



Newsletter of the Paradise Garden Club, Paradise CA [newsletter@paradisegardenclub.org](mailto:newsletter@paradisegardenclub.org) [ParadiseGardenClub.org](http://ParadiseGardenClub.org)

## The Prez Sez

Our annual June garden tour was an exciting, successful and enjoyable event with lots of new and innovative ideas which showcased the efforts and gifts of those in our ridge community.



In the first of hopefully many, this year's collaboration with the Paradise Symphony and the Paradise Art Center was a great success. Having artists and musicians creating, entertaining, and interacting at the homes added a whole new level of enjoyment to the tour.

The home landscapes we showcased were excellent examples of firesafe and waterwise designs for our community to draw upon for ideas at their own homes.

The Firesafe Council shared information booths at the plant sale and at the home of Sandy Miller. Sandy received an award from the council for her home's exceptional fire safe considerations. Congratulations Sandy!

The plant sale with plants donated by club and community members, and of course literally truckloads of plants cultivated by students in the Butte College Horticulture Department, did brisk business as word of our fair prices has been spread, and there are a lot in our community who came out to support us.

Our efforts garnered the funding to offer scholarships to select Butte College Horticulture students and Master Gardener students. Please note the Master Gardeners program is currently accepting applications for classes beginning January 2024. Even without a scholarship, the Master Gardener four-month course is a reasonable cost.

A big thank you to PGC members and homeowners who worked so hard to make this event successful. Now, let us kick back and take a well-deserved breather and enjoy our own gardens and yards as we head into the long days of sunshine and the heat of July. Please get out there and enjoy yourselves and the fruits of your labors.

*Todd*

### **PGCI General Meeting, July 10 at 1:00 p.m.**

#### **Come celebrate the installation of our 2023-2024 Board of Directors.**

Bring your favorite sweet or savory nibble to share, and/or a bouquet of whatever you've got growing, and/or a plant or cutting to share at the plant table. Let's enjoy!  
(Remember: NO MEETING IN AUGUST)



## Beautification Team Report



In between all the work for the Garden Tour the Beautification Team has made the time to keep our four gardens around Paradise looking lovely.

At the Foster triangle our efforts to thwart the voles with mint worked well. As mint does, it spread quickly over a large area, so we set to work removing some of it as well as removing some of the spreading clover. That made room for pretty dianthus and other flowering plants. The old Red Bud got a much-needed pruning. As of this date we have not seen any vole damage. After over a year of vole infestation and damage to our plants, that's welcome news!

Our time at the Elliott triangle involves the usual weeding and pulling the ever-invasive sweet peas. Applying mulch has cut down on the growth of the weeds and will improve moisture retention in the coming summer heat. It is a wide area that has taken our careful attention when applying the mulch around so many plants.

The Library Mound is awash in Shasta daisies. I hope everyone can stop by and enjoy the beauty.

The monument area on Clark at Elliott suffered when it went without water due to a system failure. It is improving now with our loving attention.

*Judie*



Less than a year ago, Sandy stood on a pile of rocks that were once hiding in the ground of her yard, then had them strategically placed throughout her garden. Here are a few glances as to what's in the pages ahead. Keep reading.



## Upcoming Events

**Monday, July 10 from 1:00-3:00** Paradise Garden Club, Inc. monthly meeting. We will have our 2023-2024 Installation of Officers, a medley of sweet and savory nibbles—bring your favorite finger food. Or, bring a bouquet from your garden for all to enjoy during our meeting. Also, remember the plant table, bring a cutting or plant to share. It'll be fun see & share summer offerings.

**PGCI does not meet in August.** Enjoy your vacations, gardens, family and friends.

**Monday, September 11 from 1:00-3:00** PGCI resumes monthly meetings at Terry Ashe Park.

UC Master Gardeners of Butte County **Hotline is now open for help** with your yard and garden problems. Hours: Tuesday 9am-12pm and Thursday 1-4pm  
**Call** at 530-538-7201 **Email** questions to [mgbutte@ucanr.edu](mailto:mgbutte@ucanr.edu).

**The Master Gardener Program** is recruiting for the class of 2024. Applications will be posted at <https://ucanr.edu/sites/bcmg/about/join-us> in June. Deadline to apply is September 30th. They accept 35 trainees every two years. Training is for 4 1/2 hours a week, for 19 weeks, and goes from January – May. There is a \$200 fee for the training materials. PGCI will sponsor at least one PGCI member to go through the training.

Master Gardener 2023 Spring Workshops have concluded. Check back in August to be the first to know about their fresh batch of interesting and informative topics available in the Fall!

**Party in the Park Music & Marketplace 2023**  
Wednesdays, June 14-August 2, 6:30—8:30p.m.  
Paradise Community Park, 5570 Black Olive Drive

**Magalia Farmer's Market Mobile** **Sundays**, 10:00—1:00 Magalia Community Center (parking lot)  
Corner of Andover and South Park Drive, just off the Skyway

**Chico Farmer's Market** **Wednesdays** North Valley Plaza Mall Parking Lot Pillsbury Road adjacent to Trader Joe's YEAR ROUND, RAIN or SHINE 7:30am – 12pm

**Chico Farmers Market** **Saturdays** Downtown Chico Municipal Parking Lot 2nd St. & Wall St.  
YEAR ROUND, RAIN or SHINE 7:30am – 1pm

**Johnny Appleseed Days** at Terry Ashe Park, Paradise  
Saturday, October 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday, October 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Butte Rose Society's 2023 Annual Rose Show & Festival of Roses**  
Saturday, October 28

**Coming Soon!**





# Gardening For Wildlife

Linda Goddard

## Beneficial Snakes

Several snake species can be found in Paradise, including both beneficial and non-beneficial ones. Here are 3 examples of safe and beneficial snakes commonly found here:



**California Kingsnake** (*Lampropeltis getula californiae*): Kingsnakes are non-venomous and are known for their ability to control rodent populations by preying on mice, rats, and other small mammals.

**Gopher Snake** (*Pituophis catenifer*): Gopher snakes are constrictors that feed on rodents, gophers, ground squirrels, and other small animals. They can help control populations of these pests.



**Common Sharp-tailed Snake** (*Contia tenuis*): Common Sharp-tailed Snakes primarily feed on slugs, snails, and small invertebrates. They are secretive and usually burrow or hide under objects during the day.

### To attract beneficial snakes to your property or garden, you can create a snake-friendly habitat by following these suggestions:

**Provide shelter:** Incorporate piles of rocks, logs, or brush piles in your garden, as these can provide hiding spots and shelter for snakes.

**Create a water source:** If possible, include a small pond or a shallow water dish to attract snakes and provide them with a water source.

**Avoid using harmful chemicals:** Minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides on your property, as these can negatively affect snakes and their prey.

**Maintain a diverse ecosystem:** Create a diverse and balanced ecosystem with a variety of plants, which will attract a range of prey species and, in turn, draw in beneficial snakes.

**Avoid over-tidying:** Allow some areas of your property to remain a bit wild. Snakes prefer areas with cover and ample prey, so avoid excessive clearing or mowing.

**It's important to note that while these tips may attract beneficial snakes, it's crucial to prioritize safety. Educate yourself and others about the local snake species, their habits, and the precautions to take to minimize encounters and potential conflicts.**



## 2023 PGCi Garden Tour & Plant Sale



Wowzers, we did it! Thanks to the Paradise Irrigation District, we once again had use of their parking lot for the two days of the tour as the hub for our plant sale. Joanie and Todd waved welcome to passersby. Plants were purchased, tour books sold, garden club workers helped attendees with plant selection, and delivery to their vehicles. Plants make people happy. A lot of smiles and continuous hard work made the 2023 Garden Tour and Plant Sale a huge success. This year was the first post fire tour to have six houses and two days to tour. The hub also included a benefit drawing and a boutique of various garden oriented treasures. A heartfelt thank you to each individual effort, planning and time, including non members who volunteered to help.



Months before these photos, coordinators planned, sales people reached out to local businesses to place ads in our tour book, tents, wagons, plants, were secured. Many signs and the ticket book were created, and collaborating musicians and artists were scheduled along with greeters at each home. Then the plants brought to the Habriels for volunteers to price and cart to the hub. All to celebrate and share gardening in Paradise with proceeds going toward scholarships for horticultural students.





# The Feher Garden



Steve & Elisabeth rebuilt their home and gardens during the 2022 summer. Already replacing many fruit trees, plans are to continuing adding more. The garden thrives on the homemade inoculated biochar that Steve blends together. Elisabeth tends the garden and offered to share cuttings with visitors. Paths curve through mazes of plants, and there's even a visiting Heather through the roses.



Steve experimented with three different soils, first: plain dirt, second: fertilizer added, third: fertilizer and inoculated biochar added. The pepper plants below show what a difference biochar makes. Truly a working gardener's garden. Love and joy in every nook and cranny, whilst wildlife seeks out spots of wildness for shelter and sustenance through the blooms and water features.



# The Howe Garden



A year and a half before the fire, Margaret and Duane replaced the front lawn with fire wise hardscape textures of rock, various gravels and cement edgings surrounding native, drought tolerant and pollinator plants with multi-seasonal blooms that survived the fire. Their house was lost in the fire and they rebuilt. A lot of hard work went into the clean up, nurturing and expanding this magical flora. Paths thread through whimsical gnomes, fairy gardens and even a bicycle relic.



Brilliant contrasting colors welcome pollinator insects and birds. A bubbling water feature is a welcome respite to lizards, frogs, insects and birds, as well as being natural music to our ears. A thriving backyard food garden has vegetables, berries, fruit trees and grapes. As Margaret prunes and plants, she and Duane plan ways to continue their garden adventure.





# The Barnard Garden



Owner-builders of their post fire home, Melissa and David hired a landscaper to help them design and place their front yard. You will note the deer and drought tolerant, low maintenance and pollinator friendly plants. Throughout, the contrasts of color are earthy tones that compliment their home. The windows reflect the sky, which adds to the harmony.



Rock and gravel outline distinctions for paths and plantings along with a variety of mulches, and gravels. Hummingbirds, butterflies and lizards in attendance prove this landscape fulfills the original plan. Future plans include side and backyard landscaping and a food garden.





# The Miller Garden



Sandy received the first ever Fire Safe Council House Award. Her builder used Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF). He was onsite to share information. The garden proves the theme, fire safe & drought tolerant.





# The Slocum Garden



The Slocums moved to their Paradise home in 2000 and worked to redesign the yard to be drought tolerant with new plantings and a drip system completed in 2017. Only a few trees remained after the 2018 Camp Fire. A Japanese maple, totally burned, came back one leaf at a time, now a triumphant bush.



In 2021 a landscaper built the deer and drought tolerant, low maintenance yard that includes the varieties of vivid colors and textures of hardscape and flora seen here. The rocks extend the hardy character. Note the lovingly planted flowers on the edge of the canyon. The canyon view joins the harmony and serenity of this garden.



# The Hartley Garden



Pam & Bill started with a strategic, well drawn out plan incorporating fire safe, deer and drought tolerant planting and landscape materials for their 3.5 acreage. A drip system hidden under the mulch takes care of the hundreds of plants. Note the varied colors of rock, gravels and pathways that add distinction.



Many of the plants attract hummingbirds, songbirds, butterflies and bees. A 240 foot lavender labyrinth with 80 lavender plants inspires meditation. Calming pools lead toward a fenced in food garden. Plants surviving the 2018 fire group together; a monument to hardiness. Next, plans include a native garden.



# Minutes from last month

## **Paradise Garden Club. Inc. General Meeting June 12, 2023 Terry Ashe Recreation Center**

Nancy Howe called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. There were approximately 18 people attending. The meeting was a luncheon to thank all the homeowners that let their gardens be part of the tour this year.

### **Budget**

Margaret reported that the club has over \$31,000 in the budget. She also reported that the Garden Tour made over \$5,000 in profit.

### **Master Gardener Minute**

Ellen let everyone know about a recorded presentation on Milkweed and Monarchs that can be viewed on You Tube on the California Native Plant Society's channel. There was a question about where you can buy milkweed locally. It is available at Floral Native Nursery in Chico. The Master Gardeners also have some at Patrick Ranch that people can buy. Harvests and Habitats nursery in Chico might also carry it.

### **Garden Tour Recap**

There was a general discussion about how the Garden Tour went, and lots of ideas on what we could do next year. Everyone agreed that we need to have a map in the tour book next year.

Heather suggested we invite Butte College art students to be at the garden tour next year.

Joanie suggested we hide something at each garden and have people write it down and bring back to the Hub for a prize.

Someone suggested we should give bracelets to people who buy tour books, so they don't have to carry the books or go back to their cars when they forget them.

Sandy said the Paradise Symphony is going to put something about the Garden Club collaboration on the screen at their 4<sup>th</sup> of July concert.

Joanie said that one artist told her it would be better to have a group of artists painting together in a garden.

Someone suggested having the booths that were at the Hub, at the gardens instead.

There was a discussion about whether we should scale back to one day.

Homeowners reported there were equal numbers of visitors on both days.

There was a discussion about what we want the theme to be next year. Ideas included wildlife gardens, shade gardens, edible gardens, and cactus gardens.

There was agreement that we would like to see a variety of different gardens next year, not all one theme.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Michels, Recording Secretary



And the Silver Medal Goes to:

## MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES

By Dave Kollen, Pollinators Contributor

My previous article introduced the main groups of pollinators and went on to explain why bees are the most important pollinators. There are a few exceptions, such as the tiny flies that pollinate cacao flowers. Without those flies we wouldn't have the beans from which we make chocolate. Nevertheless, bees took the gold medal at the Pollinator Olympics.

After that article, a butterfly flew up and landed on my shoulder. It proceeded to complain, saying "Hey, what the heck, I'm important too ...," to which I replied, "Very much so, but where would you find nectar if it weren't for bees?" The somewhat miffed butterfly then shrugged its wings and flew away.



I think I was out in the backyard when that happened. Or maybe it was a dream? The old memory isn't what it used to be. Regardless, it's time to look more deeply into pollinator roles in our food webs. Not surprisingly, this ties in nicely with our pledge. Specifically, "so we may become caretakers of our . . . land and wildlife."

Our land is the substrate upon which our local food webs either flourish or flounder, with ourselves to a great extent determining which outcome we will have. Moths and butterflies, what biologists refer to as Lepidopterans (and a term I will use going forward), are a critical part of our food webs. Let's have a quick food web review and then see why Lepidopterans are so critical.

As we all know, everything starts with the sun. All the creatures in our food webs need to eat something, but only plants can "eat" sunlight. Why do we need pollinators? Well, 70% of the plant species on the planet require pollinators. Plants are the food for herbivores and this energy makes its way into the food web through them – stuff we learned in grade school. So, what's the big deal about Lepidopterans?



Studies have shown that caterpillars are the champions of transferring plant energy into the food web. For instance, a pair of chickadees might gather many thousands of caterpillars to get a single clutch prepared to leave the nest. Given the importance

of caterpillars, what can we do in our caretaker role to help and promote them?

We can do this by focusing on what are called keystone plants. Like the keystone in an archway, these plants help keep the local food web from crumbling. They support a diversity of pollinators, not just Lepidopterans. As Doug Tallamy advises, "focus on plants that support local moths and butterflies, and the pollinators that support those plants."



A list of keystone plants for our region can be found here (click on your region, e.g., Marine West Coast Forests): <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/keystone-plants-by-ecoregion>

WACONIAH, May 2023, Page 4, <https://www.californiagardenclubs.com/>

*WACONIAH is the newsletter of the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. It includes states: Washington, Arizona, California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Alaska, and Hawaii (Note the acronym includes the first two letters of each state.)*



# Create a Hummingbird Haven in Your Backyard

by Pat Neasbitt

Hummingbirds are some of nature's most beautiful and enjoyable creatures. The ruby throated hummingbird is usually the only one we see in Oklahoma, but there are as many as 15 varieties in the western United States. There are 330 species overall. Many spend the winter in Central America or Mexico and migrate north to their breeding grounds in the southern United States as early as February. The first arrivals in spring usually are males. Fewer than two dozen species venture in the United States and Canada and only a few species remain year-round. Only the ruby throated hummingbird nests east of the Mississippi.



Hummingbirds are attracted to red, tubular flowers like those of bee balm (Monarda)

There are things you can do to attract them to your yard. Hummingbirds need flowers for nectar and small insects for protein. They are attracted to gnats and small spiders; therefore, don't use insecticides in your yard if you want to have hummingbirds, butterflies, and birds. Variety in plantings is the key to having hummingbirds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Plant lots of different kinds of plants. The hummingbirds are arriving now so here are a few suggestions on how to attract them to your yard.

**Light:** Hummingbirds need sun and shade. Be sure to have a mixture of both sunny and shady areas in your garden.

**Lots of Levels:** Have different levels of vegetation, including tall trees, medium-height trees, shrubs, and lower growing plantings.

**Lots of Flowers:** Plant flowers that hummingbirds like and that bloom at different times so nectar is available all season. Plant flowers in large groups to attract hummingbirds and provide plenty of nectar. Be sure to have plants that bloom in the fall to provide nectar for migrating hummingbirds. Don't take your feeders down until two weeks after you have seen a hummingbird in October.

**Add Water:** Like all birds, hummingbirds need water for drinking and bathing. They love to fly through a fountain that drips water or play in a sprinkler.

**Flower Power:** Planting flowers is one of the most important aspects of creating a hummingbird haven because hummers have a closer relationship to flowers than any other bird. They lick nectar from blooms and are particularly attracted to red, tubular flowers. Plant the flowers in different areas of your garden because hummingbirds are territorial, and the males will fight to protect their domain.



**Hummingbird Feeders:** Feeders need to be near flowers because the flowers are what attract them. Keep feeders clean and change nectar at least once a week. Buy feeders that are glass instead of plastic, which may have carcinogenetic material. Make sure there are places for the hummingbirds to perch while feeding. Fill the feeders half-full so you will be inclined to change them more often. Dissolve sugar in a small amount of boiling water and add enough cold water or ice to make a solution of one part sugar and four parts water. Don't ever use red food coloring or honey. If you hang several feeders in the same area, male hummingbirds will fight. Therefore, if possible, hang feeders on different sides of your house.



A ruby throated hummingbird at a sugar water feeder.

**Native Wildflowers:** Native wildflowers attract hummingbirds and several good native wildflowers to plant are Autumn sage, cardinal flower (probably the number one flower to attract hummingbirds), columbines, crossvine, Indian paintbrush, liatris, monarda (bee balm), phlox, red morning glory, trumpet vine, trumpet honeysuckle, and wild sweet William.

There are also many beautiful, adapted plants that will attract hummingbirds such as:

**Shrubs:** abelias, azaleas, beauty bush, currants, gooseberries, hibiscus, honeysuckles, jasmines, and weigelas

**Trees:** flowering crabapples, chaste tree (Vitex), horse chestnut, locusts, and red buckeye

**Vines:** cypress vine, honeysuckle, morning glories, scarlet runner bean, trumpet vine, and purple hyacinth bean

**Herbaceous Plants:** begonias, bleeding hearts, butterfly weed, cannas, carpet bugle, cleome, coral bells (Heuchera), dahlias, foxgloves, fuchsias, gladiolus, hollyhocks, impatiens, lantanas, lilies, pineapple sage, salvias, and Texas sage

Many of the plants that attract hummingbirds also attract butterflies, so you get double the pleasure. Happy hummingbird gardening!

*National Garden Clubs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that aims to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility. There is a local club near you, [click here to find one and join](#). Subscribe to the NGC's blog by entering your e-mail [here](#). You do not have to be an NGC member to subscribe. NGC welcomes blog article submissions, e-mail the Blog Administrator at [blog@gardenclub.org](mailto:blog@gardenclub.org).*

# From the PGCI Archives



*How many of you are interested in flower arranging? This used to be a regular PGCI activity. Wouldn't it be fun to start sharing what our gardens are producing in this creative fashion? You are welcome to bring a bouquet to our July meeting.*

## Garden Club

Marian Vincent will conduct a flower arranging workshop for the Paradise Garden Club at the recreation center.

Under the theme "March Magic," the program will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Participants will work on proportion, height and width, in relation to their own containers. Balance, stability, and design will also be taken into account.

Those who attend should bring a container of their choice.

All interested women are invited.



PARADISE POST • Friday, April 21, 1989

## Coming Up

### Flower arranging

Marian Vincent will instruct a flower arranging workshop for the Paradise Garden Club at the Paradise Recreation center Tuesday.

The class's theme will be Applause.

Those who attend the noon workshop should bring an appropriate container and fresh flowers suggestive of Paradise in April.

This program will be the last one before the Spring Flower Show, "Around the World in Flowers," scheduled to take place May 6.



# Contemplate



Photo & haiku by Nancy Howe

Be in this moment  
Deep, slow breath, pause, nothing else  
Renewal starts here