



Newsletter of the Paradise Garden Club, Paradise CA [newsletter@paradisegardenclub.org](mailto:newsletter@paradisegardenclub.org) [ParadiseGardenClub.org](http://ParadiseGardenClub.org)

## The Prez Sez



I hope that everyone enjoyed their downtime in August when we went dark after all the work we put into this year’s garden tour. It was nice to take a bit of a break.

I am hoping that everyone's gardens survived the significant heat we had. Our plantings and even trees were visibility wilting under the onslaught of the sun. Yet, our basil, which until the heat hit was looking pathetic, now is healthy and vibrant and ready to be sacrificed to the gods of pesto. As we cool off, our peach trees are providing enough fruit for even us humans to have some, as the neighborhood deer and birds have their own intraspecies internet service to announce ripening produce. We just take it as the winemakers do and call it the angels share. Hopefully, you’ve enjoyed a bountiful summer harvest and now plans for your winter crops too.

We have another Home and Garden show coming up on Oct 26 and 27th. It is always fun to either man the booth or simply to just show up and enjoy. Lauren at the Firesafe Council hit me up with an idea. They are having a Butte County climate action day on Saturday October 19th. The gist of that event is to find a place where efforts towards wildfire recovery, proper firesafe plantings or the planting of native plants in a visible community area can be demonstrated for the benefit of our communities. Phil, with Magalia Beautification and I have talked about the possibly of getting together to collaborate on this with the club members.

Our upcoming PGCi meeting with Deb Hafpenny should be an exciting and informative talk. We hope to see you all there. Best wishes for happy gardens and good weather.

Sincerely T3

*Todd*

### **PGCI General Meeting, September 9 at 1:00 p.m.**

#### **Neighborhood Habitat Certification**

**Speaker: Deb Hafpenny**

Deb is Coordinator of Altacal Audubon’s Certified Neighborhood Habitat Program. Learn how to make your yard count by converting unused lawns into natural, drought tolerant California landscaping and habitat. We can conserve and protect valuable water resources and rebuild needed wildlife corridors within our community.

Deb will discuss the program requirements & steps to certification.

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## Beautification Team Report

This summer has just flown by. So many days have had temperatures over 100 degrees that have kept the Beautification Team away from the work we love to do. Our usual schedule of work on Thursdays had to be put aside as we looked for any mornings that allowed us to do some gardening.

We cleared the Elliott triangle of sweet peas, weeds, pine needles and spent flower tops. The Foster triangle has seen much of our energy spent removing invasive weeds. Just when you think they are all gone up pops another batch. We removed the seed pods from the old red bud to give it a fresh look and topped several plants. We took a hedge trimmer to the old daisies at the library. It also needed sweet peas and weeds to be pulled. We got the watering system back on schedule which should nurture all the plants. The monument square was cleared of dead day lilies and poppies. The watering system there was set to a good routine for all this hot weather.

The heat of this summer is behind us, and we look forward to the cool of autumn. The Team will be out in the gardens adding to the beauty of the town of Paradise. Honk your horn if you see us in our blue shirts; we'll smile back.

### Round Robin Gardening Tips

- \* Vole Repellent: Try putting a daffodil bulb in the vole hole. Voles avoid certain bulbs including daffodil. Let us know if it works.
- \* Rooting Cuttings in Water: Add a small amount of activated charcoal, bio char, or fire place coal to keep water bacteria free
- \* Repel yellow jackets with spearmint, peppermint or pennyroyal. Marigolds might work too. Let us know if you try it and it works.

## Upcoming Events

Paradise Garden Club meets every second Monday of each month at 1:00 at the Terry Ashe Center. All are welcome. (Odd months we bring cuttings, plants or seeds to share and even months we share food snacks.) **\*Please bring your own beverage.\***

Monday, September 9 at 11:30 a.m. **PGCI Board Meeting**

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Monday, September 9, 1-2:30 **Neighborhood Habitat Certification**

Speaker: Deb Halfpenny, Coordinator, Altacal Audubon's Certified Neighborhood Habitat Program

Every yard counts! By converting unused lawns into natural, drought tolerant California landscaping and habitat, we can conserve and protect valuable water resources and rebuild needed wildlife corridors within our community. Join this workshop, led by the coordinator of Altacal Audubon's Certified Neighborhood Habitat Program, who will discuss the program requirements and steps to certification. Learn how you can make your own yard count!

Monday, October 14, 1:00 p.m. **Dividing Perennials**

Presenter: Kathleen Elliott, Mountain View Landscape Design and Horticultural Consultation

It's time to play in the soil again and get our hands dirty. Please bring tools, gloves and several perennials from your garden to share. Like a cookie swap! Kathleen will share best practices for successful propagation.

Monday, November 18, 1:00 p.m. **California Native Bees**

*Please note date change. The meeting has been moved to the third Monday of the month due to Veteran's Day falling on the second Monday.*

Speaker: Debbie Blake, Master Gardener

Most of us can recognize the non-native, ever-present European honeybees in our yards, but many are unaware that there are 1600 species of native bees that can be found in California.

This workshop will introduce us to a number of California native bees including bumblebees, leaf cutting bees, mason, and carpenter bees. Debbie will provide resources and information to help us understand the bees' lifespans and their plant and habitat needs, along with ways you can observe and support these valuable pollinators.

**Ridge Produce Collective: Produce Market**, 5505 Skyway on Saturday, June 29th from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Enjoy a wide selection of fresh fruits and vegetables!

**Farmers Market Mobile**, Sundays @10AM until most of the food is gone.  
Location: Magalia Community Park, 13917 South Park Drive, Magalia

**Chico Farmers Market**, Saturdays @7:30am-1pm, Parking Lot, E 2nd St & Wall

## UC Master Gardeners of Butte County Workshops

Below is brief. Classes fill up fast. Best to register one month ahead if possible. Details on classes & locations go to <https://ucanr.edu/sites/bcmg/Workshops/>

### **Propagation**

Saturday, September 21, 10–11:30am  
Demonstration Garden, limit 25

### **How to Remove Your Lawn**

Thursday, September 26, 10–11:30am  
Demonstration Garden, limit 25

### **Gophers, Moles, and Voles**

Wednesday, October 9, 10–11:30am  
Demonstration Garden, limit 25

### **Composting**

Friday, October 25, 10–11:30am  
Demonstration Garden, limit 25

### **Landscape Design 2 part series**

Thursdays, November 7th and 14th 9:30–11:30am  
Pat's Barn, limit 30

### **Native Bees** Co-sponsored with Paradise Garden Club

Monday, November 18, 1–2:30pm  
Terry Ashe Recreation Center, limit 50

### **Irrigation**

Tuesday, September 24, 10–11:30am  
Demonstration Garden, limit 25

### **It's a Wrap! Autumn Garden Cleanup, Winter Prep, and Preservation**

Co-sponsored with OLLI  
Saturday, October 19, 12:30–2pm  
Bradley 2 at The Social, limit 55

### **How to Use Our *Garden Guide***

Saturday, October 26, 9:30–11am  
Plant Barn Nursery, limit 15

### **Bats**

Saturday, November 16, 11am–1pm  
Pat's Barn, limit 30

### **Perennial Vegetable Gardening**

Tuesday, December 3, 1–2:30pm  
Pat's Barn, limit 30

### Round Robin Gardening Tips

- \* Wasps: If they're nesting in an area where harm to humans is imminent, use a small bit of Fipronil in cat food or tuna. It will wipe out the hive. Put the poison food in a spot where only wasps can get it.
- \* Ground Bees/Meat Bees are another type of yellow jacket. They can be aggressive and sting more than once. Dry ice is said to suffocate them if you plug both holes with the dry ice at one end. Another idea is to pour soapy water or vinegar water down their hole and block both exits.

# Gardening For Wildlife

Linda Goddard



## The Benefits of Skunks in Your Garden

If you don't have a dog, chances are you have never noticed the skunks that visit your garden. While skunks often get a bad reputation due to their notorious spray, these creatures can be extremely beneficial for your garden. Before shooing them away, consider the various ways skunks contribute to a healthy garden ecosystem.

### Natural Pest Controllers

One of the primary benefits of having skunks in your garden is their role as natural pest controllers. Skunks have a diet that consists mostly of insects including grubs, beetles, and crickets, which can otherwise eat your plants. By controlling these pest populations, skunks help to protect your flowers and vegetables without the need for chemical pesticides.

### Ecosystem Balancers

Skunks also assist in balancing the garden ecosystem. Their diet isn't limited to insects; they consume rodents such as mice and voles, which can damage garden roots. Also, by preying on these small mammals, skunks contribute to controlling the spread of diseases rodents might carry into your garden.

### Natural Composters

In addition to being pest controllers, skunks are natural composters. They often dig in search of insects, which helps to aerate the soil and mix organic matter into the ground. This can enhance soil fertility and improve water absorption, benefiting plant growth.

### How to Handle Skunk Encounters: De-Skunking Your Dog

Most skunk encounters take place at night since they are nocturnal. Here's a tried-and-true method to effectively eliminate the odor.

Mix: 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide - 1/4 cup of baking soda - 1 teaspoon of dish soap. It will bubble.

Apply to the Dog: Carefully apply the mixture to your dog's dry coat, avoiding the eyes, ears, and mouth. Layer a generous amount over the affected areas.

Let it Sit: (good luck!) Allow the solution to sit on your dog for 5-10 minutes. Be sure to keep an eye on your pet to ensure they do not lick the mixture.

Rinse Thoroughly: Rinse your dog thoroughly with warm water. Repeat the process if the odor persists.



### July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Paradise Garden Club Board Meeting

Todd opened the meeting at 11:29 a.m. The first order of business was to ask if there were any corrections or additions to the board or general meeting notes. Ann Pace caught one misspelled word. Otherwise, meeting notes were approved.

**Financial Report:** Margaret said we are doing fine. She explained some transactions that are on our monthly spreadsheet for the month of June 2024.

Margaret also said we needed to pick a committee for an internal audit.

**Beautification Report:** Jeudie says it is still too dang hot to be outside working the lovely areas we beautify around town. She did say some of her team planted a bit of color at the library.

Todd remarked on some of our up incoming speakers and to remember August will be dark, meaning we will have no meeting.

September's speaker will be Deb Halfpenny on Neighborhood Habitat Certification.

October's speaker will be Kathleen Elliott on dividing perennials.

November's speaker will be Debbie Blake on native bees.

Margaret also asked if we want to add our members mailing addresses to the membership list. Please contact Margaret with your preferences.

Meeting ended 12:30 p.m.

Secretary Wendy Wicklund



### July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Paradise Garden Club General Meeting

The general meeting began at 1:10 p.m. with about thirty people attending. Todd led in the pledge of allegiance. Todd also asked for a moment of silence for Ward Habriel, who, being a long time Garden Club member recently passed.

**Financial report:** Margaret said we are doing just fine.

**Beautification report:** Jeudie said the weather is still very hot, but she did say a few of her team planted flowers for color at the library. Anyone interested in helping, please contact Jeudie.

**Penny Pines:** Joannie being our representative for Penny Pines talked about the Penny Pines program and how important it is for our future forests. And Joannie is a recent Master Gardener graduate! Congratulations. Joannie talked about her recent experience with the Master Gardener program and encouraged others to consider taking the courses.

**Installation and introduction of officers:** Todd asked the existing board members to explain what their positions include and what positions are open for next year. Cheryl Habriel has filled the secretary position. Publicity is open to anyone thinks this might be a good fit. Wendy will be working with Margaret in the membership position. These are just a few of the positions in our club. There are many other people that work behind the scenes every day to make our club a success. We would love to talk with you if you are interested in helping.

**Ice Cream social:** Everyone enjoyed a bowl of ice cream and toppings. So yummy. Thank you to the hospitality team for setting up this event.

**For the good of the order:** Members and guests had a wonderful round-robin discussion on how our gardens are doing. These round robins are not only a great way to get to know each other but to discuss our gardens and what's working and what's not.

Secretary Wendy Wicklund



# POLLINATOR GARDEN

## Planting

Help us create a beautiful, sustainable space for everyone to enjoy.



September  
28th + 29th



At 10am - 2pm



The Terry Ashe  
Recreation Center  
6626 Skyway



[Register online here!](#)





## CONSERVATION

### Stalking the Monarch Butterfly

by Nancy Compton, Writer-at-Large

Out of 17,500 species of butterflies in the world, it is the monarch in particular that captures the public imagination. They are large, colorful, and easily recognizable with their bold and distinctive markings. Like birds, they migrate, sometimes great distances. In fact, the eastern monarchs (those east of the Rocky Mountains) can migrate up to 3,000 miles from southern Canada to the Sierra Madre mountains in Michoacan in southwestern Mexico.



It wasn't until the 1970s that researchers discovered where the eastern monarchs go in winter. Assisted by citizen scientists, monarchs were tagged in Canada and followed south to Texas, but where they went from there was still a mystery. Then the lead scientists wondered if they continued flying into Mexico, so they put a classified ad in a newspaper in Mexico City where it was spotted by a U.S. citizen then living and working in Mexico. He had seen monarchs in flight and suspected they were continuing to a winter home in the mountains.

The researchers got together and drove to Angangueo, a relatively small town on the edge of the high pine and fir forests of the Sierra Madre, about 100 miles west of Mexico City. Here, extensive stands of oyamel trees (*Abies religiosa*) help to provide an ideal microclimate to protect the monarch colonies from erratic winter storms. The researchers asked residents if they had seen any monarch butterflies during the winter months. The residents shook their heads, until one of the researchers produced a picture. "Ahhh...palomas!" exclaimed a local. The researchers, English speakers, were using the word "mariposa," the literal translation of which is "butterfly." Why the local residents of Angangueo referred to them as palomas (which means dove in Spanish) remains a mystery, but what was no longer a mystery was where the eastern monarchs over-wintered. The August 1976 issue of National Geographic revealed to the world the fascinating phenomenon of the protracted journey of the monarch butterfly.

Knowing that the monarch population is dwindling, I decided to play citizen scientist and join a Natural Habitat Adventure trip while there was still time to witness the overwintering monarchs. This involved flying to Mexico City, taking a trip into the mountains via a bouncy ride in an open pickup with seven other hardy souls, then getting on a horse that clambered slowly up an earthen trail until it no longer wanted

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to climb, and completing the hike by trudging up a trail populated by an ample supply of rocks and giant tree roots. The oxygen supply at 10,000 ft. is miniscule, so this hike was not for the faint of heart.

But once there, the stunning beauty of hundreds of thousands of monarchs clinging to fir tree branches was truly breathtaking. Hikers stood spellbound watching some of the monarchs fly around, some landing on hikers' backpacks. From time to time, thousands of monarchs would leave a tree at the same time, creating a river of monarchs, a spectacle spellbinding to witness. The feeling of connection to nature was beyond description.

Upon returning home, friends asked why I didn't just drive over to Pismo Beach where the western monarchs overwinter. The western monarchs are just as beautiful, but their migration is much shorter and less dramatic – a kind of laid-back migration true to the West Coast style of living.

Our monarchs are disappearing, due to several issues, such as the use of toxic pesticides and urban development. They desperately need our help. Please do your part by planting milkweeds, which is the only plant on which they can lay their eggs. Plant them in your gardens, plant them in public parks, plant them on your ranch land, plant them in your community gardens. The monarchs in our world will thank you.



## Nancy's Garden Notes

There was a patch of desolate ground where I made one of my forts. My eight year old hands prepared it for another magic. I was given lemon cucumber seeds, so I planted my first garden. I hand watered with a little cup since the hose didn't reach that far. I dreamed this tiny hope would survive munching birds, insects & clod hoppers. I surprised everyone with a harvest enough for friends & family.



Whether you slice them like orange segments, like chips or picked fresh & eaten like an apple, these lovelies do not disappoint. I taste summer, I taste my eight year old smile, and everyone's surprise.



Easy to grow. Needs daily watering in the type of heat we've had this summer. A drip system is ideal. Consider these for your next summer garden. ❤️





## My Go-To Gardening Tool - Felco #2 Pruners”

by Carol Reese

*“What is your Go-To Gardening tool?”*

*That is the question we posed to horticulture professionals and lifelong gardeners across the country. The answers may surprise you. Each gardener cited a different favorite. While some were very loyal to a specific brand, most simply choose the brand most readily available. Some owned a half dozen brands and some were clueless on brand but positively devoted to the tool*

*For this series, a “Go-To tool” is defined as a tool used almost daily or one that the gardeners simply couldn’t be without, even if used occasionally. In this series, each article will feature one gardener and their favorite GO-TO tool.*

*This week, we asked Garden writer and horticulturist Carol Reese.*

### **Felco #2 Pruners - Carol Reese, Horticulturist, Garden Writer, Author of GardenRant**

“Thirty something years ago I was too cheap to buy myself a pair of Felco No. 2 Pruners though I’d purchased a few pair for very loved gardening friends. Luckily, one returned the favor and those sharp, strong, thirty year-old pruners still sit at the back door next to my pile of mostly left-handed (?) gardening gloves.

Actually three pairs sit there now. The second pair eliminated shouts of first dibbs with my man friend. The third pair came when I lost the first pair in a creek for several months. Found and restored with a brisk cleaning and sharpening, they attest to the reputation of enduring hard use for a gardener’s lifetime.

My advice: spend the money!

Here’s why:

**Durability** - I personally attest to their reputation for durability. I’ve been at this a long time and still use my thirty year old pair.

**Quality Product** - Their strong steel construction cuts through thick woody stems without twisting the blades.

**Stays Sharp** - The blades are easily sharpened with a diamond sharpening file and hold their precision edge for months!



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Versatility - These pruners can snip delicate stems or trim leaves for cutting preparation with ease, even after cutting a woody branch. You can see the nice clean cut of some Wando Phlox I prepared for propagation.



Replaceable Spring - The coil spring can be replaced if necessary.

I do have one caveat. These are made for larger hands.”

**Editor’s Note:** Felco Pruners are sold in most garden supply stores and can be purchased directly from their site. We recommend going to their website so you can decide which size is best for you. They even sell a left-handed version.

*About Carol Reese - Carol Reese has been gardening for 65 years. “Mama gave me zinnia and marigold seeds to make my own “flower bed” beside the old well house, which I did from scratch at the age of 7, removing the St. Augustine, building edging from angled brick etc. I still remember the bright flowers.*

*Carol Reese is a retired Extension Horticulture Specialist housed at the University of Tennessee’s West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Jackson. She is a nationally-known speaker, blending equal parts gardening knowledge, natural lore, and quirky humor. She is also the “Ranter Emeritus” at Garden Rant.*

NGCI Blog July 31, 2024

<https://gardenclub.org/blog/my-go-gardening-tool-felco-2-pruners>

### September Gardening Tasks

- Collect flower and veggie seeds
- Amend the soil
- Divide perennials
- Plant spring bulbs
- Plant trees & shrubs
- Winter garden prep, cool weather crops like greens, onions and cauliflower, yum.
- Consider adding more mulch
- Harvest sage for smudge sticks
- Harvest herbs, dry, grind in a coffee maker, store in a recycled spice bottle.
- This is a good time to make a compost bin. It’ll be ready for fallen leaves, summer garden plants, and veggies kitchen scraps.

2009

# From the PGCI Archives

September 14, 2009



## PARADISE GARDEN CLUB, INC.

President: Donna Beronda, 876-1926, Beronda@sbcglobal.net

Editor: Pat Pickard, 877-4894, patpickard@gmail.com



### TODAY'S PROGRAM

David Walther, Spring Fever Nursery  
"Carnivorous and Bog Plants"

### President's Message, Donna Beronda

Fall is upon us and it is time again for Garden Club! I hope you all enjoyed your break and are anxious to get started doing good things for your community again, because we have a pretty full schedule of upcoming events.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- September 17, Thursday, 9 am, *Library Weeding*
- September 19, 20-Saturday & Sunday, 10-4:00, *Days of Living History* at the Gold Nugget Museum
- September 19, Saturday, Ward Habriel's Program, TBA
- September 24, Thursday, *First Daffodil Meeting, time & location TBA*
- Oct. 3, Saturday, *Red Bluff Floral Design and Luncheon*
- October 3, 4, Saturday & Sunday, *Johnny Appleseed Day*
- October 5, Monday, 1pm, *Board Meeting* at Carolyn Melfs
- October 8, Thursday, *Newsletter deadline*
- October 12, Monday, 1pm, *Regular Meeting* at Paradise Lutheran Church

On September 19 and 20, *Days of Living History*, we will be helping young children become familiar with scented plants and helping them make sachets. Those of us who have participated in previous years truly enjoyed interacting with our youngest residents, and I expect this year will not be an exception. I would like to thank Jayne Locas and Cheryl Habriel who have given so much of their time and energy preparing for this event. If you have not yet signed up to help, I am sure Cheryl and Jayne would love to hear from you.

Paradise Garden Club will again have a booth at *Johnny Appleseed Days* on October 3 and 4. This will be our first big opportunity to solicit daffodil funds from the community this year. We will also have information about the club and membership applications. Jayne has made many of the arrangements, but we need someone to coordinate setting up the booth and overseeing the schedule. If you are interested, please see Jayne or me today. We also need volunteers to man the booth, and sign up sheets are available at today's meeting.

We have *already begun collecting money for this year's daffodil purchases*. In August, Jayne received a \$100 donation from Pamela and Alan Tompkins, Paradise residents, to purchase daffodils for Bille Park, and this past Tuesday evening, the Paradise Park and Recreation Dept. Board approved a donation of \$500. Jayne had prepared a wonderful *photographic presentation* of last year's daffodils, and she presented it for the first time at the PRPD meeting. The reaction of both the board and the public was awesome!! I am sure Jayne will have more information for you at today's meeting.

While we were on break, Lee Brasel prepared *yearbook updates* and they will be available today. Please see Lee or Patricia Morrison for your update. If you have not yet had your picture taken for the 2010 yearbook, please see Lee as soon as possible to get that done. The pictures should make it easier for each of us to put names and faces together.

Finally, we have a partial slate of *officers* for the coming year, but we still have several important positions that need to be filled. Pat Law and her committee have worked very hard to try to get willing candidates, but despite their best efforts we still need members who will fill the open positions. Please consider volunteering—I promise it will enrich your garden club experience!!

# Contemplate



Quietly buzzing  
pollen and nectar draw me  
into your garden.