

The Watercan Post



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

The Prez Sez



Isn't Fall a wonderful time of year? The oppressive heat of summer is behind us, our gardens have come and mostly gone leaving us fond memories of their beauty and of their bounty. Winter is looming in our future with its promise of colder weather and our life giving rains.

This year's daffodils have finally arrived. They were delayed by the terrible hurricanes that were lining up to devastate the East Coast. Be that as it may, they are here and have been sorted by our dedicated volunteers for our community to use as we see fit. We will have bags of them at the **November meeting which will be on the third Monday in November** this month due to Veterans Day being on the 11th. That puts it on November 18th at 1pm at the Terry Ashe Recreation Center. Daffies will also be available on the beautification days and through Cheryl directly. Pricing will be as follows: 50 bulbs for \$15, 100 bulbs for \$30, 250 bulbs for \$75.



Don't forget that Anne Pace has planned a field trip for us all at Olivarez Honey Bees in Orland at 10am November 1st. We are meeting at Ace Hardware in Paradise at 9am to carpool. Signups were at the last meeting. After a tour of the hives, we are going to The Hive Restaurant for a no host lunch. Then off to the Honeybee Discovery Center at 1pm. Hoping to see you at this fun and educational event.

I hope that you are all having a wonderful fall and are looking forward to a wonderful winter.

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PGCI General Meeting, Monday, November 18, 1:00 p.m.

Topic: California Native Bees

Speaker: Debbie Blake, Master Gardener

There are 1600 native bee species in California. This workshop introduces us to native bees including bumblebees, leaf cutting bees, mason, and carpenter bees. Resources to help us observe and support these valuable pollinators will be included.

Index

1. Prez Sez & Next Meeting
2. Index & Beautification Report
3. Upcoming Events
4. Master Gardener Workshops & Newsletter Needs You!
5. Gardening for Wildlife
6. Board Minutes
7. General Minutes & Speaker Thanks
8. CGCI Sedum Joy
9. Sedum continued & Love Lantana
10. NGCI, Westfield Seed Library & Sitting on the Porch
11. Archive
12. Contemplate



Beautification Team Report



We have finally seen the end of the 100-degree weather! About time! It is not fun to garden with those temperatures. We in the Beautification team are all about having fun sprinkled in our gardens.

The three areas we care for have been in good condition throughout this month. This is due to the water systems functioning as scheduled without breakdowns. This is a part of gardening that must be monitored throughout the growing seasons.

Of key importance for the areas we care for about town and in our home gardens: once the watering system is in good order, it is important to keep an eye on the needs of growing plants and watch out for water lines chewed through by voles, squirrels, moles, and the like. Do not forget to reduce the watering schedule as the seasons change.

In past years, our team has spray painted the dried agapanthus stalks with silver, red, green, pink, & orange. We are doing this again this year with the stalks at the Elliott triangle to bring some bright pops of color to an otherwise green garden. Catch a glimpse of them as you drive by



Jeudie

Jeudie, spray paint & agapanthus in their 2024 winter colors. Photo by Nancy Howe

I have a bag of 250 Daffodils bulbs that are ready to be planted around town. Grab your shovel & gloves & join us. We need you! Please contact Jeudie.

Thank you Kathleen

October's Speaker was our own Kathleen Elliott of Mountain View Landscaping. Kathleen led us in a workshop dividing perennials we all brought to share. Kathleen started by showing us division techniques for rhizomes and rooted clumps. Digging in, we all took away new plants for our yards. Another exercise in replanting our post fire town of Paradise. We appreciate you Kathleen!

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.***

PGCI 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.

PGCI General Meeting, December 9 at 1:00 p.m. Holiday Potluck and Keeping Your House Plants Alive

Let's celebrate the holidays with a festive potluck before Cindy helps us understand how to keep our indoor plants thriving.

Presenter: Cindy Dawson, Owner Déjà vu – Gardens Galore Nursery

As long-time Paradise nursery owner, Cindy has seen many plants leave her greenhouses alive and thriving, only to see them returned a few months later. Sound familiar? We may be gardeners but not all have a green thumb when it comes to indoor gardening. Perhaps Cindy can help us keep those holiday poinsettias and other living gifts alive a bit longer.

Saturday, November 2, from 10 -2:00, Doom the Broom Location: Paradise Lake, Magalia, CA

Volunteers Needed every first Saturday of the month November-May. Join PRPD & Butte County Firesafe Council to remove a non-native invasive and reduce the fire hazard. from 10-2. Information & sign up: <https://www.paradiseprrpd.com/2024-11-02-doom-the-broom>

Ridge Produce Collective: Produce Market, 5505 Skyway on Saturday, 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/>

Landscape Design 2 part series

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

Bats

Saturday, November 16, 11am–1pm
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

Perennial Vegetable Gardening

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



Lavendar blooms year round. Always scent-sational! Photo by Nancy Howe

Hey Gardeners

You know something about gardening, and this is your forum to share it. You may have learned the best way to grow a thriving fruit tree. How did you do that? What soil and watering system did you use? How much sunlight does it get? How often do you fertilize?

Have you seen a plant you do not recognize? Send me a photo and it will go into the newsletter so we can identify and learn about it together. Same goes with critters. Send in your insect photos. We will learn about the good, the bad and the aliens.

Quotes, poems, points of wisdom, plant savvy and garden photos, these are topics we are looking for. This is our zone, in the moment learning together through the adventures in gardening.

Please contact Nancy H. or Linda G. with your information. We are in the roster and look forward to hearing from you.

Gardening For Wildlife

Linda Goddard

Convert An Empty Lot To A Wildlife Habitat - Part 1

Like many people in Paradise, I have purchased the abandoned property next to me. Converting an empty lot to a native garden in California is a wonderful way to support local ecosystems, conserve water, and create a sustainable landscape.

Here is my plan for this property.

Plants - Identify any native plants that are growing on the property. California has a diverse range of native plants but the only natives I found are one black oak tree and several poison oak plants.



Black Locust

Remove Invasive

Species - Clear the lot of any invasive plants and debris.

This property is full of invasive plants. Blackberries, broom, milk thistle, foxtail, goat head, and black locust trees.



Poison Oak

Soil - like many properties in Paradise, it has been scraped and scraped until the soil is completely depleted of any nutrition. My plan is to cover the areas to be planted in soil from the Worm Farm and wood chips.

Design - make pathways. This property will be a wildlife habitat so the paths will follow the trails the deer have already created. Curved paths create the illusion of more space and invite exploration.

Water Management - Install an efficient irrigation system.

Plant Selection - Choose a mix of native trees, shrubs, perennials, and groundcovers that flourish in the Paradise climate. Focus on drought-tolerant species to minimize water use.

Next Month: How to remove black locust trees.



Meeting commenced at 11:30 AM

Present: Todd Hummel, Maragaret Hawe, Anne Pace, Jeudi Lovell, Wendy Wicklund & Cheryl Habriel

No corrections to September minutes.

Finance report: Margaret Hawe (treasure) see attached (\$31,648.65)

Membership – We need a new lead for this position. It was questioned if the Membership Lead should be a Board position. Also, Toby is giving up MailChimp.

Beautification: Jeudi Lovell (chair) Jeudie spray painted the agapanthus the Elliott Triangle for some color interest.

Scholarships – We have not heard from Butte College. Cheryl will follow up with them.

PGCI will partner with Magalia Beatification October 19th for the Butte Fire Safe Council's Day of Action. We will be planting natives at the Magalia Community Center.

The daffodils have not arrived yet. As soon as they do Cheryl will alert PGCI.

We will have a paper vote for the logo at today's General meeting.

The position of Recording Secretary will be voted on today as well.

The club was asked if an Alzheimer Group could come to our meetings. The Board all concurred this was a great idea.

October speaker: Kathleen Elliott – Dividing Perennials

November speaker: Debbie Blake – Native Bees

Respectfully submitted: Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary

"Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants
as paint, and the soil and sky as canvas."
– Elizabeth Murray

Meeting commenced at 1:00 PM

Attendance: 21

Welcome and flag salute

Finance report: Margaret Hawe (treasure) see spreadsheets at welcome table.

Beautification: Jeudi Lovell (lead) The agapanthus at the Elliott Triangle were spray painted for color interest.

Reminder to sign up today for the Bee Trip on November 1. October 19th is the Day of Action at the Magalia Community Center.

Cheryl Habriel was unanimously voted on as the new Recording Secretary.

A vote was held to determine the color for the club logo. The results were 16 to 9 in favor of changing the watering can in the logo to blue.

A request was made by Todd for a volunteer to be Membership Lead.

November speaker: Debbie Blake – Native Bees

Today's speaker: Kathleen Elliott – Dividing Perennials

Member Garden Visitation: Cheryl Habriel

Respectfully submitted: Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary

Garden
of the
Month



After our October meeting, Cheryl invited us to visit her garden. Every color greeted us. Thank you Cheryl.



HORTICULTURE

Hylotelephium 'Herbstfreude' (previously known as *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy')

A Great Addition to our Garden for Summer and Fall Color

By Pat Clayes, Landscape Design Consultant Emeritus

As a student at a National Garden Clubs' Landscape Design School in Riverside in 2001, one required reading assignment was an article on *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy' from NGC's official publication, *The National Gardener*. Learning about this fantastic plant in *The National Gardener* was my first exposure to this highly educational magazine. After reading about the plant, I realized it would be perfect for my home in the San Bernardino Mountains, which is 6,000 feet above sea level.

The North Carolina State Extension and Worldofsucculents.com report that the plant's new botanical name is *Hylotelephium* 'Herbstfreude'. The plant was previously known as *Hylotelephium spectabile* 'Autumn Joy' and *Sedum spectabile* 'Autumn Joy'. Common names include Autumn Joy, Autumn Joy Sedum, and Stonecrop. Worldofsucculents.com also says that the plant is better known as *Hylotelephium* 'Autumn Joy' or *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy.'



After the class, I began searching for 'Autumn Joy' at local nurseries and big box stores and was delighted to find a whole pallet at Walmart in Highland one day. I bought eight and planted some in containers on my deck while the others went into the ground. As long as the bears and raccoons do not mess with it, I find the plant to be very sturdy. Monrovia.com states that its "clumping foliage displays large, plate-like flower clusters that start pink, then gracefully age to rosy russet-red in the fall. A fine addition to the rock garden or mixed border." I find [Monrovia's](http://Monrovia.com) description very accurate.

Monrovia.com also says that the plant likes full to partial sun, and one should allow the soil to dry between waterings; it blooms from summer to fall, and the mature size reaches 18 to 24 inches tall and wide. The recommended USDA Plant Hardiness Zones are Zones 4 to 11. My home is in a cold winter area (USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 8B), so my Autumn Joy plants die back each winter. However, the dried stalks and flowers remain, adding some beauty and interest even in the winter. The plant is charming when covered with a dusting of snow. In early spring, I discard the dry stalks and notice the plant re-emerging from the cold ground.

The only problem I have encountered is that aphids are attracted to this plant. However, I wash off the plants when I hand water to knock off the aphids. The University of California's Integrated Pest Management Program advises that "aphids

Continued next page



Continued from page 8

Hylotelephium 'Herbstfreude' (previously known as *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy')

can produce copious amounts of sticky honeydew, which can lead to the growth of black sooty mold." This "black sooty mold" is quite unpleasant! So, it is essential to keep the aphids in check.

From the initial eight plants I bought in 2001, I have propagated perhaps over one hundred others by taking cuttings and rooting the stems in potting soil in containers. I have found that leaving some leaves on the stems helps with propagation, but rooting just the stems also works. For propagating in cold winter areas, it is best to start the propagation process before July 1.

I have also successfully propagated *Hylotelephium* 'Vera Jameson' (formerly *Sedum* 'Vera Jameson') and *Hylotelephium* 'Matrona' (formerly *Sedum* 'Matrona'). Although they are not the same species as *Hylotelephium* 'Herbstfreude' ('Autumn Joy'), they are similar. However, *Hylotelephium* 'Matrona' has beautiful reddish stems instead of green stems and grows somewhat taller and broader than *Hylotelephium* 'Herbstfreude' ('Autumn Joy').

So, regardless of its new botanical name, *Hylotelephium* 'Herbstfreude' ('Autumn Joy') will be a fantastic addition to your garden for summer and fall color.

Golden Gardens, September-October 2024, page 8

www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org

Nancy's Garden Notes

Love Lantana

Lantana thrives in full sun and is drought tolerant once established. It comes in various colors and growth habits. The orange flame type can grow up to around four feet. The pink confetti type stands about twelve inches and has lovely purple pods that look like black berries. The white I have is six inches tall and likes to crawl over the ground, including gravel. Pollinators love lantana!



Snip spent flowers if you wish but refrain from hard pruning before winter as it can reduce its cold hardiness. In spring cut back to 6-12 inches to prevent woodiness.

Caution, it is extremely toxic for dogs and other animals and children if consumed. The toxic ingredient is a triterpenoid. Plant it away from your pets.





Westfield Native Seed Library Joe Darold

The Westfield (NJ) Memorial Library's Native Seed Library was created to encourage "...Westfield residents to practice more sustainable forms of gardening while also bringing community members together...." The library held workshops and lectures related to growing native plants. Native plants improve the biodiversity of our community. They support the habitats of native birds and insects. Native plants can slow the rate of climate change as they store greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide. They require fewer fertilizers and insecticides and help conserve water. All seeds are from local sources. They are organized and made available to anyone who uses the library. Each seed packet is labeled with brief facts and information about that plant. They are freely available to the entire community. The library encourages residents to do their part in combatting climate change. One of the main goals is to improve Westfield's overall health by decreasing the need for pesticides and herbicides. These chemicals can harm local areas in rain runoff. Consider starting a native seed library in your local community.

Joe Darold is the editor of Bloomin' Times of the Rake and Hoe GC in Westfield, NJ. A version of this article appeared in BT 12/2023.



Sitting on the Porch Gerianne Holzman, Editor

A decorated pebble sits on my dresser and reminds me daily to live life to my full capacity. We picked up the pebble during one of my husband's cancer treatments in 2022. The proton-radiation center encouraged patients and loved ones to take home any decorated stone that inspired them. My choice says, "Don't limit your challenges; challenge your limits." As we enter this new year, what might we see as challenges? Will we have the grace and fortitude to meet those challenges face-to-face and say, "You might be here now, but I am better than this, so get out of my way?" We often hear of garden club members who limit themselves by not entering a flower show. They are afraid of making a mistake. As mentors, we have the duty to encourage them to challenge their limitations and remind them that we have all been there – often more than once. Do you have a friend who feels limited by a lack of gardening knowledge, so they think garden clubs are not for them? Remind them that life is a continuing learning journey, even if right now it looks like a challenge. Many, many people limit their challenges by not stepping into leadership roles. The funny thing is, when you step beyond a self-imposed limit, you find amazing people to support you to be the person you never thought you could be. As we move into 2024, take one step and then another and then another, and embrace your challenges. Do not limit yourself; reach for the sky!

Don't limit your challenges. Challenge your limits.

2009

From the PGC Archives

NOVEMBER MEETING

The speaker was Donna Murrill, along with her husband gave a presentation on "Orchids 101" They told us the types, how they grow and when to water. A very lively question and answer session. Members brought their own clean pots and repotted their phalenopsis or lady slipper orchids.



Maybelle Reed is our only Charter member.



Forget "Us" Not! Farewell to Robin who is moving to New York shortly. We will miss her.



The Residential Garden is 5781 Acorn Ridge Drive the home of *Patty Principi and Tom Keith*. The water fall in the front and all the garden design was done by Patty and Tom. We will be touring this garden after our meeting.

The Commercial Garden of the month is *Second Hand Sally's* located on the Northwest corner of Bille and Skyway. The owner is *Sally Holland*. She is just starting her garden—with lots of color and some very interesting Fall whimsical displays.



Contemplate



Coral Bark Maple, photo & haiku by Nancy Howe

Autumn rejoices
Vibrant, robust colors dance
Live in this moment.