



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

The Prez Sez



Happy March! We have had some big storms and weathered them with the resilience that we have a reputation for. Our winter crops are at their peak, our gardens are likely showing the effects of the weather and our reluctance to get out and garden in such inclement weather. Beautification is still mostly resting but we will be back when the weather allows, such are the ides of March!

The homes for this year's garden tour are well on the way to being finalized and we are looking at a more streamlined and smooth effort for the people who are involved in its production. In our February meeting we determined that we would move the hub for the tour to the Firesafe Council parking lot, which should give us a convenient and more secure place to hold our event while providing a clearer and less confusing path for traffic. The board brought to the members a bid to purchase two feather style banners and a table style sign which was overwhelmingly approved. This signage will provide the club with years of visibility for the garden tour and public events. The speaker was Jules from Fiona's Forest who spoke about the healing and homeopathic abilities of plants. Next month's meeting will feature Robert Henry from the Master Gardener's group and will be on "gardening in the foothills". I for one am looking forward to his presentation and I hope to see you all there. Until then I am hoping everyone stays warm and dry this winter season.

Todd (T3) 

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

Speaker: Robert Henry, Master Gardener Topic: Gardening in the Foothills

This workshop focuses on the specifics of gardening in the foothills & some of the rewards & challenges that the foothill soils and weather present to gardeners. Topics explored include (but are not limited to) design techniques for pest management; water-wise gardening; soil structure; the benefits of biochar & how to build living soil; solar impact; planting systems for various landscape types and plant selection.

Plant table sharing. Bring seeds, cuttings or plants to share.

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Beautification Team Report

Our Beautification work has been held up by the rainy weather over this last month. January 30th was the exception as we had received several days of sun and the rain was due to start again on the 31st. Many of our team were unable to show up but three of us did a good job of raking the deep blanket of pine needles at the Elliot triangle. We made a pile ten feet long & 2 feet high! Whew! We are lucky that Paradise Public Works is willing to pick this up rather than having to bag it.

The weeds are growing thick at the Foster triangle. The library mound needs our attention as well. Until we can go out in better weather we'll have to leave their care to Mother Nature.

Jewdie



Wow! Jules Pecson and Katy Wilson presented us with a fascinating array of information on (mostly) local medicinal plants and mushrooms. Descriptions were reinforced visually, plus various mushrooms were passed around to see, smell and feel the very different textures. A great opportunity to learn a greater respect for the "weeds" growing around us. Want to learn more? Fiona's Forest has field trip classes. fionasforest.com

Upcoming Events



March 11: Robert Henry, Master Gardener; Topic: Gardening in the Foothills

See front page of this newsletter for details.



April 8: Dig into a workshop on color bowls! In preparation for the June 1 & 2 Garden Tour and plant sale, we will be making plant bowls. Visualize your favorite thrillers, spillers, and fillers. *More information to come.*

The Red Bluff Garden Club will be sponsoring a four course NGC, Inc approved Flower Show School. Course IT will be held **March 6-8, 2024**, in Red Bluff, California. See details in the latest PGCI mail chimp.

Arbor Day Festival (5th year) Saturday, **March 16, 2024**, 10-4:00, Oroville Convention Center 1200 Myers Street in Oroville, <https://www.becnet.org/bec-events/arbor-day-festival>



UC Master Gardeners of Butte County Workshops

Details on classes & locations go to <https://ucanr.edu/sites/bcmg/Workshops/>

Edible Landscaping, Monday, March 18, 4:30-6pm, ZOOM

"Black Gold" Vermiculture **NEW**, Wednesday, March 20, 1-3pm, Pat's Barn, limit 30 people

Propagation, Saturday March 23, 10-11:30am, Demo Garden (Pat's Barn if rain), limit 25 people

Fruit Tree Care, Wednesday, March 27, 10-11:30am, Private residence in Paradise, limit 15 people

Soil Health, Co-sponsored with OLLI, Monday, April 1, 3:30-4:45pm, Bradley 2 at The Social, limit 55 people

Native Gardens for the Birds **NEW**, Friday, April 12, 12-1:30pm, Pat's Barn, limit 30 people

Fruit Tree Care, Saturday, April 13, 10-11:30am, Private residence in Paradise, limit 15 people

Irrigation, Wednesday, April 17, 10-11:30am, Demonstration Garden, limit 25 people

Succulents, Friday, April 19, 10:30am-12:00pm, Demonstration Garden, limit 25 people

Composting, Friday, April 26, 10-11:30am, Demonstration Garden, limit 25 people

Firewise Gardening **NEW**, Thursday, May 2, 10-11:30am, Location TBA

Bee Basics: An Introduction to Our Native Bees **NEW**, Wednesday, May 8, 10-11:30am Demonstration Garden, limit 25 people

Pest Management, Friday, May 17, 10-11:30am, Demonstration Garden, limit 25 people

Weed Identification, Monday, May 20, 10-11:30am, Demonstration Garden, limit 25 people

How Does Your Garden Grow? Adaptations of California Native Plants **NEW**, Wednesday, May 22, 10-11:30am, Demonstration Garden, limit 25 people

Endangered Species Faire, Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10:00-3:00, 132 w 4th St, Chico, <https://www.becnet.org/bec-events/endangered-species-faire>

Gardeners, this is a great opportunity to collaborate with our high school. Let's do it!



Ridgeview High School

Jeff Wrobel

Email: jwrobel@pusdk12.org

5944 Maxwell Drive, Paradise CA 95969

Work Phone (530) 872-6422 Cell (530) 520-6141

Hello garden guardians,

Thank you so much for your support in creating a community garden space at Ridgeview High School. We are excited for spring and the next steps to move the garden forward!

Its time for us to create a steering committee!

We have applied for a grant and we have the following focus points:

Native tree planting: Working with members of the Mechoopda tribe certified in Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), we will restore the native ecosystems and plant trees and shrubs that are drought-tolerant, fire-adapted and resilient around the perimeter of the school grounds. The plants will be selected to ensure biodiversity, creating a habitat for wildlife in the burn scar.

Composting and Gardens: To encourage sustainable practices and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we will work with project partners to establish a thermal aerobic community composting site and garden beds. This will not only reduce waste and provide healthy food but will create a hands-on learning environment for students and the community. Project partners will offer workshops in composting and in growing, preparing, and preserving food. Regular farmers' markets will offer additional economic and health benefits.

Revamping Current Gray Water Systems: To lead into a newly created bioswale that will create bio-mimicry of natural riparian habitats. This will act as an additional fire break and a source of water for the plants, as well as providing a model for sustainable water management.

Turf Removal: The grounds of the new school are turf over burn scar soil, with some charred Ponderosa pines. We will remove the burned trees and refurbish the wood to create a berm on the bottom of the slope, seating (benches and picnic tables) and signage. We will remove the existing turf to expose the organic soil, which will later be covered with leaf litter and other organic materials, facilitating the regeneration of the natural landscape.

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Construction of Natural Paths, Seating Areas, and Exercise Stations: The addition of natural pathways leading to the garden beds and seating areas will provide an outdoor classroom and refuge for students during the day, and be accessible to the community during non-school hours. Exercise stations along a mind/body path.

Finally, **Education Workshops:** Will be offered focusing on composting techniques and mitigating food waste, gardening practices, and food preparation, Students will also learn workforce skills by managing a regular farmers' market to sell produce to the community. The workshops and market will empower participants with real-world knowledge as well as strengthening school/community bonds. These workforce skills will be greatly need to fulfill the Vision of Regenerating Paradise.

Our school and community garden, "Rooted in Resilience", will combine environmental restoration, education, and sustainable practices to foster resilience, recovery, and hope.

We are excited to move this project forward and will be on site on Tuesdays from 12-5pm. The 12-2pm time slot is open to students, family members of students, PUSD employees and community volunteers who sign-in. The 2-5pm time slot is open to the public. Feel free to stop by the garden to chat, plan, design, donate or volunteer!

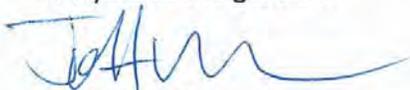
We would like thank PUSD, Butte County Local Food Network, Campfire Restoration Project, Butte Environmental Council, Paradise Community Compost, California Open Lands, and the Climate Action Corps for all your time, resources and determination to regenerate Paradise.

Paradise Unified School District	https://www.pusdk12.org/
Butte County Local Food Network	https://www.bclocalfood.org/
Campfire Restoration Project	https://www.campfirerestorationproject.org/
Butte Environmental Council	https://www.becnet.org/
Paradise Community Compost	https://www.campfirerestorationproject.org/soilhealth
California Open Lands	https://californiaopenlands.org/
Climate Action Corps	https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/climateactioncorps/

We also want to thank you for reading this, donating, volunteering and cheering on us! Please contact me if you are interested in joining the steering committee or just want to spend time in the garden.

The future is made by the choices and actions we take today.

See you in the garden.



Jeff Wrobel



Gardening For Wildlife

Linda Goddard

Butterfly Bush— Friend or Foe?



Unfortunately, Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja davidii*) is a foe. Butterfly Bush originated in China and is extremely successful at reproduction, giving it an advantage over native flowering shrubs. It excels at seed production and dispersal. (Think scotch broom)

I love my Butterfly Bushes and never believed they were invasive until after the fire when my yard turned from deep shade to full sun. I originally had 4 scraggly plants and now have over 20 huge plants. They seem to spread into areas that receive regular water, not necessarily in drier areas.

Butterfly Bush benefits pollinators but only at one stage of their life cycle. It attracts butterflies, bees and hummingbirds because it provides nectar. However, butterflies need host plants on which to lay eggs and on which their caterpillars feed. Not a single native caterpillar eats Butterfly Bush leaves.

If you already have a Butterfly Bush, and do not want to remove it, you should prevent the spread by removing old flowerheads in the fall. Dispose of the flowerheads in your garbage can, do not dump clippings or flowerheads in natural areas or compost bins.

Growers have developed some non-invasive varieties. To qualify as a non-invasive, a Butterfly Bush must show less than 2% germination. Here are some to try:

Buddleja 'Asian Moon'

Buddleja 'Blue Chip'

Buddleja 'Ice Chip' (Formerly 'White Icing')

Buddleja 'Inspired Pink'

Buddleja 'Pink Micro Chip'

Buddleja 'Purple Haze'

FLUTTERBY GRANDÉ™ Blueberry Cobbler Nectar Bush

FLUTTERBY GRANDÉ™ Peach Cobbler Nectar Bush

FLUTTERBY GRANDÉ™ Sweet Marmalade Nectar Bush

FLUTTERBY GRANDÉ™ Tangerine Dream Nectar Bush





General Minutes

Paradise Garden Club General Meeting Notes

February 11th, 2024

The meeting started at 1:02 with approximately 45 people in attendance. Many guests being from the Master Gardeners program.

Nancy and Toby set up a refreshment table. Many members brought snacks to share.

Todd Hummel welcomed everyone, and we said the pledge of allegiance.

Candice Boggs gave a short talk on a book the Master Gardeners were selling as a Garden Guide.

Start time 1:12 for presentation.



Jules started by telling us how she got started in wildcrafting. Fiona's Forest is the name of their business with co-owner Katie Wilson. Wildcrafting is the practice of harvesting a plant in its natural habitat. Jules presented a wonderful talk on many of the most used plants, what parts of the plants are used, where they are harvested and how to identify them as well as how these plants can be made into tincture, salves and capsules for different purposes. Fiona's Forest offers in-house products made in Paradise. They offer their own line of creams, lip balms, soaps and much more. They will also be offering future classes on harvesting and making salves. Jules and Katie offered a reference book for sale at the end of their presentation by Darcy Williamson.

General Meeting notes



Start time 2:16p with 25 people staying for the general meeting.

Penny Pines: Joanie spoke first, telling the meeting participants what Penny Pines represents to the Garden Club and passed around our Penny Pines can for donations.

Finance report: We are doing well. Margaret gave a short summary as to where our money is being spent.

Todd mentioned one of our members, Ward was having health issues and that our prayers are with both Ward and Cheryl.

Beautification report: Jeudie and a small group of the beautification team worked on cleaning out pine needles from the Elliott triangle.

Todd mentioned we are considering purchasing a banner, feathers and a table runner with our name and information to promote the Garden Club at plant sales and other events we participate in. Garden club meeting attendees gave many suggestions for these banners.

Todd mentioned we are moving the hub of our Garden Tour to the Cobblestone Court complex for our Garden Sale in June. This will be the location of our Plant Sale & tour ticket purchase.

Jeff Wroble is an instructor at Ridgeview High School. He asked to come talk with us and asked for our help. He is involved in starting a school garden on the high school campus, introducing the students on gardening practices and to see visibly where their food comes from. Jeff and Ridgeview are also involved with the Food Network. Jeff passed around a sign-up sheet asking for anyone who thinks they might be able to help with the program.



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Good of the Order

Sandy Miller mentioned, The Chamber of Commerce is having a first ever Ridge Rising on June 1st and 2nd. See the Paradise Chamber of Commerce website for details.

Helpful hints:

Toby has been using a jelly granular product to retain water in her soil for years and really likes it and asked the quests and members, who else might use this with any results they might have.

Meeting ended 3:04p

Recording secretary Wendy Wicklund



Board Minutes

Paradise Garden Club Board Meeting Notes

February 11th 2024

Attending the board meeting: Todd, Anne, Jeudie, Ellen, Margaret, and Wendy.

President Todd Hummel brought the meeting to order at 11:35a.

Todd asked if there were any questions regarding last month's board meeting. All good.

Finance report: Margaret said we are doing OK. \$32,050. Margaret suggested that maybe members want to know where our money is being spent. Margaret reviewed the financials with the board and plans on giving a short summary at our meeting today.

Beautification: Jeudie started our meeting by saying a few words about Ward Habriel and his health situation. Our prayers go out to both Ward and Cheryl.

Anne suggested we might consider having a workshop and make color bowls to sell at our Garden Club plant sale in June. More to come on this possible project.

Ellen had an idea about adding visibility feathers, (upright banners) banners behind the table or in front of and a table runner to our table/booth that would provide more visibility for our Garden Club sale and future events.

Todd continued our talk regarding relocating our venue location from the PID hub for the plant sale and tour ticket sale to Cobblestone Court off Clark Road would provide more parking, space, and shade. Anne said the Garden Club Committee went to "take a look" last week and liked the location.

Margaret, Jeudie and Anne Barrett are working on updating our trifold Garden Club pamphlet. It is outdated!

Margaret mentioned Paradise Annual Passport, a booklet distributed by our local Chico ER and included in other news sources. This booklet will talk about the wonderful progress Paradise has made in our 5-year rebirth. The Chico ER is asking us if we would we like to buy space in this booklet. More on this to come.

Anne said we are on the Chamber of Commerce calendar now for up incoming events.

Ellen and Todd will be visiting with a Master Gardener Coordinator to talk about next year's Master Gardeners programs with the Garden Club.

Meeting Ended 12:50p

Recording secretary Wendy Wicklund





Ecology

By Donna Payton, Insect & Pollinator Chairman

HOW TO HELP OVERWINTER INSECTS THIS WINTER

Winter arrived on December 21. Some insects die during the winter, others stay active, and still others overwinter, a.k.a. hibernate. No matter how the surviving ones spend the winter, they could use a little help.

Five Things You Can Do Right Now:



1) **Leave some weeds**

You may be tempted to prune as many plants as you can and to pull the weeds. Resist this temptation. Dead foliage protects the living parts of the plant from freezing temperatures. In addition, weeds, perennials and grasses all provide shelter for beneficial bugs, including pollinators, during the winter. Some native bees lay their eggs in hollowed-out plant stalks and stems. The eggs develop into larvae in these safe confines, emerging as adults, ready to pollinate in the spring. If you have already started to prune, leave cut stems in place or stack them in a pile to de-compose over the winter, so that they can continue to provide habitats for insects living inside.

2) **Plant for pollinators all season long**

Be sure to include late blooming cold weather plants and trees to provide essential pollen, nectar, and even insect prey for hardy insects to use to stay fueled throughout the chillier months. If winters are mild where you live, bees may be foraging outside their homes if you planted a four season (or nearly four season) pollinator garden.

3) **Give them shelter**

Most native bees are ground dwellers, so provide some loose soil covered by leaf litter to provide shelter through the winter. Building or purchasing an insect hotel also provides homes for pollinators who do not like roommates. Ladybugs do not survive freezing temperatures, so they may find attractive options under tree bark, in crevices, or in your home. They hibernate in large, dead-appearing clusters, but most will awaken ready to devour aphids and other invaders as soon as it warms up.

4) **Leave the leaves**

Resist the urge to rake and, if you must, do not bag them. Besides reducing plastic in the landfill, leaving 1-2 inches of leaf litter on the ground can make a big difference for insects throughout their life cycle. The caterpillars seeking shelter in these decomposing leaves will emerge as the first butterflies that you will see in the spring. Do leaves on the ground look too messy? Move the leaves into piles around the yard or deposit them on top of the flower beds instead.

5) **Avoid pesticides whenever possible and read labels before use**

The prevalence of insects during the winter is lower than other times of the year. Avoid treating outdoor pests during the winter as you may inadvertently kill beneficial insects which keep the less desirable ones in check. Keep in mind that there are more beneficial insects than harmful ones on your property. With a little effort, your resident pollinators and other beneficial insects, along with your ornamentals and edibles, will thank you for your efforts come spring.



Color Recall

by Charlotte Swanson

Brown and gray are the current colors in the garden. Gone are the veggies, blooms, and herbs. We have transitioned to rest mode, yet colorful memories remain. The yellows of the abundant sunflowers, spiraling roses and multi-layered chrysanthemums have not faded from memory. The reds of the zinnias, lilies and 'Chrysler Imperial' rose linger. The oranges that made an appearance among the zinnias, lilies and dahlias still register in my mind's eye. The treasured blues in the salvia, catmint and Russian sage played a pleasant contrasting role.



There were pinks popping up in snapdragons, the 'Painted Porcelain' rose, the 'Southern Belle' dahlia as well as in the ever-blooming shell pink landscape roses. A dash of purple comes to mind as I recall the fall's 'Grape Crush' New England aster and spring's parade of purples amongst the irises. Coral, beautiful coral, showed up early in the peony 'Coral Charm' and lingered in the 'Fragrant Cloud' tea rose as well as in some of the snapdragons. White was sparser but climbed upward in the newly planted 'Tsukiko' clematis. Daisies were prolific with white petals and the 'Anouska', a white double oriental lily was exquisitely trimmed in pale pink.

All those vibrant colors are captured in my digital library but are richer in my mind. Though presently my eyes register dull neutrals when I gaze at the garden, in my spirit there is a vibrant promise of colorful new life in the coming gardening season! Though my feet rest, my hands hold plant catalogues, and the fingers walk down the aisles of their pages while the fireworks in my head dazzle with possibilities.

Come Spring 2024! We will be rested and ready for you!

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February 22, 2024

<https://gardenclub.org/>

From the PGCI Archives

MARCH 9, 2009



PARADISE GARDEN CLUB, INC.

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

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

TODAY'S PROGRAM

A slide show presentation
*"Armchair hike for the less
adventurous"* by Jayne
Locas

President's Message

This has been a great month for Paradise Garden Club! After all our hard work, daffodils are popping up all over the Ridge. The town entrance on Skyway is particularly beautiful.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March Library Weeding

March 21, 22, Sat. & Sun,
10- 5, Soroptomist Home
and Garden show in Chico

March 18-22. San Francisco Flower and Garden Show

3/18 trip
3/21 trip

March 23, Monday 1:00 pm
Potting People will meet at
Lee Brasel's home

April 6, Monday 1 pm,
Board Meeting at Betty
Rochambeau's home

April 9, Thursday,
Newsletter Deadline

April 13, Monday 11:30 am,
Potluck Club Meeting at
Terry Ashe

April 25, 26, Sat & Sunday,
Gold Nugget Days

Through the amazing efforts of our members, we continue to do amazing things! Pat Pickard has made a nice map of the most prominent daffodil plantings for out of town visitors. Peggy Musgrave and her family planted over 150 individual pots of daffodils, and Potting People covered about 1/2 of them in foil & ribbon. Cheryl Habriel designed & printed gift and thank you cards to go with the daffodils. Jayne is presenting them to people and organizations that have supported our daffodil efforts. At the town council meeting on February 25th, Jayne presented eight pots to town officials. Earlier, she delivered seven to various town hall offices. Tomorrow (March 10) Jayne will make a similar presentation at the meeting of the Park and Recreation Board of Directors. If you have the opportunity, please join us at 7:00 PM at the Terry Ashe Center.

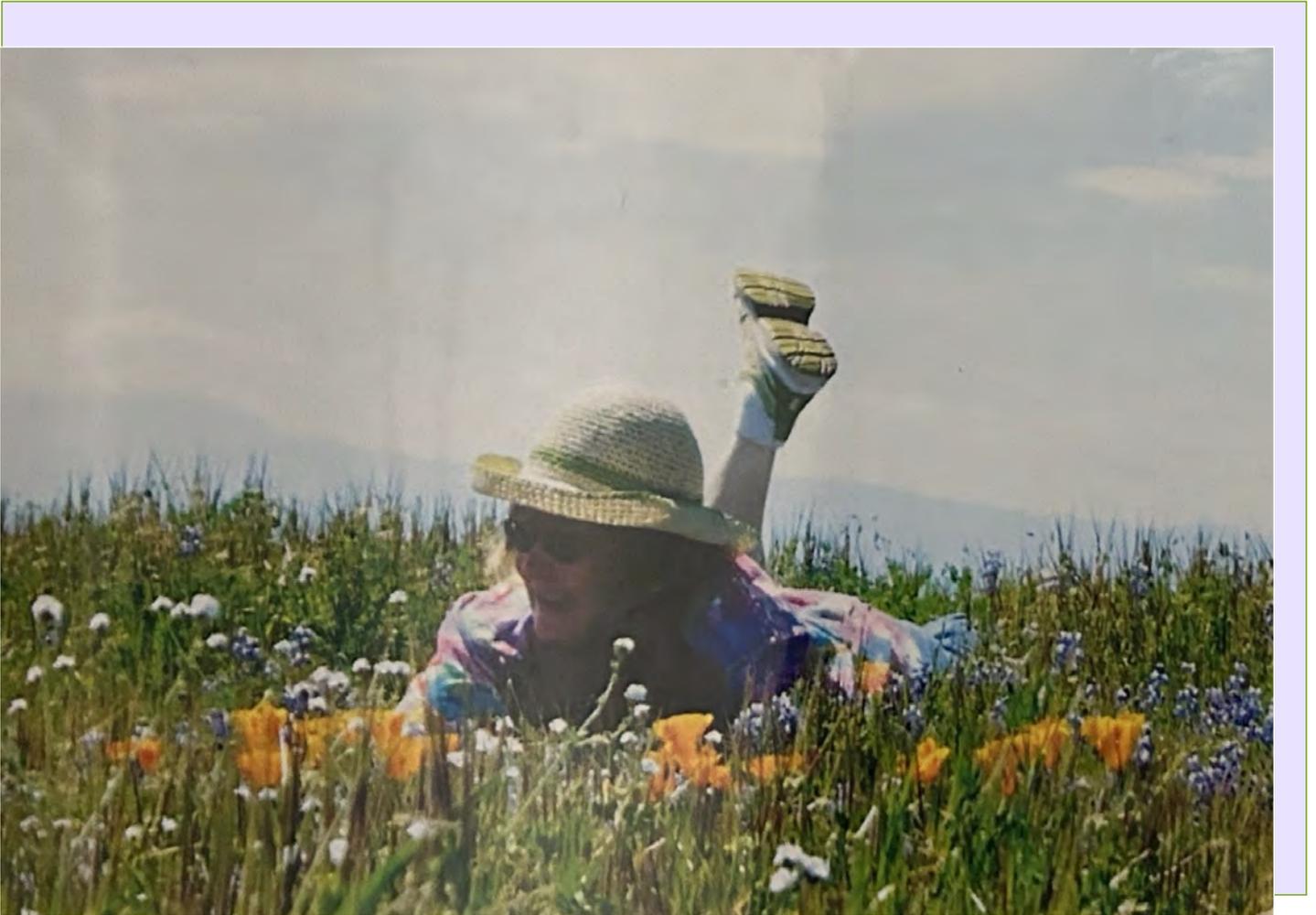
Our daffodils resulted in another delightful spinoff. When Robin Pokorski, President of California Garden Clubs, Inc. heard about our project, she made arrangements to visit Paradise during her trip to Northern California in late February. At Robin's request, I invited Magalia Beautification to join us for lunch, and we were provided a wonderful opportunity to meet Robin and network with M.B. on February 25th. Robin made a special presentation to Jayne for her work on the daffodils, and even brought us yellow chocolate daffodil lollipops that she made herself for the occasion. I hope those of you who were able to join us enjoyed the visit as much as I did.

After the recent rains, my garden is really beginning to leaf and bud out everywhere. When I finish writing this message I am headed out to the yard to begin my spring chores in earnest. I just love this time of year! Donna Beronda

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

A power point presentation
will be given by Carolyn
Melf, on *"Peonies"*

Contemplate



A 2009 PGCi member enjoying the Table Mountain wildflowers. Photo from the PGCi archives.

Life embraces you.
In gratitude, hug it back.
Live every moment!

