



The Prez Sez



Welcome gardeners! March is here bringing with it beautiful nigh on spring like mornings with dew on the leaves with our town's wonderful daffys showing their joy throughout the ridge. As spring arrives, its warmer mornings draw my goals for seed starting and prepping our garden beds for action.

The garden tour search team has been busy driving around, contacting candidate homeowners for both this year and potentials for next year. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the ad seller team is contacting advertisers to formalize their ads and in turn, the tour book team is building the pages to produce the tour book of which we are all so proud.

At this month's meeting we will be having local Master Gardener Tom Hanson speaking on rebuilding healthy soil after a fire, which should be dear to the hearts of all of us gardeners on the ridge. Please do not forget our March 15th field trip which Anne Pace has planned for us. We will visit Dawn Gardens in Nevada City where we will tour the grounds followed by a no host lunch at one of the local venues. We will as usual meet in the morning at the Ace Hardware on Clark road and carpool from there. Make the most of your beautiful days and go out into your gardens and enjoy this awesome weather that we are so lucky to have.

T3



PGCI General Meeting, March 10 at 1:00 p.m.

Rebuilding Soil Health After a Fire

Presenter: Tom Hansen, Master Gardener

Tom is a Paradise resident who rebuilt after the Camp Fire. He will be talking about rebuilding soil health post fire. Topics addressed will be erosion control, incorporating compost, adding microbes, reseeding and mulching. Plus much more. We look forward to a lively discussion.

Please join us and your welcome to invite a friend.

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A note from
our Vice President, Anne

Our annual garden tour is coming soon and if you have plants you'd like to pot up and bring to sell, we would love to have them. Transplants from your yard or containers you have put together would be greatly appreciated. The color bowls from last year were a hit, however, not all that we put together at the April 2024 meeting survived. Thus, we're not doing it again this year as a group, but if you have a desire to put some together, I'm sure they would sell. Please remember the pots must be cleaned or new.



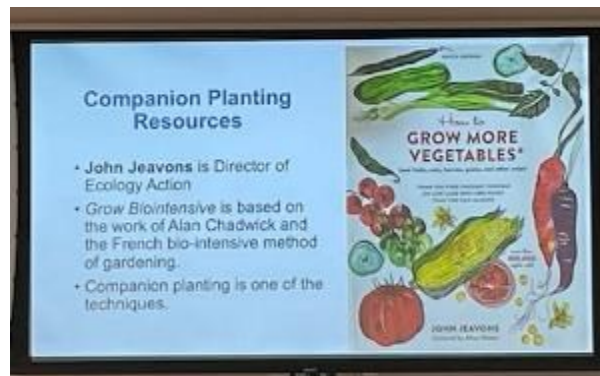
Pot cleaning instructions on page 4.



A big thank you to Joyce Hill, our February speaker. She gave us simple ways to



practice companion planting and helped us understand the positive effects on insects and pollinators as well as deterring unwanted pests. She motivated us to focus on the gardening potential of symbiotic relationships between vegetable, herb and flower combinations. Let's have fun implementing these practices in our 2025 gardens.



**Joyce's shared her entire presentation with us through Anne P. available via email upon your request.*



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 General Meeting, March 10th at 1:00 p.m. Rebuilding Soil Health After a Fire
Presenter – Tom Hansen, Master Gardener

Tom Hansen graduated from CSU Chico with a degree in Agriculture, specializing in tree and vine crops. He has been a Master Gardener since 2010 and has led many workshops on year-round fruit tree care, berries and grapes, and native bees. Tom is a Paradise resident who rebuilt after the Camp Fire. He will be talking about rebuilding soil health after a fire.

Post-Fire Soil Recovery

Wildfires can damage soil, increasing the risk of erosion and nutrient depletion. This workshop will cover steps you can take to bring your soil back to life, including erosion control, incorporating compost, adding microbes, reseeding, and mulching.

MARCH FIELD TRIP ~ Dawn Gardens, Grass Valley (*See page 2 for details.*)

Date: March 15, 2025, Time: 9am – 4pm (meet at Ace Hardware to ride share)

We'll also find a place for lunch and if there's time, we can add a visit to the gardens at Empire Mine State Historic Park for those who missed our field trip in October 2023.

PGCI General Meeting, April 14th at 1:00 p.m. Loving Plants with Less Water

Presenter – Chris Hunter, Owner of Magnolia Gift and Garden and The Plant Barn

Chris will share tips for success for waterwise gardening with natives and southwestern plants and more. He will also be bringing several plants to sell.

April 26th & 27th, 2025

Gold Nugget Days 2025

June 7 & 8 Paradise Garden Tour

Time to get ready!

March history bits . . .



March became the third month when January and February—which were added to the end of the Roman calendar around 700 BCE—instead became the first and second months around 450 BCE.

*I Martius am! Once first, and now third!
To lead the Year was my appointed place;
A mortal dispossessed me by a word,
And set there Janus with the double face.*
-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American poet (1807-82)

Beautification Team Report

At the end of January, the Beautification Team did such a good clean up there was no need to go out in cold, rainy February. So, it was a quiet month for us worker bees. What a picture of blooms all over each of the Beautification spots around town! On pages 11-13 in this March newsletter, you will see that Joyce took beautiful photos that you will all enjoy. And when you drive about town, enjoy the fresh bouquets that nature has provided.

You are welcome to join us in March. Contact me. We appreciate every gardening hand.

Jennie



Cleaning Pots



Steps to disinfect pots and other plant containers:

1. Use a brush or cloth to remove loose bits of soil residue.
2. Wash pots in dish soap or detergent and rinse clean.
3. Solution for soaking pots:
 - First protect your skin & clothing from the bleach.
 - Avoid splashing bleach, by putting the water in first, then add the bleach. *Use this solution within two hours of making it.
 - One part household bleach to nine parts water.
 - SOAK pots & other containers for at least ten minutes and rinse well.

I used a leak proof wheel barrow to soak many pots at once. Make sure the pots stay separate. This task can be fun. If you're outside, listen to birdsong. If you're inside listen to an audio book or just whistle as you work. Kudos if you can whistle.

Gardening For Wildlife

Linda Goddard

Convert An Empty Lot To A Wildlife Habitat - Part 4

The Importance of Streams in Wildlife Habitats

One of the more challenging projects in converting my property to a wildlife habitat is cleaning the stream of debris, Himalayan Blackberries and English Ivy.

Streams play a crucial role in supporting wildlife habitats. They are not merely channels of flowing water; they are vibrant ecosystems that provide essential resources for various plants and animals.

A critical function of streams is supplying freshwater. Water is vital for the survival of every species, from fish and frogs to birds and mammals.

Many animals depend on streams for drinking water and hydration, while aquatic species use it as their primary home.

Streams create microhabitats that support a range of organisms, for instance, the shallow edges of streams provide breeding grounds for fish and nesting sites for



BEFORE

birds while offering shelter for smaller creatures from predators.

Streams contribute to climate regulation by influencing local microclimates.

The presence of water can moderate temperatures in surrounding areas and support various habitats. Vegetation



AFTER

along streams also helps to reduce erosion and maintain soil quality, further supporting healthy ecosystems.





PARADISE GARDEN CLUB February 10, 2025 Board Minutes

Meeting commenced at 11:30

Present: Todd Hummel, Cheryl Habriel, Margaret Hawe, Jeudie Lovell, Anne Pace, guests Wendy Wicklund and Tee Bower.



The minutes from the January meetings were approved.

Treasurer's report – See attached report for details.

Membership – still seeking a replacement for Margaret. Tee Bower might be willing to man the table, and Margaret will do the computer entries.

Beautification – Jeudie reports that weather has curtailed most work however most areas are looking good.

Scholarships – Cheryl has not heard back from Butte and will follow up again.

Event Discussions - Cheryl will check with PRPD, who does not handle Gold Nugget Days, the Chamber of Commerce does. Todd will check with them for 501(c) discounts. The board decided not to secure a booth for the Chocolate Fest but perhaps having a member that attends hand out fliers.

Website – Todd has signed a contract with professional web designer. The initial fee is \$1500.

Garden of the Month – the General Membership will be polled to see if we want to continue this activity.

Garden Tour 2025 – Cheryl reported we have 3 teams in position – Tour Yard Selection: Joyce Hummel, Linda Goddard, Anne Pace, Wendy Wicklund and Linda Marcus. Advertising: Margaret Hawe and Jeudie Lovell. Tour Book: Nancy Howe and Linda Goddard.

Next month's program will be Tom Hansen, Master Gardener on *Rebuilding Healthy Soil*.

A March field trip is to Dawn Gardens in Grass Valley on the 15th. Meet at Ace Hardware at 9AM.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary





Paradise Garden Club, Inc. General Meeting February 10, 2025

Meeting Commenced at 1:05 PM

Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance – Todd Hummel, President

Penny Pines – Joanie Ellison gave an overview of Penny Pines.

Speaker Joyce Hill, Master Gardener, gave an informative talk on *Companion Planting*

Break

Treasurer's report – See back table for details.

Beautification – Jeudie weather has curtailed most work however most areas are looking good.

Website – Todd has signed a contract with professional web designer.

Garden of the Month – the General Membership was polled regarding continuing this activity and the answer was "yes."

Garden Tour 2025 – Cheryl reminded the Membership of the dates for this year's Tour (June 7&8) and asked for anyone willing to donate for the boutique.

Next month's program will be Tom Hansen, Master Gardener on *Rebuilding Healthy Soil*.

A March field trip is to Dawn Gardens in Grass Valley on the 15th. Meet at Ace Hardware at 9AM.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.



Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary

**LOOK FOR THE PASH
DONATIONS CAN.**

Remember: Bring your
cans & bottles to
Northern Recycling. You
can donate a portion of
your proceeds to PASH.



"Allie" photo by best friend
Ellen Michels



"Addie" photo by best friend
Cheryl Habriel



Cans for cats & canines <https://www.pashcares.org/>



A Garden Vision

by National Garden Club writer

At the beginning of each year, I sit down and ask myself four big questions:

- What do I wish to have?
- What do I wish to do?
- What do I wish to be?
- What do I wish to give?

I write these in ink and pin it to my wall within clear site from my desk. This becomes my vision board for the new year, and I take it very seriously because 90% of the time, my vision becomes reality. Call it the Law of Attraction or Reticular Activation or whatever suits you. The end results are the same. Where focus goes, energy flows. Without fail, every year I add "a beautiful, sustainable and productive garden."

Trouble is, until recently, I never gave it more focus than that, so my vision was only partially successful. This year, I posed a more specific question. I asked the same questions above but targeted them specifically to my garden with a laser focus.



In other words:

- What do I wish my garden to have?
- What do I wish my garden to do?
- What do I wish my garden to be?
- What do I wish my garden to give?

From this starting point, I gained more clarity about my garden vision. In many ways, these are the same questions that a professional landscaper or garden designer will pose to his or her clients. By the way, this also makes a very fun exercise to do at your next garden club meeting.

HAVE

Most avid garden enthusiasts wish to have space in their garden landscape for themselves, recreational space for gatherings and fun with others, productive space for growing food, and natural space for beauty, privacy, energy efficiency, and wildlife habitat. Since priorities change with time, the manifestation of each of these spaces may also change. For example, garden enthusiasts with young children may wish to have more space for fun and food and less space for wildlife. This usually changes as we get older, and many empty nesters may prefer more space for wildlife and beauty. Retirees often crave space for growing food and watching wildlife. In this way, we have changed as we change.

Continued page 9

Once these fundamentals are explored and charted, the list of inclusions can begin. Recreational space may become a lawn or a low grow area. It can also be a tree swing or a fire pit area. Food production may include garden beds, vegetable boxes, a potted herb collection, or a mini orchard of fruit trees. Wildlife space can overlap as a privacy buffer which doubles as shelter, nesting and food space for birds and other creatures. This space may incorporate quiet sitting spaces for you to read or enjoy the beauty of your surroundings. It may also include a water feature, a bird feeder, bird houses, and a hidden space for your leaves or compost.

DO

Since gardens are living systems of things, what they do and what you want them to do can be a very deep question. The more we study gardening, the more we understand that holistic gardens feed, water, shelter, protect, beautify, engage, enrich, educate, and enchant all life within and around them. Therefore, asking what we want our garden to do may result in a longer list than what we want it to have. The average backyard gardener may only ask their garden to give them food and beauty, but the holistic gardener may want much more. If you take this approach, you may wish to add items to your list like capturing carbon, reducing your electric and water bills, mitigate flooding, feed your household and a neighbor or two, feed the birds and host the butterflies and moths, invite passersby to stop and smell the roses. A beautiful, holistic garden does more than just impress. It connects. From this area on your Vision Map, you may determine that you wish to enhance your HAVE list to include the things that will serve the DO list. Perhaps a water collector will reduce your watering bill. A rain garden and a large, well-placed tree may mitigate flooding.

BE

Even though beauty is in the eye of the beholder, almost 100% of us want our garden to be beautiful. If this is your top priority, I would strongly suggest you apply beauty to every aspect of your list. In other words, a functional, productive vegetable garden can also be beautiful if organized in a tidy fashion. A compost area can be beautiful if built to maximize an organized look.

One way to discover your BE list of items is to close your eyes and envision your dream garden. What does it look like, feel like, smell like? What can you do there? Is it all work or all play? Does it enchant you? For the naturalists reading this, your dream garden may include concepts of environmental stewardship. If so, your BE list may include words like eco-friendly, sustainable, low maintenance. The educators reading this may wish to list terms like bee friendly, bird-friendly, educational, and welcoming. From this list, you may wish to add labels to your plants so visitors (and you) can learn their botanical names.

GIVE

Of all the questions on the list, this one is perhaps the most important component in connecting to your vision. Most of us love to garden, love to visit pretty gardens, and love to learn about gardening, but very few of us are clear about why we garden. Is it really just a fun hobby? Is it an easy way to get some time outdoors? Is it a form of exercise? Is it simply to create a beautiful accessory to a nice home? While there is nothing wrong with saying yes to any of these questions, I would hazard a guess that if you gave it more consideration, your answers may surprise you. The fact that you are reading this article practically proves it. From a garden designer's perspective, a garden should give more than it takes from you. It should give you feelings of security and serenity. It should give you hours of enchantment and hopefully teach you about the natural world. We can learn so much from being in a garden if we take the time to stop working in the garden long enough to allow it to be our teacher. From this perspective, our garden can give us life lessons, better health, more happiness, a sense of connection to creation, and, if we are truly lucky, a deeper appreciation of what it means to be alive.

With these thoughts in mind, I would encourage you to take out your pencil and a piece of paper. Gift yourself at least a half hour and pose the questions that will help you create a vision of the garden you wish to manifest.

Happy Dreaming!

National Garden Club Blog, January 14, 2025

<https://gardenclub.org/national-gardener>

March history bits . . .

Vernal or spring equinox are the two times each year (as about March 21 and September 23) when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are everywhere on earth with approximately equal length, receiving roughly the same amount of sunlight since neither hemisphere is tilted more toward or away from the sun.



St. Patrick was born in Kilpatrick, Scotland to a family of Roman descent. His birth name was Maewyn Succat. At 16, he was kidnapped from his family villa by Irish raiders and sold into slavery. Around the beginning of the 3rd century, he spent six years in the West of Ireland herding sheep and during this difficult time, he turned to his faith for comfort. He escaped captivity and returned to his family home, yet later returned to Ireland to bring the people love. First met with hostility, but he persevered; love won. Thus the Saint Patty's Day celebrations throughout history.







The three pages you've just enjoyed are photographic daffodil joy that our Paradise Garden Club has planted throughout pre and post fire years. Joyce Hummel went about town and photographed these jubilant areas. Thank you for sharing, Joyce!



Contemplate



Photo & Haiku by Nancy Howe

A quiet applause
Trees give to the wind and sky
And flowers to earth.

