



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



Welcome back gardeners.

Having taken the month of August off after all the hard work to put on our yearly garden tour, we are back at it again.

August has been a long hot one, mercilessly wilting our plants with its strong sun and barely cooling off in the evening. But all is not woe, given enough water, plants are thriving in the life-giving sun, except for a dogwood in our yard which does not fare well. The fruit trees have borne their abundance and fruit pies were made and enjoyed.

At the next meeting we will be asking members to form teams for the next tour starting with the home finding tour. Our core members are dialed in and are amazingly competent at all the aspects of producing the yearly tour. This makes for a lot less work for newer members on the teams.

This month's meeting will be on September 8 at 1pm at Terry Ashe Recreation Center as usual and Anne has scheduled Karen Cullen of the American Iris Society Region 14 to speak to us. Karen's topic will be "All Things Iris!" which will be a comprehensive talk for all those hoping to master Iris care.

Thank You T3

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

All Things Iris Presenter: Carol Cullen, American Iris Society Region 14

Carol's presentation will include types of irises along with dividing, planting and more. Questions are encouraged.

This is a plant share month so please bring a plant, cutting, or seeds to share.

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Beautification Team Report

Our beautiful warm summer weather is upon us. It lets us know there is much to do in our own gardens. The beautification team has been keeping up with the needs of our beloved club gardens as well.

At **Foster Triangle** we pulled out the dead poppies. They had thrown all their seeds for the season, and the plants will show up in the spring with beautiful new growth. There was clean up, deadheading and the usual weeds. We cut back the overgrown mint. It left a good area with nice soil, so we planted 4 Lantanas from Deja Vu Gardens and gave them organic fertilizer. We also took out a bunch of old seed pods.

Monument Square received our attention by cutting back plants and removing weeds. The water system continues to be a problem. Todd will repair or replace the controls.

At the **Library Mound** we thinned out the big grasses as well as the usual weeds and sweet peas that are so stubbornly successful.

Elliott Triangle saw us remove the remains of daffodils, deadheading, weeding and the usual sweet peas.

There was a quick stop at the **PID Demonstration Garden** where we pulled weeds and cut back branches from a tree in the walkway.

We dedicated one of our Thursdays to help our member **Carrie Max**. She is opening a business, **Paradise Reflections**, that will showcase amazing original gifts from the town of Paradise, in the small building in the parking lot of True Value store. Todd, David Schmidt and others removed over thirty-five-gallon buckets of gravel in an area she wanted to beautify with plants. **Her Grand Opening will be September 11th.**

In August we took a break. September will see us once again out in the town taking care of the business of gardening. Interested? You are always welcome to join us. I am in the club roster, call me for times and locations.

Jendie

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.) ***Bring your own beverage.***

PGCI General Meeting, September 8th at 1:00 p.m. All Things Iris

Presenter: Carol Cullen, American Iris Society Region 14

Carol's presentation will include types of irises along with dividing, planting and more. Questions are encouraged.

PGCI General Meeting, October 13th at 1:00 p.m. *Weed Identification and Management*

Presenter: Phil Filbrandt, Butte County Master Gardener

This workshop explores the nature of weeds, and why it's important to correctly identify which weeds you are battling. Phil will offer tools to help with this, including a hands-on practicum. Primary strategies for weed control are Integrated Pest Management methods. We'll have a quick primer on chemical controls, for when they are needed as a last resort.

PGCI General Meeting, November 17th at 1:00 p.m. *Irrigation*

Presenter: Dave Duncan, Butte County Master Gardener

Drip irrigation is arguably the most efficient method of providing water to trees, crops, gardens, and landscapes. The surface drip irrigation system emitter was first developed in Israel, where the dry climate makes water conservation a necessity. This workshop will provide an overview of different options available for drip irrigation systems and how to install them. You will also learn how to troubleshoot and inspect your system, and how to make repairs when needed.

***Please note the date change. Once again, Terry Ashe Rec Center will be closed on Monday, November 10th for the Veteran's Day holiday so our meeting will be the following Monday, the third Monday of the month.**

PGCI General Meeting, December 8th at 1:00 p.m. PGCI Member Panel and Holiday Celebration

Our own garden club members will share their individual and collective expertise in a variety of areas including tool maintenance, native plants in the garden and more. Bring your questions and your expertise. We all have something to share!

Meeting commenced at 11:30 AM Present: Todd Hummel, Cheryl Habriel, Margaret Hawe, Jeudie Lovell, Anne Pace, guest Wendy Wicklund.
The minutes from the June meetings approved.

Treasurer's report – See attached report for details.

Beautification – Jeudie reports that the team tended Foster Triangle along with the PID Demonstration Garden.

Scholarships – Cheryl reported that Tristan Bosch from Butte College said there are two recipients this year. One will be for \$1000 and one for \$500 (this student is receiving several other scholarships).

Board Positions – we need a second vice president.

2025 Garden Tour Numbers

Ticket sales - \$3,880

Advertising - \$1625

Plant sale - \$1,236

Raffle - \$674

Boutique - \$493

Donations - \$30

Total - \$5,161

Upcoming Activities

Special planting at Animal Shelter

No meeting in August

Meeting adjourned at 12:30

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary

PARADISE GARDEN CLUB

July 14, 2025 General Meeting

Meeting commenced at 1PM

Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance – Todd Hummel

Penny Pines

Business Meeting

Treasurer's report – see attached report.

Beautification: Jeudie reports that the team tended Foster Triangle along with the PID Demonstration Garden.

Today's Speaker – Kathleen Elliott, Master Gardener – Healing Gardens

Upcoming Activities

No meeting in August

Need a volunteer for September Garden of the Month

Check the new photo roster.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary

Getting to know you . . .

Nine-year-old Carrie Max moved to Paradise with her parents and her two younger brothers after her parents visited the area and decided to make it their home. They bought property on Bille, near Pentz, with a condemned building on it they learned had been a stage stop in the 1800's. They renovated and made it a retail business, naming it the "Stage Stop" to honor its local history. Community classes, like tole painting were available there and it also served as the Paradise Post Office substation. At ten years old, Carrie worked the register. A hard work ethic, relational and creative skills were a natural part of her experience.



In her teen years, her parents opened the Wildwood Restaurant on Skyway, (now Cozy Diner), turning another old building into a viable business while maintaining its high ceilings and historic ambience. Mom, Thea, made everybody's uniform. Carrie bussed tables as people dined, and live bands played. A bay area chef came up on the weekends to create culinary delights. This was a bustling place where locals connected for great food, fun, and conversation.

As a high school graduate, Carrie and her dad bought and worked at the Brunch House diner, next to Wildwood Restaurant, while her mom worked at the post office to get both family health insurance and a retirement plan.

Like most of us, her original homestead was lost in the 2018 fire, along with most of the gardens created by her mom. Yet, the resilient roots of many plants came back like Carrie did.

Carrie thrives with her family of critters, plants, creations, and a flow of visiting friends. Her new home just finished this year.



"Bees, birds & dogs drink out of the blue fountain by the chair all at the same time."



Now Carrie brings this rich legacy of creativity, connective outreach, and service to our town through her new business, **Paradise Reflections**. It opens the evening of September 11, from 5:30 to 7:30. Thereafter the hours will be 8:00-2:00. Where? In the True Value parking lot on Skyway, just up from Meehos.

Paradise Reflections will be a combination of old and new creations made by Paradise people available for purchase; that part of the business is consignment. Carrie's own creations will be available for sale too. (Displayed in these photos.)

Carrie also hopes to bring people together who want to barter. Example: Someone needs a fence built, someone else may need housecleaning services. Carrie will connect them.

This building was originally Kodak Film Developing, then it was a coffee place. Like her parents, Carrie is taking an old place & bringing life and connectivity into it.

The PGCI Beautification Team did wonderful work installing and planting the garden in front of her shop in addition to other preparatory work.

The shelves displaying products were milled from Paradise trees by a local man.



Donuts, sandwiches, and drinks will be delivered by local businesses fresh, daily. Little refrigerators are ready for these items. When you stop in, you can nibble & sip as you browse.

Stop by **Paradise Reflections** to say hi. You might find the perfect gift, Paradise history, and a new friend.



"I have paid rent for three and a half years for this little place because I have been wanting to rent it since I was a young lady! I called and called and called and called until they let it be mine!"



2026 Garden Tour Preparations Update

In response to a club wide email invitation, several members met at Cheryl's house to brainstorm ideas for items to sell at the 2026 plant sale and boutique stations. Here are very condensed notes from the two meetings. More details in our October newsletter. When the next meeting is scheduled, the date will be emailed to you. Text Cheryl if you can do some of the things below. Most products provided. (If you have your own paint & brushes for home use, great.)

1. Workers needed to turn out & iron various sewn projects such as cat mint sachets, cloth English cozies, cloth wallets.
2. Workers needed to stuff lavender sachets.
3. Workers needed to make smudge sticks of white sage & lavender.
4. Sew garden aprons, paint stepping stones, paint small rock art
5. Be a Boutique Station Keeper next June.

Golden Gardens



July-August 2025

NATIVE PLANTS

DR. HURD MANZANITA

Arctostaphylos manzanita 'Dr. Hurd'

By Rhonda DesVoignes, Member of Folsom Garden Club



Photo source:

<https://www.smgrowers.com>

The Dr. Hurd Manzanita was discovered in 1972 by John Coulter of the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation, growing in the Portola Valley garden of Dr. Cuthbert Hurd, and named after him. It is thought the plant originated in the 1950s as a seedling at the Louis Edmonds Native Plant Nursery (long since closed) in Danville. This was the time the original garden was planted by the first owner of the home in Portola Valley.

Facts about the Dr. Hurd Manzanita:

- A California native plant for zones 8-10, which is very beneficial to pollinators and birds.
- Full sun, good drainage.
- Grows 10-15 feet tall and wide.
- Makes a nice structural focal point in the garden and can be pruned in late summer to show off the twisty red branches.
- Has dark mahogany red bark, which contrasts beautifully with the light green glossy foliage.
- Gets large clusters of white bell-shaped flowers between January and March, followed by red berries.
- Hummingbirds and bees love the flowers during winter, and many animals eat the berries in the summer and fall.
- Native Americans used the leaves and berries to treat stomach ailments and make a poultice for poison oak.
- Good companion plants to grow with "Dr. Hurd" are Toyon, Sage, and Monkey Flowers.

There has been a renewed interest in growing California native plants, and my local nursery is planning to grow and supply more.



Frogfruit

by Dr. Patrick McMillan



Frogfruit

The most versatile groundcover
you've never grown

Two decades ago, in the native plant community, we were just beginning to understand the magic of managing our landscapes with the living mulch of groundcovers.

The goal is to fill all the space you have with living, flowering, and fruiting plants that, in turn, provide the much-needed food for all the bees, butterflies, and birds that we all want to adorn our garden space. I spent much of my career trying and abandoning many potential new recruits to my public garden spaces. The ideal groundcover would be one that is shallow rooted to allow for the interplanting of deeper-rooted bulbs and larger emergent perennials and one that would flower for an extended period, look good most of the year and grow in a variety of soil conditions. In all of my trials I come back consistently to the Frogfruit, specifically the Turkey Tangle Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*) as the top performer.

Though its common name may not be made for marketing, it is hard to forget. This creeping plant grows extremely fast, forming a matted network of stems with small opposite leaves and adorned with tiny clusters of light pink or lavender flowers that, when examined up close look for all the world like a miniature lantana (and they are related). The leaves are evergreen in zones 8b and warmer, turning a dark purplish coloration during the winter, but they are fully hardy in zone 7, and I've been growing them for years now in the mountains of North Carolina in what is a borderline zone 6b. Naturally, these plants can be found growing on seashores, ditches, wet roadsides, and brackish marshes in a broad swath across the lower half of the US from Pennsylvania to Oregon with scattered inland locations in places like Kentucky and Kansas. It is also to be found growing wild on 6 of the 7 continents!

The best trait of Frogfruit is that if you have a warm to hot sunny spot, it will grow there. I've used it in places that regularly flood, on banks of sandy soil, on dry, heavily eroded clay banks, and I've yet to find a spot where it doesn't thrive. The drier the site, the lower the stature of the plant and the less rapidly it will grow. In every application, it has proven

Continued next page

to dramatically reduce the need for weeding, and perhaps best of all, it begins flowering in April and continues through November! If you live in the Deep South, it may flower all 12 months of the year. It is also a smorgasbord for pollinators.

The flowers are favored by Skipper butterflies, particularly the smaller species, and there is an all-day-long collection of hundreds on our patch every day. In addition, small flies, native bees, sweat bees and tiny wasps are fond of their constantly produced flowers.

Try planting bulbs such as Daffodil, Magic Lilies (Lycoris), and Spider Lilies (Hymenocallis) in your Frogfruit patch, and taller plants such as Iris, shrubs, and Hibiscus mix nicely with it. Frogfruit is a rapid grower that is easily trimmed back from walkways and areas you'd rather not get turkey-tangled. I'd much rather spend time edging than weeding! If you haven't heard of it, seek it out and give it a try—the Skipper butterflies will thank you!

This article was written by Dr. Patrick McMillan.

An NGC 2019 Award of Excellence Winner, Patrick is well-known in the horticultural, taxonomic, and conservation circles. For over 30 years, he has worked as a professional botanist, horticulturist, naturalist, biologist, educator, and author. He has added hundreds of new species and cultivars to the horticultural world. He won an Emmy Award as host, co-creator, and writer of the ETV nature program Expeditions with Patrick McMillan.



Gardeners, I looked it up. This plant thrives in zones 7 to 11. Have you tried it? Something nice to cover the ground instead of tangle vine, vetch and thistles... and invites pollinators. Yay!

Contemplate



Around us, chatter
Blossoms stretch petals
And colors sing joy.

Holly Hock in Carrie's garden. Photo & haiku by Nancy Howe.