



The Prez Sez



April showers bring May flowers. I never thought about it when I was a kid but now it is an aphorism to get excited about. One does not need to wait until May, however. Here at home, we have Magnolias, Chinese Fringe, African Daisies, Periwinkle, and some very confused Daffies amongst a host of others beautifying the north state.

The hard work of preparing for the garden tour progresses, we have secured the homes for this year's tour along with some great suggestions for next year's tour. We have an exciting twist to this year's tour with the addition of a bonus seventh home that we surely could not pass up, and a bonus commercial garden that will leave viewers breathless. We will be moving the hub of the tour to the parking lot of the Firesafe Council. For those who have never been it is in the business area of the old Cobblestone Pharmacy across from the Dollar General on Clark Rd. P.I.D. has been very gracious allowing us to use their property these last two years but we do not wish to overstay our welcome. The new location will offer more shade for our volunteers, plants, and visitors.

Additionally, we have secured the printing of the tour book with a local printing company, C & C Prints in Paradise keeping it local. The tour ticket books are \$20 to the public but for members they are included in your membership dues.

We will have a booth at the Chico Home and Garden Show on April 6 & 7th so feel free to stop by to say "Hello". You can sign up at our next meeting to work a shift at the show, after all it's everyone's club and participation is fun!

The next garden club meeting will be April 8th at 1pm at the Terry Ashe Center. This month, rather than a presentation, we will be getting our hands dirty creating flower bowls to sell at the Garden Tour. Hope you can join us for this fun activity!

Please remember as the month progresses get out and enjoy the benefits that the age old afore mentioned aphorism speaks and enjoy the wonder and the beauty of the season. T3

Todd

PGCI General Meeting, April 8 at 1:00 p.m.

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 in a container garden.



Snacks Month: bring your favorite to share.



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Beautification Team Report

As we looked forward to the sunny days of spring we were able to catch a non rainy one on the last of February. At the library mound a few members of the beautification team were able to cut back the old dead spikes of the Shasta Daisies. Lot's of dead leaves were removed. Now it looks like we're giving it the loving attention it deserves.

With the continuing rain we waited for the next opportunity to make a difference. One of our members has a serious health challenge which takes him away from the outdoor work he enjoys. At their yard the team got busy removing some very crowded irises. We cleaned out the spring growth of weeds in many locations and did some planting. The work was much appreciated.

We'll soon do some spring clean up at the Foster and Elliott triangles.

Come join us! The feeling of pride in creating results is so rewarding and the camaraderie make it fun. Talk to Jeudie at the front table or Todd, the president.

Jeudie



Plan to get your hands dirty at our April meeting!

We'll be planting color bowls to sell at the Garden Tour in June. In the past, Butte College provided planter bowls full of colorful annuals along with the other plants they provide for our plant sale during the tour. However, they have not done so for the past two years so...we decided to plant some ourselves. Bring your gloves and a trowel and we'll have some fun.

Courtney at The Plant Barn has generously donated 30 planter bowls and eight flats of annuals. If you have a special planter you'd like to donate or have one or more clean planters like the one pictured, it would be greatly appreciated.

Our May meeting will look at *Safety in the Garden* and will include a short presentation by Jenny Yamate, a senior and chair yoga coach at Paradise Stronger. Her focus is keeping our gardener bodies strong and flexible.

I'm also looking for an expert on local snakes to provide information to identify snakes in the garden. Please contact Anne Pace (in your roster) if you know someone. Thank you!

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.)

April 8, 1:00 The Paradise Garden Club invites you to join us making color bowls for the plant sale in June. Bring your gloves, and good nature to the Terry Ashe Center.

May 13 at 1:00 PGCI invites you join us for *Safety in the Garden*, a short presentation by Jenny Yamate, a senior and chair yoga coach at Paradise Stronger. At the Terry Ashe Center.

April 13 at 11:00 The Paradise Elks Auxiliary, 3rd Annual Tea Party. This year's contest: Best Costume and Best Table if decorated. For tickets: Anne Pace at the April PGCI meeting. (Last year our club had a table for eight and had a lovely time.)

April 13th Table Mountain hike, Ridge Hiking Association — <https://www.paradisestronger.org>

Endangered Species Faire

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10:00-3:00, 132 w 4th St, Chico

Interested in becoming a member of the Town of Paradise's Community Relations Committee (CRC)?

Wednesday, April 10th, 2024, from 12:00-1:00pm at Town Hall, 5555 Skyway. This meeting serves the purpose of being a direct link between the Town and residents. Bring your questions about Town affairs, share any concerns with Town staff, and receive accurate updates on our rebuilding efforts. For more information or if you would like to attend R.S.V.P to jblancett@townofparadise.com.

UC Master Gardeners of Butte County Workshops

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

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

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,

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



Gardening For Wildlife

Linda Goddard

Here in Paradise, several invasive plant species can cause significant damage by outcompeting native plants, altering habitats, and disrupting ecosystems. Here are some invasive plants commonly found in Northern California that you should eradicate if possible.

Yellow Starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) This plant is highly invasive in California and can form dense monocultures, displacing native vegetation and reducing forage for wildlife.

French Broom (*Genista monspessulana*) French broom is a shrub that invades disturbed areas, open grasslands, and forests, displacing native vegetation and altering fire regimes.

Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) Similar to French broom, Scotch broom forms dense thickets in open areas and can displace native plants. It is especially problematic in coastal areas of Northern California.

Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) Although it produces edible berries, Himalayan blackberry is highly invasive and can form impenetrable thickets, crowding out native plants in riparian areas and disturbed habitats.

Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) This tall perennial grass is highly invasive along waterways in California, forming dense stands that displace native vegetation, alter hydrology, and increase fire risk.

English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) English ivy is an invasive vine that can smother trees and native vegetation in forests and riparian areas, leading to reduced biodiversity and habitat quality.



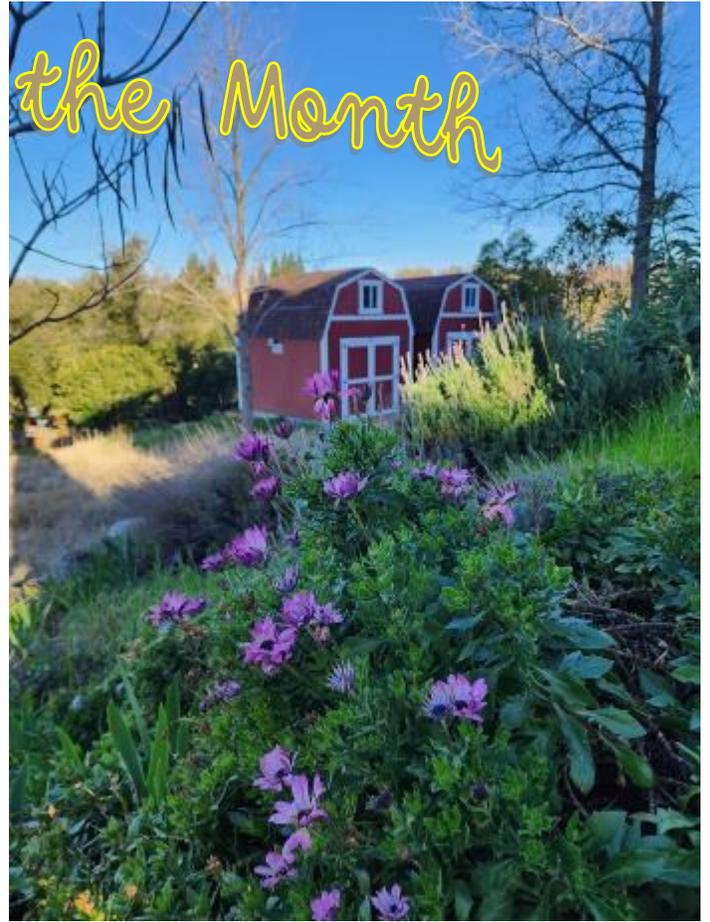
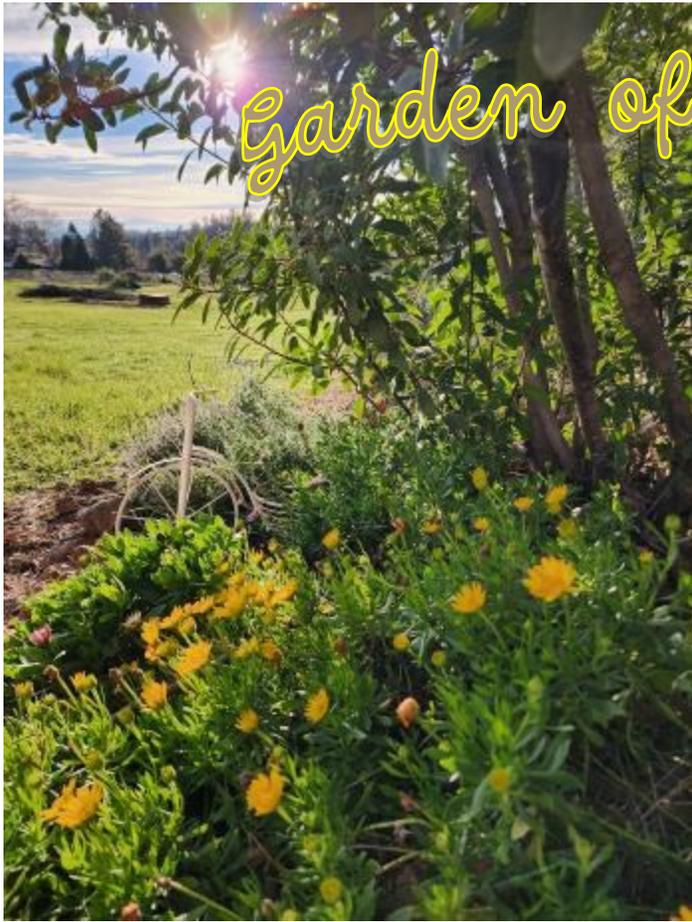
Periwinkle (*Vinca major* and *Vinca minor*) Periwinkle is a groundcover plant that can spread rapidly in shaded areas, forming dense mats and outcompeting native vegetation in forests and riparian habitats.

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) Purple loosestrife is an invasive perennial herb that invades wetlands, displacing native plants and reducing habitat quality for wildlife.

These are just a few examples of invasive plants to avoid in Northern California. It's essential to be vigilant and prevent the spread of these species by avoiding planting them in your garden and promptly removing them if they appear on your property. Additionally, familiarize yourself with local regulations and recommendations for managing invasive plants in your area.

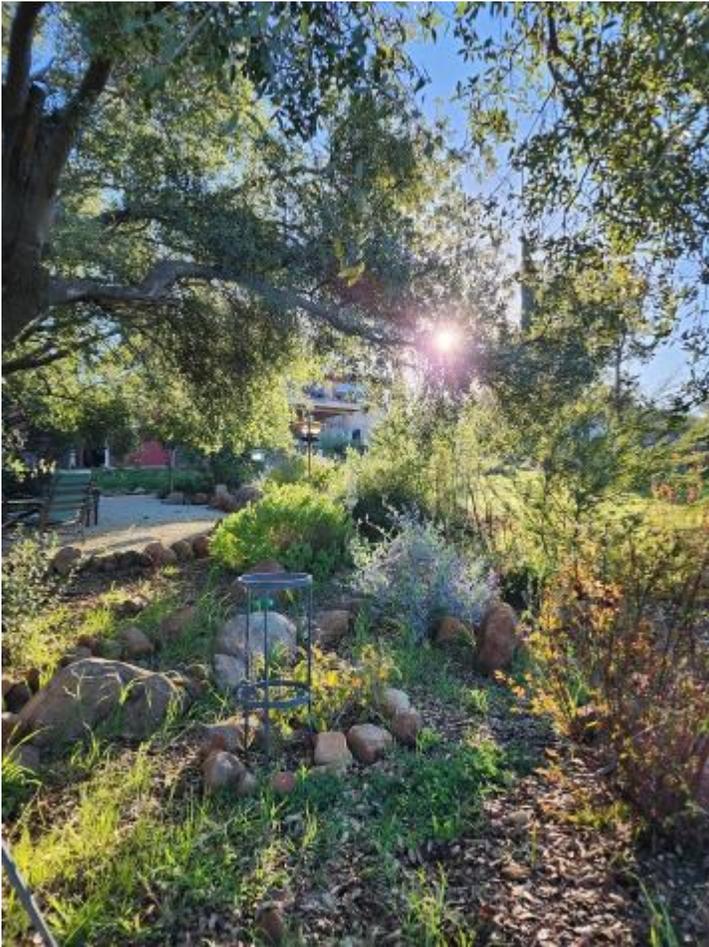
Share your pictures and experiences with our Garden Club on Facebook!



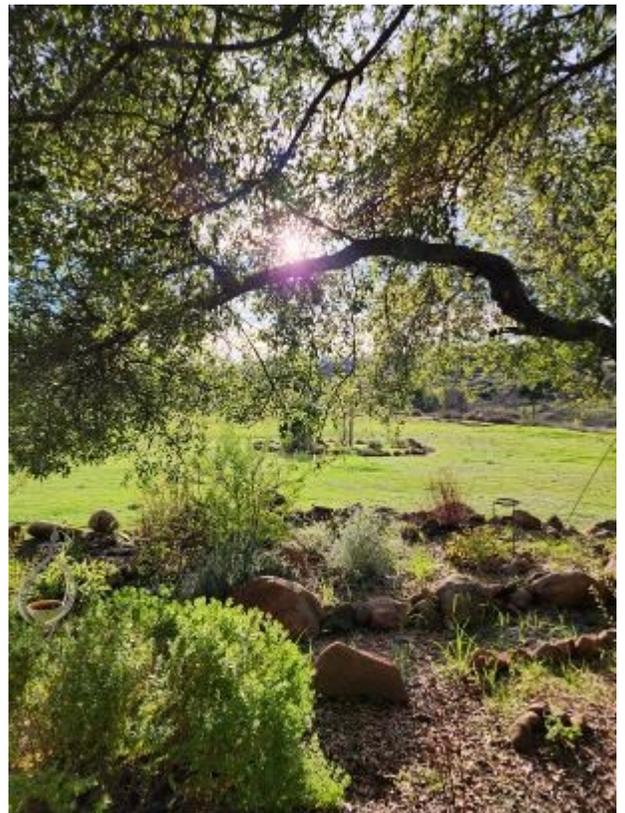


The Hummel's invite you to enjoy a visual walk through their landscape with these photos. On April 8, immediately following the general PGC1 meeting, you are invited to a 30 minute visit to their property. Spring delight!





Relax, take time to breathe.



Our thanks to Master Gardener, Robert Henry. At our March meeting his exuberant presentation on foothill gardening and the essential concepts has fueled us for planning the months and years ahead.

The general meeting was brought to order by President Todd Hummel at 11:35am

Todd asked if there were any corrections or additions to last month's minutes. Minutes were approved by consensus.

Financial Report: Our balance is \$31,400.

Exciting news from Margaret on our recently updated tri-fold flyers. C & C printers, located here in Paradise, charged us \$40.00 for 150 flyers. C & C is also printing our Tour Book this year.

Margaret is looking for three people to help create next year's budget. A committee was created to work on the budget. The report must be prepared and submitted by the next business meeting in April.

Beautification: Jeudie said the Paradise library property was spruced up recently by dead heading flowers, and removing dead leaves, creating a beautiful area space once again. Beautification in March will be dividing Iris at Cherly's and Wards house that have become overgrown.

Aprons and T-shirts. An informative presentation was given by Linda Marcus on research she is doing for the Garden Club to purchase new aprons and T-shirts with the Garden Club logo. Linda gave information on costs, colors, sizes. The purpose of purchasing aprons and T-shirts is to improve our visibility and add a professional look to the Garden Club when we are doing events like Johnny Appleseed. More information is coming soon.

Scholarships: We are offering a 1 - \$500 scholarship to either a Paradise High School or Ridgeview High School student with outstanding grades in horticulture or the botany study fields. Originally this scholarship was proposed by garden club members Cheryl and Ward Habriel. The board unanimously approved a motion by President Todd Hummel to present this scholarship.

Garden Tour home selections: The team is looking for two more homes for the garden tour. And as a bonus ...we are adding a business this year.

Zoom sign-up sheet: available at the check-in table for anyone wanting to be included in the Tuesday zoom meetings.

April color bowls will be made at our next meeting for sale at the Garden Hub plant sale. Should be fun!

Sandy Miller has volunteered to take pictures of the homes on the garden tour to be added to the Tour Book.

Secretary Wendy Wicklund

The meeting started at 1:05 with approximately 35 people.

President Todd Hummel welcomed everyone, and we said the pledge of allegiance. Todd asked people to please stay for the business meeting after the presentation.

Candice Boggs gave a short talk on a book the Master Gardeners are selling called *A Garden Guide*. Book available for \$25 at the sign in table.

Master Gardener, Ellen Michel, introduced our guest speaker Robert Henry. Robert gave a delightful presentation on foothill gardening and the essential concepts needed to create a successful garden, yard, or farm. Many ideas and thoughts you might not have considered were discussed.

Financial report: Margaret said we are fine. Our bank balance is \$31,400.

Beautification: Joyce, Ellen, Heather, and Todd met at the Paradise Library. The beautifying team, dead heading flowers, did general raking and created a tidy space once again.

Scholarships The Garden Club is offering \$100 - \$500 scholarship to an outstanding student at either Paradise High School or Ridgeview High for outstanding grades in horticulture or the botany fields.

Garden Tour job sign ups. See the job signup sheets at the next Garden Club meeting in April to help with jobs at the Hub, plant sale and the Garden Tour in June.

Zoom meetings are being held on Tuesdays at 2p. These meetings are to help plan The Garden Tour and plant sale.

Next Month: Color bowl making at the next general meeting in April. These bowls will be for sale at our Hub and plant sale at the Garden tour. So fun. Everything will be provided. (Maybe bring your own gloves.) Just come and have fun.

Good of the Order: Ann Pace mentioned an upcoming event at the Elks Lodge in Paradise. A Tea Party put on the Women's Auxiliary Club in April.

Secretary Wendy Wicklund

- The net cooling effect of a healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.
- Plant a tree on the west side of your home, and in 5 years your energy bill should be 3% less. In 15 years, the savings will be nearly 12%.
- A mature tree can often have an appraised value of between \$1,000 - \$10,000.
- Healthy, mature trees add an average of 10% to a property's value.
- Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30% and can save 20-50% in energy used for heating.
- Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism. Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly, tenants stay longer, and space in a wooded setting is more valuable to sell or rent.

An excerpt of Conservation, California Arbor Day - March 7, By Berni Hendrix, Arbor Day Chairman, Golden Gardens eNews March-April 2024 <https://www.californiagardenclubs.com/>



CONSERVATION

California Arbor Day - March 7

By Berni Hendrix, Arbor Day

With only an elementary education, Burbank at age 21 purchased 17 acres in Santa Rosa, California. He became one of history's most inventive and productive breeders of plants. Conducting as many as 3,000 experiments at once, Burbank painstakingly crossbred foreign and native species of plants, cultivated the resultant seedlings, and used grafting to arrive at new and better breeds.



Happy Birthday to
Luther Burbank, 3/7/1849



Shasta Daisy

Of the tens of thousands of varieties he attempted, hundreds were successful, including the famous Shasta Daisy. The Elberta peach, Santa Rosa plum, and Flaming Gold nectarine, to name a few, were still on the market one hundred years later. All were invented by Luther Burbank. But his greatest success was the Russet potato (1871), better known as the 'Idaho potato'. It was soon exported to help Ireland recover from the potato blight devastation of 1840-1860. And even today, Burbank's large, hardy, fine-grained potato is unsurpassed as a staple of



American agriculture.

Like George Washington Carver, Burbank realized that human ingenuity could improve nature's productivity. His tremendous success, and also his book, *How Plants Are Treated To Work For Man* (1921), largely inspired the PLANT PATENT ACT of 1930, which made new varieties of plants patentable for the first time.

Luther Burbank died in 1926 at 77 years of age. He received 16 plant patents posthumously. More importantly, he set the precedent for innovation in plant breeding that continues today through bio-engineering.



This is an excerpt of Conservation, California Arbor Day - March 7, By Berni Hendrix, Arbor Day Chairman, Golden Gardens eNews March-April 2024

Seed Dreams

by Charlotte A. Swanson



One of my favorite rites of spring is receiving my annual mailing of seed catalogues and making my seed wish list. Visions of red, juicy tomatoes, sunshiny squash, velvety fingers



of okra, crunchy crisp lettuces and balmy basil start to dance about in my head as soon as I hear the clink of the envelope landing in the mailbox. Soon after, the floral dreams begin: wild bee balm, vining sweet peas, sweet violas, passionate poppies and tiers of sunflowers and vibrant zinnias. Let the parade of annuals march through my perennials and take its place in the sun. My seed dreams will become real seeds and real specimens in good time.

Though this ritual has been performed numerous times, the tingle of expectation continues to head off the winter doldrums, infusing my spirit with fresh thoughts of the coming spring that will warm the earth and let us be busy in the garden once more.

While it is desirable to plant cultivars that have already earned their reliable status, spring also affords the opportunity to dream and invite some newcomers to the garden table. I was in a particularly cheeky, adventurous mood last year when I decided on some options from the Punjab region of India, the Orient and Italy.



Chinese Pink Celery

Why not try *Apium graveolens* 'Chinese pink celery'?

Popular in Northern China, it sounded like an attractive choice, even if its usefulness might be in question. I learned that when started from seed, pink celery looks very delicate, but its looks betray its hardy nature. True to form, it branched into a sturdy clump of pink stems nearly a foot tall. When harvested and cooked in a stir-fry of veggies, pink celery offers a distinctive, robust flavor. Although its fiber does not lend toward it being a snack food, it stays exceptionally fresh in a refrigerator drawer. Even just a few heads of pink celery can deliver months of seasonings for stir-fry dishes. Besides, how much fun is it to ask a friend or stranger, "Did you know celery comes in pink?"

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The Rocky Ford Cantaloupe™, world-famous since 1887, is readily available in my area and I seldom grow my own. But would I consider a small, green, white, and orange-striped melon from the Punjab region of India? Curiosity got the better of me and I dove into new territory with glee. Could I get the beautiful Cucumis melo ‘Kajari melon’ to grow in a far different landscape than the fertile lands of Punjab? The answer is a resounding “yes!” In addition to its striking appearance, the fruit is considerate enough to alert the grower exactly when it is ready to be picked – when it is fully ripe, touch it gently and it will fall from the vine. It is most helpful to let the fruit itself declare its ripeness! This was a revelation, as I have often been amiss in determining the right time for the optimum enjoyment of a melon. The melon’s pale green flesh is soft, and the taste is similar to honeydew, but much sweeter. Its wonderful fruity fragrance rivals any popular perfume.



The Kajari is an heirloom melon grown in the Punjab region of India.

The Nardello family brought the seeds for this excellent sweet pepper to the United States when they emigrated from Italy in 1887. Today, this pepper is included in the Ark of Taste, an international catalogue of endangered heritage food maintained by the Slow Food Foundation. Many chefs favor this sweet Italian frying pepper for its mild, fruity contribution to whatever veggies are in the sauté pan. For gardeners like me who struggle to get peppers to thrive, the Capsicum annum ‘Jimmy Nardello’ is an answer to a garden prayer. The classic “sports car red” pepper has the appearance of a hot chili pepper, but has a mild, spicy flavor. Are you up to the Jimmy Nardello pepper challenge? Think of the fun factor of videotaping yourself calmly chomping on several of these and sharing the astonishing sight with your friends or grandchildren?



The Jimmy Nardello pepper

Saving my best experimental dream until last, let me introduce you to the Trichosanthes cucumerina ‘Chinese Python’ snake bean. It is the largest and thickest of its variety, growing up to sixty inches in length and 1.5 inches thick. Southeast Asia is the usual habitat for this prolific vine that bears loads of elongated vegetables. Technically, this curious specimen is in the squash family, but its python-like appearance belies its proper biology.



The snake bean quickly fills out a trellis with foliage. Its tiny blossoms, shaped like frilly stars attract pollinators.

There is hardly a more entertaining vegetable for the garden! Regarding care and maintenance, the snake bean requires a strong trellis and occasional trimming to keep it in place. Since I desired an optimal-sized python, I trimmed out slower-growing ones and still was rewarded with a wheelbarrow full of four-to-six-foot-long beans! With COVID-19 restrictions limiting visitors to my garden, I did not get to share with others the fun of growing this bean; however, the perfectly harmless bean “snakes” hanging from the archway trellis always elicited a smile from me.

Maybe the best part of “dream seeding” the garden with newcomers from distant lands is not only the wonders they bring to the table, but the fun connections to people and places far away.



The National Gardener, Spring 2021, pages 30-32, by Charlotte A. Swanson, Consultant, Gardening Schools, swanson@daltontel.net

2009

From the PGCJ Archives

MAY MEETING

Our speaker was Caroline Singer, author of "Deer in My Garden". She gave a talk and slide show presentation on "Deer Resistant Landscapes".



Glenns Clark taking photos of all of our Container Gardens



Our Container Gardens getting ready for their photos.

Members created container gardens for the May meeting. Chosen by members as "Best of Show" was Tiffany Hague. The containers were donated and used for the Town Luncheon and then given for the Garden Tour Benefit Drawing.



The Winner of the Container Gardens was Tiffany Hague

Contemplate



Petals fall like tears,
wind and rain pushing through March.
Hold fast promised fruit!