



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



As May unfolds across Northern California, The Paradise Garden Club continues to bloom with purpose and connection. Nestled On the Ridge, our club reflects the unique beauty and strength of our surroundings, where each season brings both renewal and inspiration. From vibrant spring blossoms to shared moments in the garden, this is a time to celebrate growth in every sense.

Our location in Paradise offers more than just a stunning landscape, it shapes who we are. Gardening here comes with its challenges, but it also deepens our appreciation for resilience. Each plant that takes root and thrives is a quiet reminder of what's possible when care, patience, and determination come together.

What truly sets The Paradise Garden Club apart is our sense of community. Whether we are exchanging tips, sharing cuttings, or simply enjoying each other's company as we continue to cultivate meaningful connections. These bonds, like our gardens, have grown stronger over time, rooted in kindness and mutual support.

As we move further into this season, we look forward to new projects, fresh ideas, and continued growth both in our gardens and within our club. Together, we carry forward the spirit of resilience and renewal that defines life On the Ridge and makes The Paradise Garden Club a place where everyone can flourish and learn.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, May 11th at the Terry Ashe Community center at 1:00 and will feature crafts for the upcoming Garden tour and a presentation by Calli-Jane West from our own Firesafe Council who will be speaking about the new backyard stewardship guidelines. We hope to see you all there. T3

PGCI General Meeting, May 11 at 1:00

Calli-Jane West (Community Partner Liaison, Butte Fire Safe Council) will introduce us to the *Backyard Stewardship Guide*

Plus, working on crafts for the Garden Tour

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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 while even months we share food snacks. ***Bring your own beverage.***

May 11 at 1pm: Crafts for the Garden Tour. Calli-Jane West (Community Partner Liaison, Butte Fire Safe Council) will introduce us to the Backyard Stewardship Guide.

June 6 & 7, 10-4: The Paradise Garden Tour, Plant Sale, Boutique, and Benefit Drawing; Saturday & Sunday, rain or shine. Meet at the Hub 6569 Clark Road. Sign up to help.

June 8th at 1:00 p.m. Post Garden Tour Review/details soon.

Master Gardener News

For detailed information and to sign up go to: <https://ucanr.edu/site/uc-master-gardeners-butte-county>

Beautification Team Report



The beautiful weather of these April days stirred our gardening spirit. The Beautification team started at the Elliott triangle removing pine needles, dead heading daffodils, cutting away dead foliage and cleaning up the plants after having not worked there for over two months. We also planted bright African daisies.

We then went to the Foster Triangle. There was the opening celebration scheduled for the Hope Plaza right next to our triangle garden that Saturday. Our focus was to pull the weeds, deadhead old blooms, and a general tidying up so it would look its best.

We also worked at the library pulling sweet peas and weeds. It is amazing how quickly they grow with the rain and sunny weather we have had.

Many of the team went to Anne Pace's garden to pull the California Fuchsia starts that were spreading around her front garden. We transplanted them into small pots preparing them for selling at the garden tour. We did the same with small maple tree starts. There were also transplants of the beautiful yellow ground cover teucrium. Anne will tend them for the next 6 weeks. She and Joyce also made flower bowls that will grow and look good at the plant sale at the tour hub.

It looks like we are off to a good start to this season of gardening. It was fun being together and seeing the results of teamwork. If you are interested in joining us, please talk to Jeudie at the welcome table at our monthly meeting.

Jeudie

Butte County Fire Safe Council's Guide on How to Replace Plants in Your Landscape



This is in our 2026 tour book too. Really informative. Thought you'd appreciate reading it here.



Oleander (HIGHLY TOXIC, handle with caution)



Replaced with Native Yerba Santa

Invasive and Fire-Prone → Native Options

Oleander.....	Toyon, Native Ceanothus, Coffeeberry, Yerba Santa
Juniper	Western Redbud, Oak, California Lilac (Ceanothus)
Broom	Deergrass, California Fescue, Elderberry, Yerba Santa
Tree of Heaven.....	Western Dogwood or Redbud, Oak, Sycamore, Pine
Eucalyptus	Oak, Sycamore, California Buckeye
Arundo.....	Willow, Mulefat, Santa Barbara Sedge
Himalayan Black Berry.....	California Blackberry, California Wild Rose
Invasive Grasses.....	Purple Needlegrass, Gum Weed, Naked Buckwheat, Yarrow, Lupine, Poppy, Blue and Yellow-Eyed Grass

Fire-Prone

Rosemary.....	Deergrass, Native Sage Variety, California Spicebush, Coyote-Mint
Italian Cypress.....	Oak, Pine

*** Disclaimer:

- 1) All plants can burn, and will burn, under the right conditions. Many native plants actually benefit from low-intensity fire and smoke.
- 2) The native plant replacement options are suggestions meant to fill similar niches and functions as their invasive and fire-prone counterparts (e.g., tree for tree or shrub for shrub) but you can replace any of the fire-prone, invasive plants with a native or fire-resistive plant.

TIPS:

1. Replace your plants in the correct season and before they go to seed, as to not accidentally re-seed invasives.
2. Research preferred planting methods for your specific plant(s).
3. Plant natives in their preferred ecoregion. Not all California Natives are native to Butte County and not all plants will thrive across the different elevations within Butte County.
4. Plants within the first five feet of your home (Zone 0) should not be replaced once removed.



April Tea Party Memories



Melissa's bouquet; a lovely welcome at the greeters table.



Tina shared hard to find blue lotus flowers with us for a relaxing tea. What a treat!

Tina Lewis, PGC member, also an expert on medicinal herbs shared amazing bits of wisdom on how she has managed her health all naturally.



Cheryl, (lady in the orange hat) provided each table with a beautiful, disposal tea set. Plus many good ideas to help each group get to know each other.



Wendy (pointing) created beautiful succulent bowls for centerpieces at each round table. The succulents from her garden & bowls she painted. The person with a star sticker under their saucer discovered this was their take home prize. New member, Lori, won the prize at this table, thus her smile.



Tea Party Hats



Bouquets on tables for serving, greeting and membership were created by members of the Hospitality Team from their gardens.



Our welcoming PGCi Board each hosted a table. Just look at what the members brought in to share! A plethora of teas and interesting coffee too.



Behind the scenes... our hardworking Board are a very serious group...? Seriously fun, which adds to the warmth and relaxed atmosphere of all meetings.



Tina with Carrie's beautiful climbing rose garland fresh from her yard. Along with the blue lotus flowers & another spring bouquet provided from the gardens of the Hospitality Team.



Margaret is always ready for a visitor to drop by and learn about membership in PGCi. A ticket to the next garden tour is included.



Gardeners, here we are enjoying each other. We joined this group because we each want to better understand how to garden and landscape on the Ridge. Every month, through speakers, local professionals, and hands on experience, we learn what plants help clean our air and earth as well as look beautiful and provide us with food. As we work the ground, we talk to each other, always learning. This is one of the reasons we gather and kick back like this. Gardeners have a lot to share.

Little Gardeners With Us

by Nancy Howe with visuals from Linda's Paradise garden.

Q: "Is there something about milkweed that attracts aphids, which then attracts beneficial insects?"

A: "Yes!"

...and you can watch it happen.

A butterfly garden is a place many of us want to include in our Paradise Landscape. One essential plant to incorporate is resilient perennial, milkweed. The flowers are lovely and delicate, but the critical reason to cultivate them is to provide a haven for Monarch butterflies. They cannot survive without it. Planting as little as a cluster of ten plants provides shelter for monarch caterpillars.



Speciosa (showy) flower.



To fuel their migration, adult monarchs can feed on nectar from a wide variety of flowers like lantana, sunflowers, asters, blazing stars, coneflowers, salvias, and goldenrod. However, they only lay their eggs on milkweed because

monarch caterpillars can only eat milkweed, nothing else. The milkweed grows back in a matter of weeks, no harm to your garden. You can snip it a bit for a bushier plant if desired.



Fascicularis (narrowleaf) flower with a hoverfly.



The yellow lumps are sap sucking oleander aphids to be vanquished by the lady in red.

Then into your garden, aphids will come to suck the sap from your plants, especially new growth and they love milkweed. That is a bug that bugs a gardener! Yet, a ladybug or Hoverfly larvae can eat all the aphids very quickly. Please do not use pesticides. There is balance in nature, and you can watch it happen! Get to

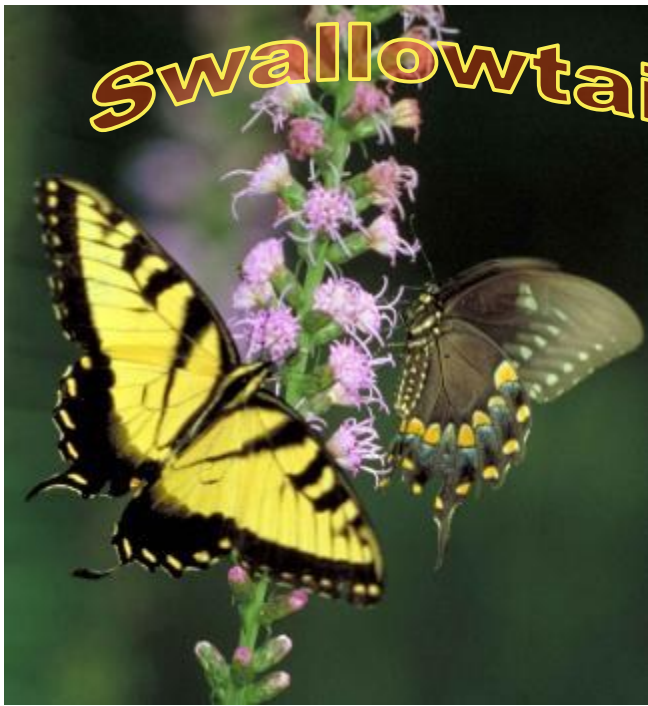
know the little invertebrates in your space before you squish or spray. Your garden, your world, your impact.

"The hover fly larva wiped out all my aphids, almost overnight. The lady bugs are everywhere this year in my yard!" - Linda G.

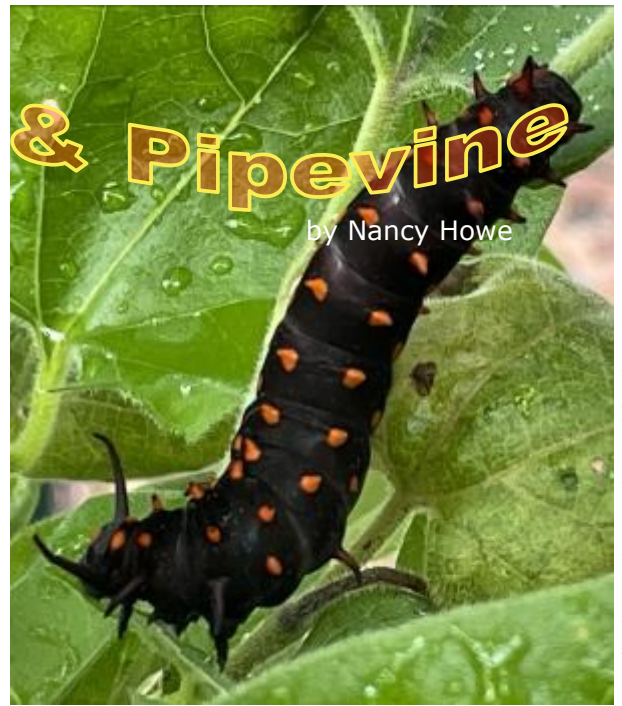


"Hoverfly larvae are beneficial insects that act as natural pest control by consuming aphids, mites, and other small insects."

All photos by Linda Goddard from her thriving garden here in Paradise.



Swallowtails



& Pipevine

by Nancy Howe

All photos by Linda Goddard

We are the Pipevine Swallowtails, and the Aristolochia pipevines are crucial to our existence. We cannot live without it. As both habitat and nutrition, we find it cozy and yummy. You seek balance in your life, I seek balance in mine too by observing and learning to understand the ecological balance in this world we share. I am not going to eat your whole garden, only the hardy pipevine, which will just produce more leaves, as I munch. Watch me. I am beautiful in every stage of life. Humble too, as I depend on you to keep me safe. Currently, we are in the crawly stage, soon we'll call it a wrap, spin our silk sleeping bags and wake up with wings. What's not to love?



Native to our state, The California Pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*) will grow successfully in Paradise. You can train it to climb a trellis or let it spread like ground cover. It prefers well-drained, consistently moist soil and grows best in shaded areas. It needs pollinators to help with its reproduction process.

This deciduous vine produces flowers in February that curl to look like an old smoking pipe. Seed dispersal in early September can vigorously spread. By bagging unopened fruit, you will have seeds to share or control where you want it to grow.

With our Paradise landscapes just eight years into post fire recovery, shaded and moist areas are infrequent, but we are getting there. Adapt a part of your drip system to accommodate the area where you plant pipevine. Research, make sure you want it. It depends on your landscape plan and your energy. This is an interesting plant to watch in all stages, plus it draws beautiful swallowtail butterflies to our gardens. The caution is that it will want to go everywhere.



As Linda took photographs, she scared this guy so he has his scary horn displayed. (Increase your view to check out the horn. It looks like a crown.) Linda is finding pipevine everywhere in her native garden this year. Even a patch under some toyons; they like the shade.

Meeting commenced at 11:30 AM Present: Todd Hummel, Cheryl Habriel, Margaret Hawe, Jeudie Lovell, Anne Pace. Guest Wendy Wicklund.

The minutes from the March meetings were approved (motion by Jeudie, seconded and passed).

Treasurer's Report – \$27,395.80 balance. A budget was submitted for the 2026/27 year by the budget committee (Margaret Hawe, Cheryl Habriel and Toby Brandtman). Todd made a motion to accept the proposed budget and it was seconded and passed. The proposed budget will now be presented to the general membership to review and vote on at the May General Meeting.

Beautification – Work was done at the Foster and Elliot Triangles and weeding at PASH.

Board Position - 2nd vice president (publicity) is still open. Nancy Howe will fill in temporarily until we get a permanent volunteer.

Garden Tour – We have 6 gardens for the 2026 Tour. The theme is All Around the Town. Margaret and Jeudie been working on obtaining ads from local businesses for the ticket book. Cheryl has confirmed with Butte college that they will donate plants for our sale.

Today's Speaker – PGCI member Tina Lewis will speak on *Medicinal Uses of Teas* during our Tea Party today.

Upcoming Activities

May Meeting - Crafts for the Garden Tour. Calli-Jane West (Community Partner Liaison, Butte Fire Safe Council) will introduce us to the *Backyard Stewardship Guide*.

June 6&7 -Garden Tour. Sign-up sheets will be available in May for various jobs for the Tour.

Meeting concluded at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary



Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance –President Todd Hummmel

Penny Pines – Joanie outlined what Penny Pines is and how our donations help.

Treasurer's Report – \$27,395.80 balance. For more detail see separate Treasurer's report.

Beautification Work was done at the Foster and Elliot Triangles and weeding at PASH

Program – PGCI member Tina Lewis will speak on *Medicinal Uses of Teas*.

Upcoming Activities

May Meeting - Crafts for the Garden Tour. Calli-Jane West (Community Partner Liaison, Butte Fire Safe Council) will introduce us to the *Backyard Stewardship Guide*.

June 6&7 -Garden Tour. Sign-up sheets will be available today for various jobs for the Tour.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary



Photo by Cheryl Habriel

White Wisteria planted by Ward is thriving along Cheryl's garden fence.

Paradise Garden Club members,
We need one of our members to volunteer to be our **Vice President of Publicity**. If you have a friend or two who would enjoy assisting you in this endeavor, great. A few things this position covers will be to

- attend monthly PGCI board meetings
- gather information from fellow board members on upcoming events
- distributing that information for our website updates, the newsletter editor, and various local news media including the Town of Paradise, the Paradise Chamber of Commerce, and local television stations.

Some of this can be done at home from your computer.

Why get involved? It is so much fun to be part of the board and make an impact in our community. Interested? Contact Todd Anne or Nancy in your roster.

Newsletter Welcomes Your Input

Photos for the newsletter. You know those times you gaze at the beauty in your yard or a plant you notice during a walk or drive? Email or text those photos and they'll find a place in the newsletter for everyone to enjoy. Please note the names of plants when possible.

Is there a plant, a tool, a gardening experience you'd like to share with the group? Email your write up and photo. Everyone will appreciate it.

Would you like to write a regular column for the newsletter? Let's talk.

Text or email Nancy. Contact info in the roster.

Contemplate



Reaching from the earth
Stretching out, embracing life
A quiet voice sings.