

# The Watercan Post



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

## The Prez Sez



Welcome back gardeners! First off, I'd like to thank all of you for a garden tour that we have every right to be proud of. This was our first two day, six home tour since the fire. To add to this accomplishment, our collaboration with both the Paradise Symphony Orchestra, who provided musical accompaniment for our tour attendees, and local artists from the Paradise Art Center who plied their craft, demonstrated, and discussed their gifts. Joining with us, these two groups enhanced both our tour and our sense of community. It was an immense amount of hard work by our volunteers who needed the annual break we took in August. Now that we have had that well deserved time off, it is time to get back into it.

In other club news, Nancy, who has been our invaluable First Vice President stepped down to continue devoting her time to the creation of our monthly newsletter as well as her own gardening & landscape projects. I'd like to thank her for all her hard work and skills in bringing in the wonderful speakers who presented to us at our monthly meetings and politely kept meetings on track when I went off chasing squirrels. A new member, Anne Pace, has graciously stepped up to fill this First Vice President position. I have no doubt that Anne will bring her own unique gifts to the benefit of our club. Welcome Anne!

As we slip from a hot August into, hopefully, a more temperate September, it is time to plan and plant your winter crops and gardens. Whatever it is you do, get out there and enjoy yourselves.

*Todd*

*Bring a friend!*

**Bring a friend!**

*Bring a friend!*

**PGCI General Meeting, September 11 at 1:00 p.m.**

Our speaker: Pam Larry, Butte County Local Food Network

Topic: "1,000 Acres More"

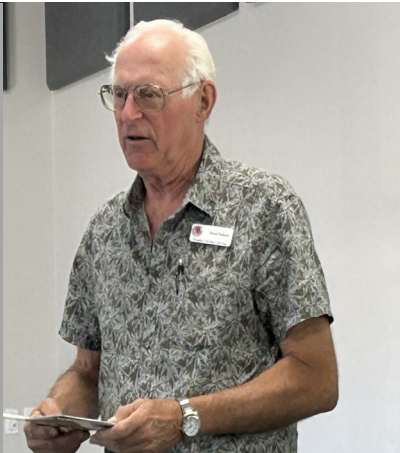
Bring a friend and listen as Pam helps us understand the building blocks of the food network and several other projects aimed at developing a strong local food system for Butte County. How can local gardeners be part of this? We would love to have you join us as we learn. Please come!



Photos by Nancy Howe

**New Buttes District  
Director: Ward  
Habriel**

Best wishes to Carol Jauregui who stepped down after serving for many years. Ward, have fun as you use your expertise to serve the garden clubs of Butte County.



**2023 July Installation of Officers**

The Paradise Garden Club Board of Directors was sworn in to serve. Congratulations!

President: Todd Hummel

First Vice President: Anne Pace

Second Vice President: Allison Denofrio

Correspondence Secretary: Jeudie Lovell

Recording Secretary: Ellen Michels

Treasurer: Margaret Hawe



## Beautification Team Report



In July, the Beautification Team weeded and spread mulch at the Elliott Triangle and then went to Foster Triangle and weeded there too, pulling old poppies, and removed big heavy seed pods from the old redbud. At the Library Mound we used a hedge trimmer to remove the spent daisies and that made fast work of cutting them all. Picking the cuttings up o compost took more time!

The Monument looks good with its freshly painted borders and hardy plants.

We keep a diligent eye on the sprinkler systems at each of these places because every so often, something stops working. Thankfully, all has gone well through the summer heat.

We all enjoyed not doing these tasks during August! September will find us back at it. We are looking now at ideas for new landscaping at Foster Triangle since the voles wiped out a large part of the plants. We continue to have voles there, and they have moved to the Elliott Triangle and the Library Mound as well. We are using a medley of ways to make these places unwelcome for those troublesome critters.

The Beautification Team is a group of PGC members who enjoy getting together in these public places we have committed to looking after. We give them tender loving care, so we call these spots our 'TLC' places. Please join us pulling weeds, pruning, planting, and doing all things gardeners do. Contact me at [beautification@paradisegardenclub.org](mailto:beautification@paradisegardenclub.org) if you want to receive an email about when and where we'll be next. We are a friendly group and always welcome new faces. We look forward to seeing you!

*Jeudie*



It was great to visit with Laurie Noble and Phyllis Person, both past PGC members and enthusiasts, when I was browsing at Vincent Noble Orchard Company on Pentz Road last week. I grew up used to having Noble Orchard as the place we went to for apples in October. Good selections of both fruit and landscape plants adapted to our area thrive in their care. The peaches on the front page are from there. Peach cobbler is a seasonal favorite at our house; I am making one today. Next year, I hope to be back to making peach jelly.



Photos by Nancy Howe



## Upcoming Events

Bring a friend!

**Paradise Garden Club Fall Schedule** at the Terry Ashe Recreation Center

Monday, October 9, 1:00-3:00: Jenny Marr, Master Gardener, Propagation Workshop

Monday, November 13, 1:00-3:00: Kay Perkins, Master Gardener, "Gardening for a Lifetime"

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 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.

UC Master Gardener Workshops Registration Information and class location addresses at <https://ucanr.edu/sites/bcmg/Workshops/>

Container Gardening, Tuesday, September 12, 6–7:30pm  
Chico Branch Library Meeting Room, [1109 Sherman Ave, Chico](#), limit 30 people

Honey Bees, Saturday, September 23, 10am–12:00pm, Demonstration Garden, limit 25 people

It's a Wrap! Autumn Garden Clean up, Winter Prep, and Preservation **NEW**  
Saturday, September 30, 11am–12:30pm, Pat's Barn, limit 30 people

Registration for Master Gardener workshops below will be available at the beginning of September.  
Classes are free and fill up quickly.

Tool Care, Tuesday, October 3, 9:30–11am, Pat's Barn, limit 30 people

Biochar: Is It Worth It? **NEW** Wednesday, October 4, 10am–12pm  
Demonstration Garden, limit 25 people

Propagation, Monday, October 9, 1–2pm, Terry Ashe Center, 6626 Skyway, Paradise, limit 30 people

Growing Citrus Trees **NEW**, Thursday, October 12, 10–11:30am, Pat's Barn, limit 30 people

Blueberries, Raspberries, Blackberries, and Strawberries **NEW**, Friday, October 20, 10–11:30am  
Private residence in Paradise, limit 15 people

Composting, Friday, October 27, 10–11:30am, Demonstration Garden, limit 25 people

**Friends in the Garden Tea Party**, sponsored by the Red Bluff Garden Club, October 14, 9:30-1:30 at Rolling Hills Casino, Tickets \$30, must buy tickets by September 29, contact: Judy Paul 530-200-5013

**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, <https://www.butte-rosesociety.org/>



# Gardening For Wildlife

Linda Goddard

## Late Summer Garden Tasks for your Wildlife Habitat

**Watering:** As the nighttime weather starts to cool down, adjust your watering schedule accordingly. Water deep but less frequently to encourage plants to develop deep root systems.

**Deadheading and Pruning:** Late summer is the perfect time to deadhead spent flowers and prune overgrown plants. Removing faded blooms not only keeps your garden looking neater but also encourages plants to produce more flowers.



Be sure to leave some seed heads for wildlife, as they provide a valuable food source. The finches are feasting on fennel, echinacea and sunflowers right now and all the birds love the figs!

**Butterfly and Bee Gardens:** Late summer is the peak season for butterflies and bees. To attract these beautiful creatures to your garden, choose plants that provide nectar and host plants for their caterpillars.



Milkweed is an excellent choice for monarch butterflies, while bee balm, lavender, and salvia are favorites among various bee species.

If you grow milkweed, be sure to watch for chrysalis when you prune nearby! The caterpillars will migrate to other plants to form their chrysalis. They are hard to see as they blend into the green foliage.

Ensure a water source is available for butterflies and bees, such as a shallow dish with pebbles or a small birdbath.

**Weed Control:** As weeds continue to grow vigorously during the summer, it is crucial to stay on top of weed control. Remove weeds by hand regularly to prevent them from competing with your garden plants for nutrients and water.

**Provide Nesting Sites:** Many birds and insects rely on natural cavities or specific plants for nesting. Consider installing birdhouses, bat boxes, or insect hotels to provide shelter and nesting sites for these creatures. Native plants with dense foliage, such as ceanothus or toyon, also offer excellent nesting opportunities.

**Create Wildlife-Friendly Water Features:** Water is vital for wildlife, especially during the dry summer months. Install a birdbath or small pond with shallow areas for animals to access safely. Add some stones or rocks for perching and drinking, making it easier for wildlife to enjoy a refreshing drink.

**Planting Native Species:** Late summer is an excellent time to add native plants to your garden. Native plants are well adapted to our local climate and provide essential food and shelter for wildlife. Choose a variety of plants that bloom at different times to ensure a continuous food source for pollinators. Some excellent choices include salvia, ceanothus, yarrow, and buckwheat.



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

# The Butte County Blue Oak Project? by A.C. Barrett



Blue oak acorns ready for stratification (another word for simulating over-wintering conditions).

Anywhere south of about Pearson Rd. you find the well-known "banana belt of Paradise." Drive down Skyway from Paradise and it's even more obvious due to the kinds of bigger native plants seen: foothill pines and especially those "wild" blue oaks. It's a biome that stretches from Pearson into Chico and in fact runs through most of the Central Valley, although supplanted by industry and agriculture in most places.

The blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) holds an honored space in history. California's blue oak provided multiple resources to the native Americans here, including medicine, dyes, tools, games, toys, and construction materials. It's a tree that would be nice to see persist in California.

However, while not yet on the endangered list, the blue oak is considered "at risk." (At risk as well, therefore, is the entire ecosystem for which the blue oak acts as anchor.) Why is this the case? Because it doesn't appear to be propagating in the wild. This could be due to environmental factors (climate, deer grazing); commercial factors (cattle grazing, wildlands being built up); or some other factor as yet unidentified.

Shortly after learning this I was poking around in a blue-oak area and realized that, sure enough: there were no "baby" blue oaks to be seen. Anywhere. Old timers in the group I was with told me they hadn't seen a knee-high blue oak around there in several years.

It was the seminal moment in a new project: OK, so germination might not be the *whole* problem, but, hey. I'm a gardener. I can spend a little time on checking out how hard it is to propagate blue oaks in captive conditions, as it were.



Blue oak seedling at one month.



A snapshot of eight of the 12 blue oaks, ready for their forever homes.

In November 2022 I collected 21 freshly fallen blue oak acorns and stratified them (i.e., artificially "winterized" them in controlled conditions) for about four months. In the spring this group had about a 66% germination rate — not awful, but probably not great, either, given the stable conditions (and total absence of cattle and/or deer) inside my tent garden.

As of this writing I have 12 healthy looking young blue oak trees, all of which are bespoke and ready to leave for their forever homes. I'll probably try this again next year, as propagating blue oaks for placement in cared-for yards could end up creating a kind of community-based reserve of the species.

While the whole propagation process is too involved for this space, I'd be delighted to send the writeup to anyone who wants it. Please email me your request at [abarrett@3catsplus.us](mailto:abarrett@3catsplus.us). If enough people pitch in we might even start calling it... the Butte County Blue Oak Project.

## Things to read for more information:

Kaufman, Obi: [Vanishing: In Love With the Blue Oaks](#). "The Revelator," 2022-02-11.

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Guide: [Plant Guide to Blue Oak](#)

# Minutes

## **Paradise Garden Club Board Meeting**

July 3, 2023

Attending: Allison Donofrio, Jeudie Lovell, Cheryl and Ward Habriel, Margaret Hawe, Ellen Michels, Anne Pace

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 am. President Todd Hummel was unable to attend the meeting and there was no agenda.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Margaret reported that the club had \$36,000. The final profit from the Garden Tour was \$5,364. We made \$323 on the raffle, \$363 on the boutique, and \$1,193 on the plant sale. There is still \$10,000 in the Beautification Team line item.

### **Beautification Team**

There was a discussion about needing to come up with a plan for spending the \$10,000 still in the budget. Ellen suggested that Jeudie organize a team planning meeting over the next few months and invite Kathleen Elliott or another landscaper to attend, to help us decide what landscaping changes need to be made in the triangles and the library mound. There are some plants that need to come out and we could use some professional advice on what to plant instead. We could also think about adding more hardscaping in some areas. Cheryl stated the Habriels have rocks we can use for hardscaping. It was suggested that we could also ask the Town if they have any needs we could help with. Jeudie stated that she did not want to get involved with the twenty or so planters along the Skyway again because it is too much work to water them every week. (The businesses along Skyway that are supposed to be maintaining the planters are not doing so.)

### **Miscellaneous**

There was a discussion about needing to finish the inventory of the storage unit. Ellen and Joyce have done about half of it. Margaret stated that any paperwork prior to the year 2000 can be disposed of, but she would like to be there when we do that.

There was another discussion about spending. Suggestions made included increasing the number of Butte College Horticultural scholarships and increasing the number of Master Gardener scholarships. Alison suggested giving some money to the Butte County Local Food Network. They are a non-profit that works to increase food security by creating community gardens, among other projects. It was decided that Alison would invite Pam Larry from the Local Food Network to speak at our general meeting in September.

There was a discussion about the need to ask new members to take on some of the garden club's smaller jobs, such as Penney Pines. Margaret has too much on her plate right now, and there are a lot of new members who might be willing to take on some of the work. Anne Barrett is stepping back now that the Garden Tour is over.

There was a discussion about changing the Board meetings back to the same Monday as the General meetings and allowing more time. Because Todd has been working Mondays, he has not been able to attend all the meetings. Ann will talk with the Hummels about their schedule and see what can be worked out.

**Continued page 8**

**CGCI Meeting**

Ward reported the news from the CGCI meeting. He stated there was another garden club that was sued by one of their members and lost and lost their charter and all their money.

He also talked about the problem with holding "secret meetings." He referred to the mistake made last month when a Mailchimp went out with incorrect information about the time and place of the next Board meeting. This was inadvertent and was due to the fact the club recently changed the way they hold Board meetings, holding them the Monday before the General meeting, and rotating them between Board member's homes. It was agreed that if we continued to hold Board meetings that way, we needed to communicate the day, time, and location to all PGC members.

Ward also talked about the incoming CGCI president, and that the new President's Project would have to do with CGCI scholarships. He suggested that we increase our contribution towards that project.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Michels, Recording Secretary



**OREGANO**

By Nancy Howe

Rich in antioxidants, this hardy, drought tolerant herb is both culinary and medicinal and used around the world.

It MIGHT: reduce cough, aid digestion, fight against select bacteria and viruses, and reduce inflammation. More studies need scientific proof before these "might" uses are considered fact. Yet, as early as 3000 BC oregano was one of the herbs most used in health and medicine.

Consumption: My granddaughter and I pick and wash mint and oregano leaves and steep them for our tea parties. I add fresh or dried leaves to soups, sauces, and meats.

In the garden: I planted it around my young trees to keep invasive critters and insects away because they find the odor unpleasant. I let oregano grow tall in summer, up to three feet, and it shades the tender tree trunks from intense heat and produces flowers that bees and butterflies join in happy unison flitting from flower to flower for sustenance. Flowers gone to seed will produce more plants.

In folklore, Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty, created, named, and grew oregano in her Mount Olympus Garden and made it a symbol of happiness. Oregano means, "Joy of the Mountain."

What's not to love?!



Photo by Nancy Howe



# Minutes

## **Paradise Garden Club. Inc. General Meeting July 10, 2023 Terry Ashe Recreation Center**

Todd Hummel called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. There were approximately twenty-five people attending. The meeting was a luncheon to install new officers for the coming year.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Margaret reported that the club has over \$36,000 in the budget. She also reported that we had made two more donations to Penny Pines. She asked if anyone would be willing to take over the small job of collecting donations for Penny Pines and sending the money to Plumas National Forest. There were no immediate volunteers.

### **Master Gardener Minute**

Ellen reminded everyone that the Master Gardener program is currently recruiting for the class of 2024, and that she had information on how to apply. The deadline for applying is September 30<sup>th</sup>. The application can be found online at <https://ucanr.edu/sites/bcmg/>

### **Reinstatement and New Board Members**

Current Board members were reinstated for 2023-2024: President - Todd Hummel, Treasurer - Margaret Hawe, Recording Secretary - Ellen Michels, Beautification Team Lead - Jeudie Lovell. Newly elected Board members were installed: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Anne Pace, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Allison Donofrio. Margaret announced that there are still some jobs unfilled: we still need an e-librarian and a webmaster. Nancy volunteered to oversee hospitality, which was a position the club had in years past. This would involve greeting people at meetings and providing refreshments. Toby Brandtman and Diane Lucido volunteered to help Nancy with hospitality.

### **Round Table Discussion**

Several new members introduced themselves: Tina McMann, Diane Lucido, Linda and Jeff Marcus, and Lori Burns.

There was a discussion about weeds, and the use of pre-emergents to control them. Katheen stated that there is a pre-emergent product made from corn gluten that is non-toxic. Nancy has had success using a combination of vinegar, dish soap, and salt.

Ward gave an update from the statewide CGCI meeting. He reported that the new CGCI President's Project is to increase the number of garden clubs giving scholarships. Jeff Marcus asked if we had considered giving scholarships at the high school level. Paradise High has an ag program now, and Ridgeview has a community garden. Ridgeview also has the Ridgeview Rangers, 8-12 students who do community beautification projects. Jeff Wrobels is the coordinator. Sandy suggested that we offer opportunities for high school seniors to do their required senior projects.

Todd suggested we form a committee to decide how to spend the Club's money. Steve Rodowick, the Habriels, the Marcuses, and Sandy Miller volunteered.

Shawn Ramsey announced that she has a lot of small trees that she would like to give away (Mimosa, oak, and cedar, among others.)

Nancy brought up forming a home/garden search committee for next year's garden tour. Nancy, Carol, Joyce, and Anne volunteered.

Anne read a poem about gardening that was generated by the Chat GPT program.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Michels, Recording Secretary

**Red Bluff Garden Club's Fall Luncheon and Program  
"Friends in the Garden Tea Party"**



**Program Presentation by  
Kelly Vance, the "bug guy"  
*Beneficial Insectary***

Feel free to wear your favorite hat to this garden tea party with friends...we will give prizes to some "best hats!"

**No need to be a gardener to attend!  
Come, have fun, and be inspired!**

**Saturday, October 14, 2023**

**9:30am—1:30pm**

**Rolling Hills Casino**

**Tickets \$30**

**Plated Luncheon—Choice of:**

**Chef's Salad with garlic bread stick**

Sliced ham, turkey, swiss & cheddar cheese, and egg

**Cobb Salad with garlic bread stick**

Mixed greens with diced turkey, bacon, bleu cheese, tomato, chopped egg served with choice of dressing

**Vegetarian entrée upon request**

**For Tickets Call or Text:**

**Judy Paul 530-200-5013**

**Last Day to Purchase Tickets**

**9/29**

**Cash or Check only**

**This is a FUN Day!!!**

**Shop with vendors!**

**Awesome Silent Auction**

**Creative Centerpiece Drawings!**

**Door Prizes!**

**\$10 Free Play in Casino!**

**Good Food and Good Company!**



COME SMELL  
OUR ROSES

**28th Annual  
Butte Rose  
Show  
Saturday  
Oct. 28, 2023**

**1-4 p.m. Free  
Butte Rose Society at  
Chico CARD Center  
545 Vallombrosa Ave. Chico  
[www.butte-rosesociety.org](http://www.butte-rosesociety.org)**



#### THEY SING IN THEIR DREAMS

In a study done at the University of Chicago in 2000, scientists concluded that songbirds sing in their sleep. Scientists monitored the brain activity of zebra finches, both awake and asleep. The patterns of activity were similar in both groups. Scientists believe that the birds were singing in their sleep as a way of tuning their voices.

### HERBIE THE HERBALIST

Herbie has found another wonderful herb: BORAGE (*Borago officinalis*)

Borage is an annual herb in the flowering plant family *Boraginaceae*. It is native to the Mediterranean region and has naturalized in many other locales. It grows to a height of 2 to 3 feet and is bristly or hairy all over the stems and leaves.

Also known as the starflower, Borage is the herb of courage, and it is a wonderful specimen to have in your garden. The young leaves and flowerheads have a light cucumber-like taste and make an excellent addition to your salad. Borage is very high in potassium, and it is a noted companion plant to repel tomato worms. This herb will make a nice cup of tea.



Inspiration given by Former CGCI President Rita Desilets  
at the 2023 CGCI Convention in Thousand Oaks:

#### THE WOMAN WITH THREE HAIRS

There once was a woman who woke up one morning, looked in the mirror, and saw that she had only three hairs on her head. "Great," she said, "I think I'll braid my hair today." So, she did and had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she had only two hairs on her head. "Hmm," she said, "I guess I'll part my hair down the middle." So, she did and had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she had only one hair left on her head. "Wow," she said, "today I get to wear my hair in a ponytail." So, she did and had a wonderful, wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that there wasn't a single hair on her head. "Thank God!" she exclaimed. "I was running out of things to do with my hair!"

Attitude is everything! Let's be grateful for the things God has given us and have a wonderful day!



# Seed Saving Secrets

by Pat Neasbitt

Collecting seeds to grow plants and share with others is part of the enjoyment of being a gardener. You can save seeds to make sure you have the plants next year that you want. The price of seeds, like everything else, has risen dramatically, and saving seeds can save you lots of money. Besides being frugal, it's fun to save your own seeds.

**What to Save:** Only save seeds from Heirloom or Open Pollinated varieties so they will be true to type when grown in your garden. If you try to save seeds from Hybrid varieties, you have no idea what the seedlings will produce. Flowers will probably be puny, faded magenta-looking blooms that are nothing like the plant you saved the seeds from, and vegetables may be inedible. It is difficult or impossible to find seeds from many older varieties of vegetables and flowers so saving seeds will ensure you always have your favorites. Heirloom tomatoes are some of the best-tasting tomatoes, and that's why many people like to grow them. You will never eat a store-bought tomato again after growing and harvesting vine-ripe tomatoes that you have grown from seeds you saved and grew yourself.

**Selecting and Cleaning Seeds:** When choosing the plants for seed saving, pick the healthiest, most vigorous plants with the largest fruits or the prettiest flowers. Judging the correct time for harvest may require some watching to get fully ripened fruits, vegetables, or flowers. You may also have to outwit the birds and wildlife because they know exactly when things are ready to pick.

Most seeds just need to be spread on an absorbent material to dry for several days before storing. I usually borrow part of my husband's workbench in the garage because it is warm and dry there and lay down a layer of newspaper to spread the seeds out on. It is easy to fold the newspaper into a funnel to put the seeds into their final storage container when they are ready. The smaller the seeds, the less time they take to dry thoroughly.

Cleaning seeds like tomatoes and cucumbers from their fleshy parts is easier if you let them ferment for 3 or 4 days. Use a spoon to scoop out the seeds and put them in a glass container (don't use metal containers) and fill with enough water to cover the seeds. In a couple of days a layer of fungus will form that will digest most of the flesh left around the seeds. Stir a couple of times during the fermentation period to speed up the process and, at the end of the fermentation period, add warm water and stir. Continue stirring and adding water so the good seeds will settle to the bottom of the container while the pulp and hollow seeds will float and can be skimmed off. When the water is clear, strain the seeds through a tea strainer to collect them. Spread the wet seeds on paper towels or newspapers and allow them to thoroughly dry before bagging.

Package seeds in plastic or paper envelopes when the seeds are cleaned. The key is to make sure the seeds are as dry as possible before storing them. It is a good idea to keep a label with each seed lot throughout the cleaning process, especially if you are working with several varieties of the same plant. Be sure to date each container.

**Seed Storage:** Most seeds can be stored for up to two years under just normal room temperature conditions, provided the moisture content of the seed was below 10 percent when the seed was placed in storage and provided they are sealed in airtight containers and kept in a dark place like a kitchen cabinet. A large-mouth fruit jar makes an excellent container for many small seed packets. If you wish to store the seeds for up to five years, store them in the refrigerator in a sealed container. To further extend the storage life, store seeds in the freezer in freezer bags or canning jars and most will remain viable for 10 years or longer. I have a seed-saving shelf in a freezer in the garage where I keep all my seeds in freezer bags (not storage bags) organized in plastic containers and labeled so I can find them easily.

This is the perfect time of year to start harvesting and saving seeds for next year's vegetable or flower garden. It is fun, frugal, and you'll have exactly what you want when you get ready to plant.

Happy Gardening!

*National Garden Clubs, Inc. August 16, 2023 <https://gardenclub.org/>*

From the  
**PGCI Archives**

2009

PLANTING AT  
 BILLIE PARK

JANE LOCUS

LEE BRASIL

PEGGY MUSGRAVE

4100 BULBS  
 PLANTED  
 IN 6 HOURS

CAROLINE MELF

CHRIS SANCHEZ

Also helping were:  
 Betty Rochambeau  
 Fern Leger  
 Tiffany Hague  
 Donna Beronda

Hey all you 2023 gardeners, we will be doing our annual planting of more daffodils around town as soon as they get delivered, usually early November. Do you see areas around town that could benefit from a burst of daffodil color? Let us know.

[beautification@paradisegardenclub.org](mailto:beautification@paradisegardenclub.org) We plant daffodils wherever a business owner or public site allows. If you want to order bulbs for your personal planting, contact Ward at our next meeting.

You are very welcome to join us to plant daffodils around Paradise.



# Contemplate



Photo & haiku by Nancy Howe

Summer's fading heat  
breathes into buds, blooms and seeds  
abuzz with workers.