

The Watercan Post



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



Dear Garden Club Members and Friends,

Our recent garden tour on the Ridge was truly a wonderful success; it is worth celebrating the spirit and dedication that made it possible. The featured homes on the tour were nothing short of inspiring, displaying thoughtful design, vibrant plantings, and the kind of care that reflects our shared passion for gardening. It served as a beautiful reminder of what can flourish in our unique Northern California environment.

Equally impressive was the strong participation from our members. From planning and preparation to welcoming visitors and sharing knowledge, your efforts created a warm and inviting experience for everyone who attended. We were especially pleased to see such a large turnout from our community, with many comments expressing appreciation and enthusiasm for the gardens and the opportunity to connect with fellow plant lovers.

Events like this not only highlight individual gardens but also strengthen the roots of our club as a whole. The success of the tour reflects the collaboration, generosity, and pride that define our group. It is this shared commitment that continues to make our garden club a valued part of our Ridge community.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on July 13th at the Terry Ashe Community Center. It will be a great opportunity to reconnect, share ideas, and continue growing together.

T3

July is an odd numbered month so you are welcome to bring seeds, cuttings, and plants to share. Put them on the table in the back. During the break you can pick up other items there to plant in your garden. Free to all.

PGCI General Meeting, July 13 at 1:00

Fruit Tree Care and Summer Pruning

Presenter: Daniel Hodges – Hodge's Family Nursery in Durham

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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.***

PGCI General Meeting, July 13 at 1:00 p.m. Fruit Tree Care and Summer Pruning

Presenter: Daniel Hodges – Hodge's Family Nursery in Durham

Daniel is very knowledgeable, engaging, and easy to understand. Exactly what we gardeners appreciate in a speaker! He has been speaking at garden clubs in the area and has put together several presentations on a variety of topics. This month he will be teaching us how to care for our fruit trees year-round and how to keep our trees more manageable with summer pruning.

AUGUST is the month we take a break so there is NO MEETING.

PGCI General Meeting, September 14 at 1:00 p.m. Compost Tea

Presenter: Daniel Hodges – Hodge's Family Nursery in Durham

In September we start a new round of workshops and speakers with Daniel joining us to talk about Compost Tea. Join us for an engaging and informative class that will explore the art of brewing Compost Tea right in the comfort of your home. This class is designed to highlight the affordability and benefits of making your own nutrient-rich compost tea.

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 Garden Tour has kept us busy this June. Many of us participated in the fun and successful weekend of June 6 and 7. Available members of the Beautification Team priced the many plants that had come from Butte College Horticulture Department to be sold at the Tour.

The Library Mound was our target for the following workday where we dug up some more Feather Grass and planted 3 Cordyline with their tall pink-brown spikes. We also pulled up a plethora of sweet peas.

There was a stretch of hot weather that curtailed our work for a while. On the last workday of June there were more sweet peas to pull, weeding and deadheading at the Elliott triangle. The Foster triangle is doing okay for now.

Loving our gardens means making sure they are well watered, keeping ahead of those uninvited weeds, and removing spent flowers. We get compliments from people as they drive by, and they thank us for being out there. It is so rewarding.

If you would like to join us, talk to Jeudie at the welcome desk at the next meeting.

Jeudie

June 8, 2026, Board Minutes

PARADISE GARDEN CLUB

Meeting commenced at 11:40 AM Present: Todd Hummel, Cheryl Habriel, Margaret Hawe, Jeudie Lovell, Anne Pace. Guests Wendy Wicklund and Linda Strand-Talmo.

The minutes from the May meetings approved (motion by Margaret, seconded and passed).

Treasurer's Report – [\\$27,048 balance.](#)

Membership – two people joined online, eight joined during the Tour. Linda will remind the new people of our next meeting.

Beautification – Overgrown feather grass needs to be culled at the Library Mound.

Garden Tour – We will have a debriefing at the July meeting. Everyone should make suggestions for getting more members involved as well as other suggestions.

Today's Program – [Luncheon to celebrate and thank homeowners.](#)

Upcoming Activities

Potentially week of June 22 – Anne is finalizing the date for a field trip to Full Circle Floral in Vina. Signup sheet is available today.

Meeting concluded at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary

June 8, 2026, General Meeting Minutes

PARADISE GARDEN CLUB

Commenced at 1:00 PM

Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance –President Todd Hummmel

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

Treasurer's Report – \$27,048 balance. For more detail see separate Treasurer's report.

Program Garden Tour Thank You Luncheon. All homeowners of gardens on the 2026 tour were present and acknowledged and thanked. Each home received a color bowl.

Workers for the Tour were acknowledged and thanked.

Good of the Order

Potentially week of June 22 – Anne is finalizing the date for a field trip to Full Circle Floral in Vina. Sign-up sheet is available today.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary

Needed: **Vice President of Publicity**

We need a PGCI member to volunteer for this position. Most tasks can be accomplished at your home computer.

A few things this position covers: attend monthly PGCI board meetings, gather information from fellow board members on upcoming events, distribute 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.

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.

2026 Garden Tour Pictorial Review



The Hub was a bustling place from early morning to late afternoon. It started with the set-up crew and ended with the breakdown crew. Team members filled the hours helping sell tickets, plants, boutique, & Benefit Drawing items, while others helped attendees needing planting advice.



Color bowls donated by the Plant Barn were planted by Joyce & Anne. More plants donated by Butte College & PGCI members were a beautiful highlight. The Beautification Team put them together at Anne's place. Anne nurtured them for several weeks to make sure each one had thriving, vibrant color. Plus, a large variety of succulents, vegetable plants and other types filled the tables for shoppers. Below photo: the envelopes for the raffle items filled quickly.



Sam,
Carrie's best
buddy helps
by being
present.

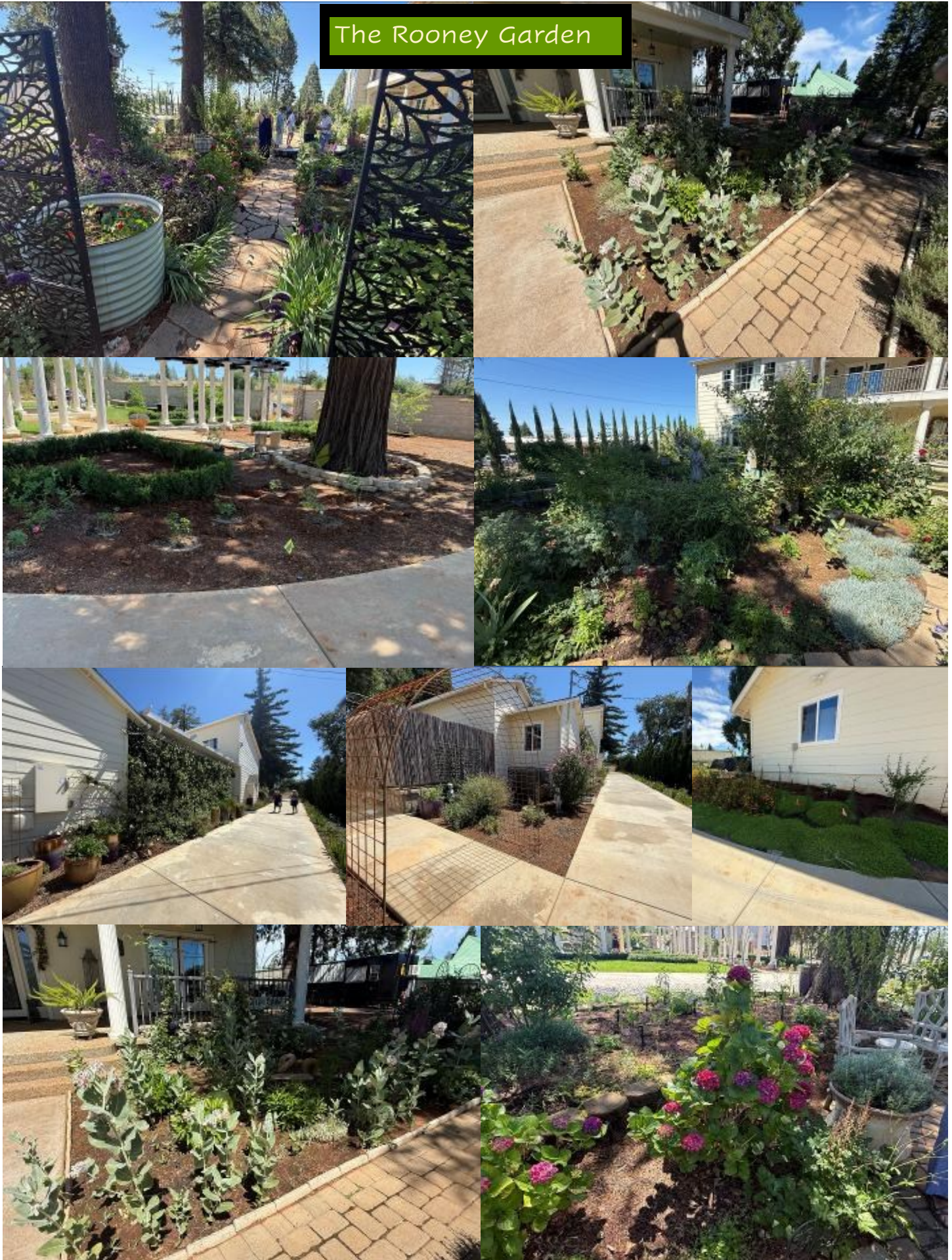
Shown here: types of items at the Hub. Begin planning what you want to donate next year. Start your plants in February or March so they will be hardy by the first weekend in June. Keep an eye out during the sales you attend. Perhaps you can pick up a few items for the Benefit Drawing or the Raffle. Gift certificates are a popular item. Behind the scenes, months ahead, members planned & worked together toward the successful outcome of the 2026 Garden Tour & Plant Sale. During the festivities, so many members donated their time and expertise to make it a great experience. Proceeds, \$7,711, go toward scholarships in horticultural sciences for local students. That is a satisfying thought when we put our feet up at the end of the weekend. Thanks everyone!

The Rooney Garden

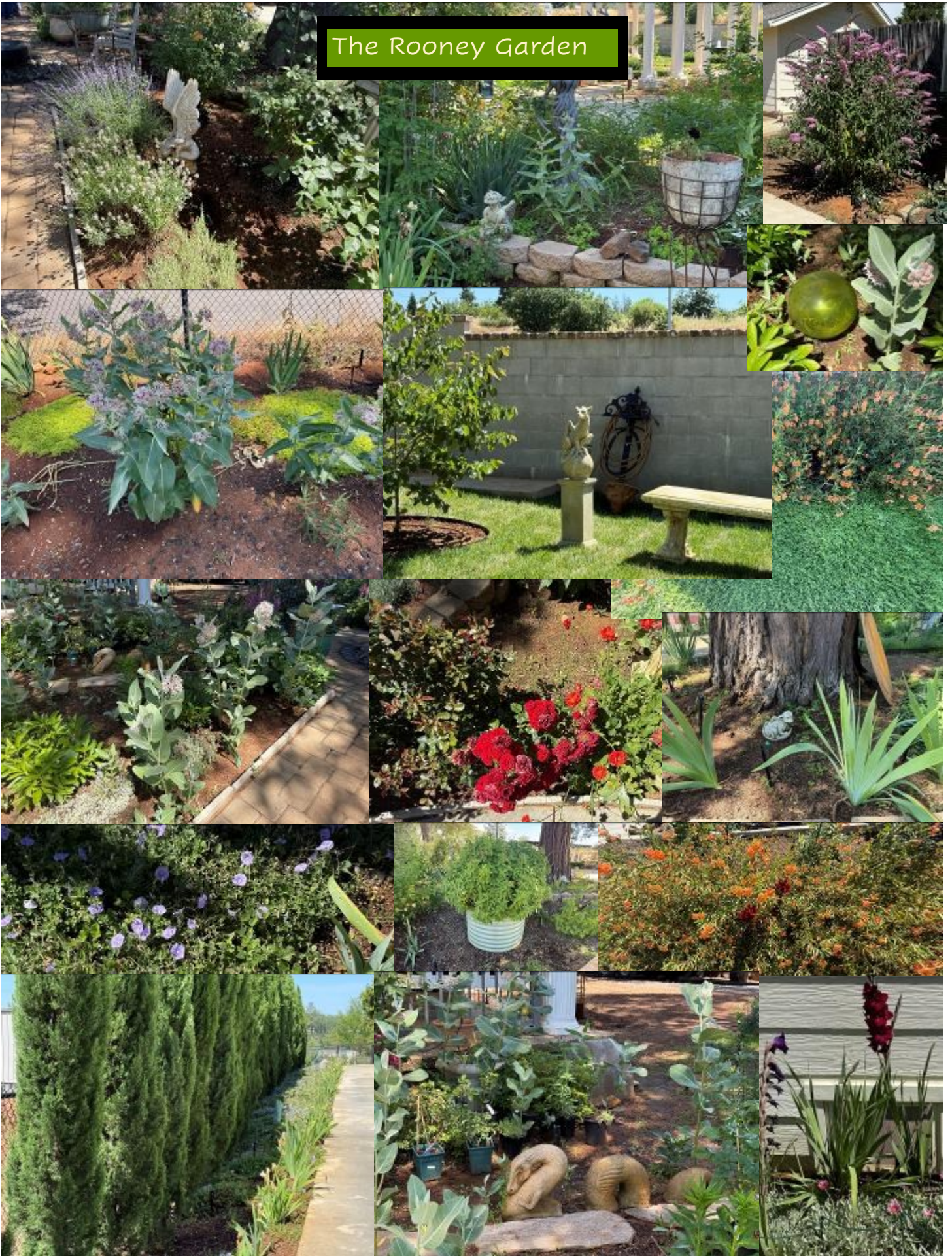
"The Heart of Paradise" Bed and Breakfast, aptly named by the Rooney's after the Campfire. The house and cedars survived. They've worked to make this six bedroom, six bath mansion into a complete delight. The gardens welcome you. An incredible variety of fragrant blooms and 80 Italian cypress, redbuds, a fruit & nut orchard and maples. Plus, lovely Showy Milkweed to support and draw monarch butterflies throughout the gardens. All of this planted by the loving hands of the Rooney family. The warmth of welcome is clearly felt as you stroll through the gardens or sit to relax.



The Rooney Garden



The Rooney Garden



The Sanchez Garden

With most trees gone from the Sanchez property after the 2018 Campfire, it opened up the option for sun loving plants. Plants and trees of varying colors, heights and textures surround the yard through a fire safe hardscape. Agaves, grasses, dogwood, roses, crepe myrtles and magnolias. The shady backyard is an annual experiment with Hostas, hydrangeas and the list continues to grow. A gardener's happiness: always thinking what's next.



The Sanchez Garden



The Lippincott Garden

In 2023 The Lippincott garden began with the goal to be wheelchair accessible and low maintenance. Thus, automatically controlled irrigation, lighting systems and terracing to mitigate soil erosion. Concrete replaced wood products. A dry stream bed, arbors, and various paths offset a vegetable garden, an orchard, and a Koi pond with a waterfall. The pond's Lily pads bloom only two days annually, were in full bloom both days of the tour!

A 12' x 18' greenhouse constructed this year by the gardener himself will be sanctuary to start next year's veggies and annuals and provide storage.

A garden shed, stand of redwoods and cedars, a pistachio tree and an English walnut tree and some hardscape were what remained after the 2018 Campfire. Just look at it now.



The Lippincott Garden



The Rehman Garden



The Rehman's welcomed us back to see what adventures in flora they have had since our first garden tour with them in 2022. Strolling through the expansive gardens, one sees many new fruit trees and evergreens, along with plants in every color and shade of green. The creek adds comforting sound and sight to us, and provides beverage for wildlife. Crossing one of many bridges, or sitting in a cozy spot encircled by plants, this is a place to exhale deeply and relax.

The Rehman Garden

A collage of 15 photographs showcasing various scenes from The Rehman Garden. The images include:

- A group of five people sitting on the ground, playing musical instruments (flutes and a stringed instrument) outdoors.
- A small stream or water feature flowing over rocks in a lush, green setting.
- A wide view of a garden path lined with trees and shrubs.
- A close-up of a weeping willow tree overhanging a body of water.
- A woman in a black dress standing next to a table, possibly a vendor or performer.
- A garden bed with raised wooden planters and mulch.
- A stone wall or border in a garden bed.
- A view of a garden path leading through trees.
- A woman sitting at a table, possibly a vendor or performer.
- A large, rounded bush or shrub in a garden bed.
- A view of a garden path leading through trees.
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- A view of a garden path leading through trees.

The property is part of the original apple farms from Paradise history. Five of the seven original apple trees were destroyed along with half of the towering pines, oaks and redwoods. Replanted within two years: seven hundred trees, bushes and shrubs, plus landscape fabric and lava rock.

The Rehman Garden



The paths connect all nine gardens. The only section of the property unburned was Mary's Garden where a statue of the Blessed Virgin stands with flowering shrubs, redwoods and other trees original to the property. The Rehman's feel like their property is similar to a prepared Thanksgiving feast. They invited the tour for everyone to gather and enjoy a visual plate of Paradise.

The Hall Garden

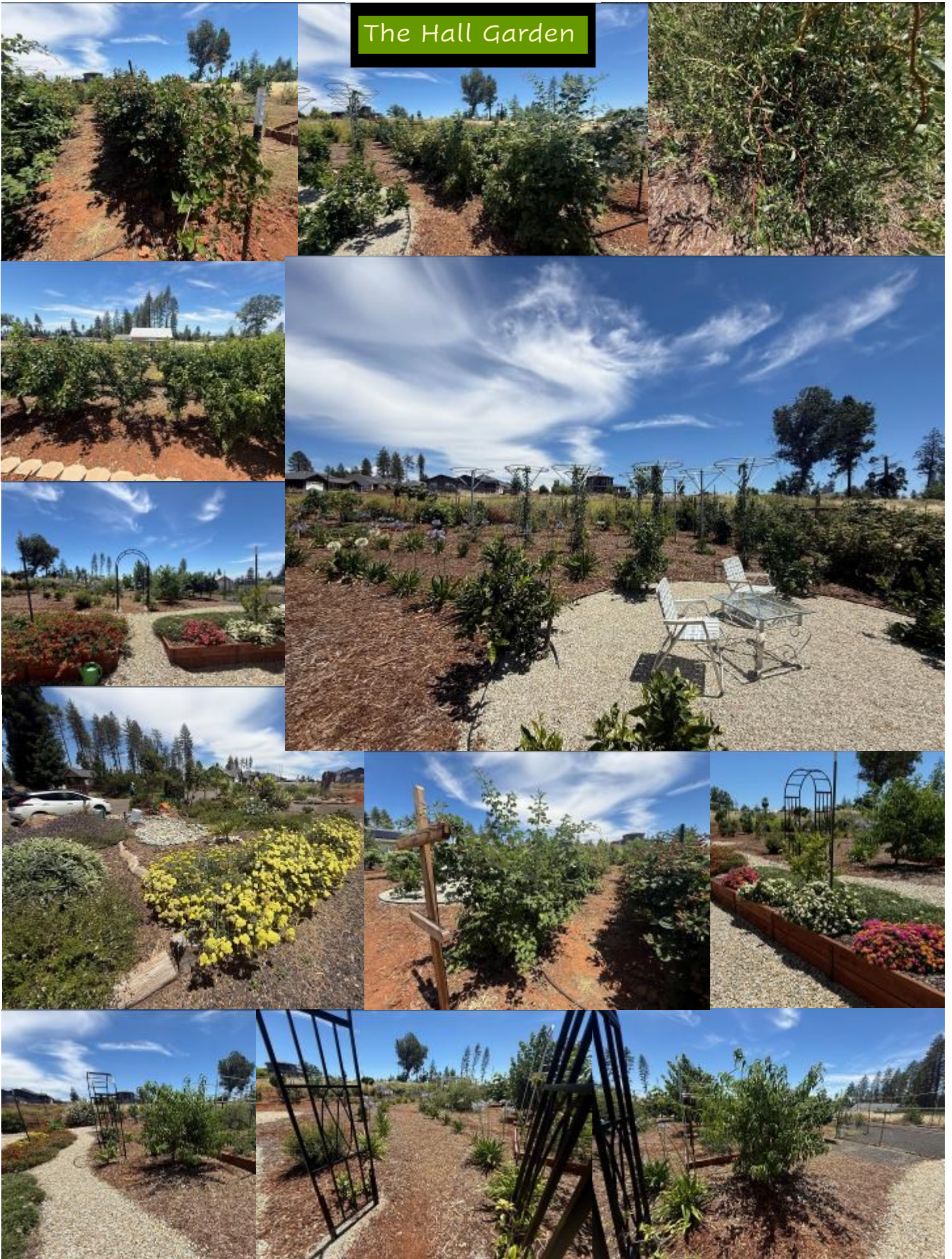
Mr. Hall experiments with the front yard, the shape being set by sun and deer. We all know the sun scorches and deer eat most of everything. Yet, tough salvias and other shrubs bravely thrive and show their colors.

The backyard is a gardener's delight of summer veggies, a walkway edged with Lily of the Nile, cane berries, pomegranates, kiwis, and guavas.

There are seventy fruit trees planted six feet apart selected for successive ripening and pruned to stay low. In early June, there was good sized fruit on many trees. What a promise for picking days!



The Hall Garden



The Criswell Ranch



Criswell Ranch takes you back in time. You will want to sit back in the saddle, chew a grass straw and soak in every bit of life as far as your eyes can see. Set in lower Paradise, the acreage is an example of fire safe land wrought by experience.

The Criswell Ranch



In 2008 the Humboldt Fire destroyed nine buildings and all else except the main residence. The horses and cattle survived the fire. The next ten years Don & his late wife, Debbie, used livestock in a rotational grazing program to reduce vegetation density in the event of another fire. When the 2018 Campfire burned across the ranch, their fire fuel reduction program saved the residence, buildings, water systems, and livestock. What a dramatic example of successful fire safe effort!

The Criswell Ranch



This is a working ranch that raises cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, and horses. Ranch produce includes citrus fruit, Manzanilla olives, prickly pear cactus, other fruit trees, eggs, and fresh vegetables. Grazing sheep maintain grass lawns. Small piazzas and fountains are a nice place to relax and provide water for birds. A place for the birds: owl nests, bird houses and bat boxes provide homes for resident and migratory flying friends that feed on mosquitoes and bugs.

Ranch employees tend livestock, maintain and develop the ranch. Their dedication allows Debbie & Don to enjoy this wonderful place where they are living their dream on the Ridge.

Thank You, Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to each member of the Paradise Garden Club who participated in any way to make this year's tour a successful one. It takes many hands to make this event happen every year, so I would like to start at the beginning.

The tour planning started in January this year with the search committee (Toby Brandtman, Ellen Michels and Anne Pace) driving around Paradise looking at gardens that are beautiful and unique in some way and then asking the homeowner if they'd be willing to have over 100 people walk through their gardens in June. It took several hours of many days driving around the town to find six gardens with owners to say 'yes'. In March, we finally had our six.

Meanwhile, the advertising team, Margaret Hawe and Jeudie Lovell, went to businesses in Paradise and beyond to ask business owners to place ads in our tour book. These ads actually paid for the printing of the tour book this year leaving more of our profits for scholarships to local students interested in horticulture.

Publicity involved creating signs, from the large outdoor ones and stick ins, to the 4x4s and 8.5x11 flyers were designed by Margaret Hawe and Nancy Howe. Nancy also contacted local radio stations and television (Action News Now) and put the tour on the Paradise Chamber of Commerce website.

Our annual collaboration with The Paradise Symphony and the Paradise Art Center was initiated by Nancy Howe and those artists and musicians available set up stations at tour gardens to share their talents with attendees.

Next, the creation of the tour book. Nancy Howe and Linda Goddard are the amazing creators. They took the ads, garden photos and descriptions provided by the homeowners along with interesting information about our garden club and gardening tips and created a new design for the year. Our president, Todd Hummel wrote the Welcome page, and Frank Dodini drew the map to help tour goers find their way.

To make the tour more interesting and to raise more money for scholarships, items were made to sell in the Boutique, and raffle items are mostly donated by our members. Cheryl Habriel was in charge this year and collected all the items and set them up at the Hub on Saturday morning.

While all these activities are happening, many of our members propagated and planted starts from their gardens to sell at the Garden Tour Plant Sale. Michelle McNeil and Wendy Wickland brought dozens of plants they had tended for months. The rest of the plants we sell come from Butte College as a donation after they have their plant sale in May and we are so grateful. Of course, those plants were transported from Butte College and this year the team included Linda Goddard and Norm Saylor, Heather Brownlee, and Anne and Bob Pace. Then the plants were cleaned up a bit and priced for the sale. We had so many members help that day that I cannot list them all for fear I might leave someone out, but 'thank you' to all that came to do this important task.

The day of the tour, several people including Linda Goddard and Norm Saylor, Linda and Jeff Marcus, Steve Beach, and Bob Pace transported the plants to the hub and set them up for the plant sale. At the same time, members of the club set up the pop-up canopies, tables, and raffle and boutique items while Carrie Max created a remarkable space to display the plants.

I wish I could name every member that came to help but again, I am afraid I would leave someone out and you are all so appreciated!

I would also like to thank all the garden greeters. A lot depends on you at each of the sites and I have heard nothing but positive feedback about all of you.

A special thank you to Nancy Howe for going to each of the homes and taking pictures. If all goes well, we will have a slide show at the July meeting.

The Annual Garden Tour and Plant Sale are the only ways the garden club makes money to give scholarships, and we are so very grateful to all who participate. We get great positive feedback from the homeowners and the people who attend, and you are the reason. Thank you!

Anne Pace

Contemplate



Criswell Ranch on 2026 Garden Tour. Photo by Nancy Howe

Clouds, moving pictures
watching quiet life below
be in this moment.