



Newsletter of the Paradise Garden Club, Paradise CA

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The rhythm of summer on the ridge brings both abundance and responsibility to our gardens. As August settled in, the long, sunlit days encouraged vigorous growth, but they also tested our attentiveness to water, soil health, and plant resilience. Now in September, many of us are seeing the rewards of spring planting with ripening tomatoes, blooming perennials, and pollinator activity at its peak. At the same time, the dry heat reminds us that gardening here is as much about stewardship as it is about cultivation.

Water management remains central to successful gardening in our region. Deep, infrequent watering continues to be the most effective approach for encouraging strong root systems and drought tolerance. Mulching with organic materials such as bark, straw, or compost helps retain soil moisture and regulate temperature, especially during stretches of triple digit heat. Gardeners might also take this opportunity to observe which plants are truly thriving under these conditions - an informal but valuable lesson in selecting species well suited to our unique ridge environment.

This is also a season of observation and connection. Early mornings and evenings offer the best moments to walk the garden, noting changes in plant health, insect activity, and soil conditions. Beneficial insects are especially active now, and their presence is a reminder of the delicate balance within our ecosystems. Sharing these observations whether at club meetings or informally with neighbors helps strengthen our collective knowledge and reinforces the sense of community that defines gardening on the ridge.

As we transition from summer to fall, it is worth remembering that each garden tells a story shaped by place, climate, and care. Whether tending a small backyard plot or a larger landscape, every effort contributes to the broader tapestry of our local environment. By gardening thoughtfully and sharing what we learn, we not only nurture our plants but also sustain the spirit of our ridge community.

Todd

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

Topic: Compost Tea

Presenter: Daniel Hodge

of Hodge's Family Nursery in Durham

Website: <http://www.hodgesfamilynursery.com>

In September we start a new round of workshops and speakers with Daniel joining us to talk about Compost Tea. Come with 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.



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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.***

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PGCI General Meeting, October 12 at 1:00 p.m. Building Soil Health

Presenter: John Thompson, General Manager – Butte Valley Supply and the Earthworm Factory

John brings two decades of hands-on composting industry experience spanning facility operations, feedstock logistics, and biological process management. He will be speaking on the four principles of soil health and how they apply to home gardens, landscapes, and local growing conditions here in Butte County. His talk will focus on practical ways to build living soil, improve water retention, support plant health, and work with natural systems to create healthier, more resilient gardens.

PGCI General Meeting, November 9 at 1:00 p.m. Backyard Stewardship

Presenter: Calli-Jane West, Community Partner Liaison – Butte County Fire Safe Council

At our May 11th meeting, Calli-Jane introduced us to the Backyard Stewardship guide and handed out copies to all present. Since then, she has visited Todd and Joyce’s property and also Anne Pace’s to provide guidance on how they could improve their property following the guidelines in the booklet, including fire resilience, connection to nature, ecosystem health and more. She will be discussing her recommendations as part of her presentation. One of the misconceptions about following the Backyard Stewardship Guide guidelines is the thought that we must cut down much of what is already planted and that is not the case.

Growing Ginger

Joanie purchased healthy, chubby but small pieces of ginger from a natural foods store and placed them in her own soil brew of backyard dirt, potting mix, perlite and coffee grounds. Planted as deep as the rhizome is thick and she keeps it moist, not wet. It will take a year to reach maturity. Morning sun only. It looks like long blades of grass, which are edible along with the flowers and rhizome. A fun learning thing this year. We gardeners never have a dull moment.

Beautification Team Report

Our Team was on hiatus for July due to the heat. It just wasn't going to be fun working at those temperatures. We work in the gardens just two hours, 8 to 10, but July temperatures were unreasonable.

We returned to work days the second Thursday in August commencing at the Library. There were 'gobs' of sweet peas and extensive weeds!! Shasta Daisies were deadheaded by hand as the hedger was out of commission. We won't leave any of the gardens for four weeks again!! It took eight of us the full two hours but we left it looking quite improved.

Next, Elliott triangle. Again, the sweet peas had climbed into the plants. We can't dig them out as the roots go very deep, so we just pull or cut them. There was lots of weeds and deadheading to be done. This year we cut back the tall stems of spent Agapanthus flowers. Last year we had left the big orbs and spray painted them like Christmas balls.

Foster triangle was tackled by five of us. We trimmed dead leaves and deadheaded. The water system had stopped working correctly and some of the Dusty Miller suffered. We cut it back and dug out old growth. Public Works came and corrected the water problem. The tall stems of the Agapanthus spent flowers were cut away. It only took us one and a half hours to bring the garden back to looking loved.

It was a very full month with a lot of work but we now have the gardens looking great. We enjoy taking time to talk and share about our own gardens and community activities.

Fun and pride are at the core of each time we get together. If you would like to join us talk to Jeudie at the Welcome Desk to find out where we are going each Thursday.

See you in September, *Jeudie*

PARADISE GARDEN CLUB

Board Minutes

July 13, 2026

Meeting commenced at 11:30 AM Present: Cheryl Habriel, Margaret Hawe, Jeudie Lovell, Anne Pace. Guest Wendy Wicklund and Linda Strand-Talmo. Absent Todd Hummel.

Minutes from the June meetings were approved (motion by Jeudie, seconded and passed).

Treasurer's Report – \$32,721 balance. Garden Tour - \$7,002, breakdown Ads - \$1,425, Ticket sales - \$5,300, Plant sale - \$1,012.38, Boutique - \$431, Raffle - \$522, Donations – 141.

Membership – we have 84 members as of today. Linda sent welcoming and informative emails to new members.

Beautification – Weeding and planting at the Library Mound.

Garden Tour Follow-up– One or two days for the Tour was discussed. The prevailing feeling was two days with no increase for the price.

Investments - It was suggested we look into investing some of our capital. Wendy will research.

Hospitality - Wendy volunteered to be the new Hospitality lead with Toby. Nancy is stepping down as lead after serving as lead for three years and she will continue as part of the team.

Today's Program – Daniel Hodges from Hodges Family Nursery in Durham on fruit tree care and summer pruning.

Upcoming Activities

No meeting in August

September – Daniel Hodge on compost tea

Meeting concluded at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary

Getting to Know You . . .



Joanie (right) with her sister in North Fork near Yosemite.

Joanie moved to Paradise with her family in 1990. She has a son, daughter and a granddaughter. She cherishes the grandma time she spent weekly as her granddaughter grew.

At the invitation of a friend, she attended several PGCI meetings throughout the pre-fire years. In 2022, she became a member of PGCI, hungry to learn how she could landscape in the dramatically changed Paradise conditions.

In addition to enjoying the gardening advice during the monthly meetings, she also became a member of the Beautification Team. Good conversations while pulling weeds became another opportunity to learn more about plants and landscaping ideas that could work in her yard. Her home and yard

were not only destroyed, but the terrain was completely changed by the big equipment that came through removing the burned out remains and in the process, a great deal was shifted in a way that made her property unfamiliar.

In 2024, with her new home completed, Joanie moved back. She also completed the Master Gardner program that year. She has a full tank of enthusiasm to fill her landscape with the plethora of potted plants she nurtured while waiting for her new home to be built. Her container garden has trees: Fuji persimmons, a donut peach, plum, apple, and almond. A very special addition, a Rose of Sharon tree, came from a friend who grew and nurtured it until Joanie was ready for it, giving Joanie progress reports on its growth along the way. Her friend passed away one month after she gave Joanie the tree. In mid August, Joanie visited Patrick Ranch where the Master Gardeners tend the gardens and teach classes. She saw a mature Red Heart Rose of Sharon there that gave her hope in what her little tree will become.



Library Mound workday.



Rose of Sharon in front of Palm.



In addition to trees, this year Joanie is growing tomatoes, melons, peppers, jalapeños, and ginger. She's also using solarizing sheets of plastic to kill weeds and weed seeds in her backyard. This effort is supposed to penetrate the ground to a depth of six to eight inches.

One day Joanie noticed there was green in the blackened pile of ash that used to be a large, thriving holly bush. She cleared off the detritus and encouraged the little green hope. It grew back quickly and is now it is full size again. Along with the holly, slowly, Saint John's

Wort returned. Even narcissus returned despite the fact that tractors had dug up that area. This made us think of how plants, animals and people have a reaction in common. Devastation puts us in a type of dormancy. Hope brings us back to health in its own time.

Her future gardening plans: eclectic plants – whatever wants to grow in this new space and she wants the entire spectrum of color. She's also looking forward to having pets again.

For several years now Joanie has served as our Penny Pines person, collecting modest bits of money that goes to reforest the national parks near us. The only thing that exceeds her bright colors is her vibrant smile. Just watch every month when she comes to the forefront of the meeting in a full glow, head to toe.



Weeds & seeds elimination tactic.



Contemplate



Photo, haiku & garden by Nancy Howe.

Butterfly summers
Fluttering through the garden
Brief moments treasured.