from a post fire glass cut.

Minutes from last month

PGCI **BOARD** Meeting

November 13, 2023

at PRPD

Attending: Todd, Anne P., Margaret, Jeudie, Joyce, Ward, Cheryl, Nancy (absent: Allison, Wendy & Ellen)

Treasurer's Report

Balance: Margaret stated we have \$34,203 in the bank.

Audit: Robin Robar (CPA) was unresponsive to repeated efforts Margaret made to include her in the annual PGCI audit. Cheryl explained that CGCI does not require a CPA present. An audit group consisting of Margaret, Cheryl, Ward, and Nancy is scheduled to meet at the Habriel's on Friday, November 17th.

Penny Pines update: Margaret said three plantations, \$68 each, totaling \$204, were purchased this month.

Memberships yet unpaid were discussed and efforts made to contact these people.

October Minutes were approved. Board members read prior to the meeting. In Wendy's absence, minutes were not reviewed at the meeting. One error regarding the 2024 Garden Tour needs to be corrected.

Campfire 5th Year Commemoration & Thanksgiving: Todd said these topics will be included in the general meeting. The community commemoration and the community daffodil planting went well. Concern that weed spraying will kill the daffodils was discussed and Jeudie suggested Todd check with Candy at Public Works about it.

Stars Award: Todd said the vote will be held today. Joyce will provide slips of paper for members to write their nominations and a birdhouse where votes are deposited.

Daffodil Update: Ward said seven bags of daffodils remain from the 100 bags ordered. That's 100 bags each containing 100 bulbs.

Garden Tour Plans briefly reviewed. Home Gardens noted to be on the 2024 are: Linda Goddard, Allison Denofrio, the Habriel's, and Shawn Ramsey. Anne Pace's house will be a backup plan if someone drops out. A vote in the general meeting will decide whether the 2024 tour will be one day or two.

The timeline for the 2024 Garden Tour was discussed. Securing confirmations from the homeowners and securing ad sales will determine when the tour book can be completed. We hope the tour book is printed and ready to sell by Gold Nugget Days, end of April.

Todd queried ideas on how to get more member involvement in the various tasks that make a successful garden tour.

Beautification Report: Jeudie reported various areas where the daffodils were planted thus far. The last workday for planting daffodils this year will be next Thursday, November 16. Daffodils will be planted at the "Welcome to Paradise" sign on Skyway.

- Todd shared that planters for daffodils will be made for each side of the welcome sign. Todd said he and Ward will make the boxes using Beautification funds.

Board Minutes continued on page 8

Miscellaneous:

- Todd reported that he had a positive conversation with a Rotary member.
- Wreath making in December, plans discussed, including donations of \$5 each for pre-purchased wreath supplies.
- General membership needs to officially vote Wendy as Recording Secretary. Wendy volunteered in October and Ellen will help her transition into it.
- To reduce noise and the time it takes to resume the meeting after the break, it was decided not to have an official break during the general meeting. Attendees will be invited to take breaks as needed.
- The meeting will end at 2:45 to clean up the room and let people chat.
- Ward gave the box of business cards to Margaret to hand out as needed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Howe covering for Recording Secretary Wendy Wicklund



PGCI **GENERAL** Meeting

September 11, 2023

at PRPD

President Todd called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Todd invited people to share what makes them thankful. Todd, Cheryl, Sandy, Ellen, and Ward shared things they are grateful for. Things ranged from gardens, water, recovery status since 2018, the community events held to commemorate five years post Campfire, and health. During the Paradise Community Commemoration, Ward said that a PGCI Garden Tour booklet was placed in the town's time capsule and Todd also noted that 3,000 daffodil bulbs were planted by all ages attending during the commemoration.

Attendance: Approximately 28 people; everyone introduced themselves.

Treasurer's Report

Margaret reported that the club has \$34,203 in the bank, with approximately \$9,500 in Beautification.

Penny Pines: Joanie passed around colorful donation pots, sharing that the funds will be used to plant trees in closet national forest to us, which is the Plumas National Forest. Sandy suggested that the Chamber of Commerce be informed that the public can make donations through PGCI to Penny Pines for various reasons such as honoring a graduate, in memory of a loved one, or simply to replenish the forests. Our garden club has given the most donations to Penny Pines in Northern California.

Garden Tour Discussion

Todd asked members to vote on whether the 2024 Garden Tour will be one or two days and explained that it is necessary for people to volunteer. Sandy suggested a task list be put into the December newsletter. Members voted for a two-day tour for June 1-2, 2024. Everyone also agreed that PGCI wants to continue collaboration with the Paradise Symphony and the Paradise Art Center for June 2024. Sandy suggested that contact with both groups needs to be made early to accommodate their schedules.

Guest Speaker

Anne explained that the scheduled speaker, a master gardener, cancelled due to covid in her family. Ellen, Jeudie and Todd together shared the scheduled topic: Gardening for a Lifetime. Demonstrations on how to use various tools were made and the tools passed around the circle to suggest good tool examples Todd showed how best to maintain them. Ellen shared a website: Radiusgarden.com for ergonomic tools. Amazon was also said to have such tools.

Several attending shared their knowledge of useful tools and transitional gardening practices as we age. These ranged from adaptive gardening on YouTube, a gorilla cart instead of a wheelbarrow, collapsible leaf bags, feeding troughs for planters, corrugated metal planters, vinyl trash cans as planters, a hedger is easiest way to chop out blackberries, most electric tools are light weight, tool belts, bring a chair to a fallen person as the easiest way to get them back up, always carry a phone for emergencies and Todd cautioned that if electric augers hit a rock serious injuries can occur such as a broken wrist or shoulder dislocation. Use of burn permits was discussed, and Todd read the online regulations. Others shared tips on joint supports and splints to immobilize areas to reduce further injury, use of Google Ap for plant identification, and gardening arm sleeves to prevent injury. Ellen shared a practical gardening quote, "If you can't get down to it, bring it up to you."

Stars Award

Members wrote down their votes and put them in the birdhouse for Joyce to tally up privately.

Master Gardener Minute

Ellen shared that there is a Habitat Certification program. Your property must have at least 30% native plants, low irrigation, drought tolerant, water for critters, a birdhouse, brush, and rocks. Waterwisegardenplanner.org has many detailed plant lists that will help. Homegrownnationalpark.org with Doug Tallamy is another great resource on this topic. In April 2024 there will be a native garden tour. Linda G., a member, was asked to have her property on the tour.

Miscellaneous

New member, Joanna G., shared the idea of PGC I planting a native garden in the open acre next to the animal shelter. The group confirmed its interest and Joanna will investigate further.

Ward brought in the printed version of plants approved by the Town of Paradise to plant in privately owned Paradise landscapes that was created by a Walnut Creek company called Gates and Associates. The list has many controversial suggestions that are not approved by the Butte County Fire Safe Council or Cal Fire. Ward encouraged PGC I members to attend town council meetings held at 6:00pm on the second Tuesday of each month to stay informed and give feedback to the town council.

Ward shared how to get discounts from the California Fair Plan.

Anne & Nancy shared that wreath/swag/centerpiece making is schedule for December.

Plant Table

Being an odd month, the plant table was generously full of donations brought in from attendees for everyone to take home for their gardens. Toby mentioned she will give a cutting of a variegated hydrangea to whoever wants one.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Howe covering for Recording Secretary Wendy Wicklund



CONSERVATION

The Pallid Bat is California's State Bat!

Senate Bill No. 732, signed into law by the Governor on October 8, 2023, established the Pallid bat (*Antrozus pallidus*) as the official state bat. The bill states that bats have provided California with more than \$1 billion worth of pest control to the state's agricultural land. They have also helped reduce the state's fire risk with their consumption of bark beetles and wood borers.

According to LAist, these bats "can be found in the desert, oak woodlands, coastal red-wood forests, and in the pine forests of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It has tan fur, a white underbelly, large ears, a pig-like snout, small eyes, and a wingspan of up to 16 inches. The Pallid bat is preyed on by ground predators like foxes, raccoons, snakes, cats, and large amphibians. Unlike a lot of other bat species, it can catch its prey on the ground as well as in the air."



Photo credit:
©MerlinTuttle.org



Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis

"...A stroll through a garden in the dormancy of winter offers a stark symmetry that can provide a much-needed respite. And, although winter may be a time that gives gardeners a break, they know plants stay busy in surprising ways. A winter trek through the award-winning Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis offers solitude and quiet inspiration. Founded in 1859, the garden has the distinction of being the oldest botanical garden in continuous operation in the United States. Situated on 79 acres in the heart of the city, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a designated National Historic Landmark and center for botanical research, science, conservation and horticultural display. Popular attractions include a Japanese strolling garden."

Yatsuhashi," is a unique zigzag bridge that invites exploration. The bridge features eight turns and its name means "eight bridges," which was inspired by the eight channels that branched off of a single river in Mikiwa Province, Japan, in the 10th century.



"Taikobashi," also known as the "Drum Bridge," is named for its round shape, which completes a circle from its own reflection in the water. It is constructed of unpainted redwood to preserve a natural appearance.



Snow falls lightly on tree branches in the Japanese Garden, evoking the image of snow flowers, which are popular in Japanese culture.

The Japanese Garden

"Seiwa-en," the 14-acre Japanese Garden, features a four-acre lake surrounded by carefully crafted plantings, waterfalls, beaches and islands that invite discovery and personal interpretation in a serene landscape. Dedicated in 1977, the garden was designed by Koichi Kawana, a native of Japan and professor and lecturer on environmental design and landscape architecture at the University of California, Los Angeles. The garden represents an evolution of centuries of tradition and a multiplicity of distinctly Japanese cultural influences. Seiwa-en is considered one of the largest Japanese gardens of its kind in North America.



About the Photographer: Ed Downs is a freelance, adventure travel photographer and multimedia artist based in St. Louis, Missouri. His extensive portfolio showcases skills in landscape, cityscape, floral, animal and people/portrait photography, the centerpiece of which includes a collection of iconic photos taken at all 62 U.S. national parks across the United States.

The National Gardener, Winter 2021, "Wonderland," excerpts taken from pages 6, 9 & 10

From the
PGCI Archives

2009



What is Penny Pines?

- **What is Penny Pines?**
 Penny Pines is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service Reforestation Program. PGCI has supported this program for many years.

- **What is a Penny Pines Plantation?**
 A Penny Pines Plantation is a \$68.00 donation to the Penny Pines Reforestation Program.

- **How are donated funds used?**
 Funds are deposited into a Penny Pines Reforestation Account for each National Forest. The account is restricted to use for preparation of sites for new trees, planting seedlings, maintaining existing tree stands and improving wildlife habitat.

- **How are donations acknowledged?**
 The USDA Forest Service sends a donation certificate to the donor or to another party when specified.
Kay Briley



Kay Briley is chairman of our Penny Pines program. We are dedicated to this reforestation program. Donations are taken at meetings and public functions. This year we have purchased 14 plantations @\$68.00 each. Two have been in memory of deceased members, Sue Drake and Betty Paul.



Contemplate



Embrace the moment,
Let it grow with all your love;
Planting memories.

