The Watercan Post Volume 33, No 11 November 2026



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



Growing Together with Gratitude,

November invites us to slow down and appreciate the beauty of autumn here on the Ridge in Northern California. As the days grow shorter, our gardens offer a place to reflect on the season behind us and imagine what lies ahead. For the Paradise Garden Club, this is a time to celebrate not only the plants we nurture, but also the friendships and shared purpose that make gardening together so rewarding.

There is still pleasure to be found in preparing for another season of growth. Fall can be a good time to establish suitable, cold hardy, low water plants, giving their roots an opportunity to develop during the cooler months before summer returns. Newly planted gardens still need attention. However, even when rain arrives, checking moisture at the root zone helps ensure that young plants receive the water they need. These small acts of care are investments in tomorrow's garden.

Here on the Ridge, resilience means more than simply carrying on. It is expressed in the willingness to begin again, to lend a hand, and to find beauty in something we have patiently nurtured. A newly planted bed, a cutting shared with a neighbor, or an encouraging conversation can remind us that growth takes many forms. Our gardens need not be large or perfect to represent hope, dedication, and a lasting connection to this place we call home.

As Thanksgiving approaches, let us be grateful for the people who help our community flourish. Whether we tend a backyard garden, a few porch containers, or simply an interest in learning, each of us has something to contribute. May November bring opportunities to share our knowledge, enjoy one another's company, and carry the spirit of kindness and renewal into the months ahead. Together, we nurture more than gardens, we nurture a sense of belonging on the ridge.

T3

Todd



November is an odd numbered month which means it's a plant share month. Bring your seeds, cuttings, plants to the back table. Bring a container to pick up a few of the offerings others provide.



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

Topic: **Backyard Stewardship**

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

Calli-Jane will be discussing the recommendations she made during her visits to Todd & Joyce's and Anne's properties 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. Come and discover ways to improve the stewardship of your property.

Index

1. Prez Greeting & Meeting Time
2. Index, Upcoming Events
3. Beautification Report & General Minutes
4. Pictures of Us
5. Board Minutes & Fall To Do List, TNG
6. Fall Gardening Tips, TNG
7. The Case For Imperfect Gardens, TNG
8. Contemplate

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.***

November 9 at 1:00 p.m. Backyard Stewardship

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

At our May 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 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. In September, she also visited Anne Pace's property to do the same and she will be discussing her recommendations as part of her presentation. One of the miscon-ceptions 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.



FIELD TRIP



WHERE Butte College Nursery - We will tour the nursery where the bulk of our plant sale plants are cultivated. We'll also hear from a college advisor about our scholarship program.
WHEN Friday, November 20. We'll meet at Ace Hardware at 9am to carpool.
THEN WHERE… Pottery World in Rocklin immediately following the nursery tour for lunch, viewing a plethora of garden stuff & shopping, returning at 4pm-ish.

OPTION You may have time for both the nursery & Rocklin or you can opt to go home after the trip to Butte College. Discuss travel arrangements with Anne via text if you have questions.

Field Trip to Butte College Nursery and Pottery World in Rocklin, November 20 leaving Ace Hardward at 9am and returning about 4pm

We'll be going to Butte College to explore the nursery where we get most of our plants to sell at our Annual Garden Tour. We will also be hearing from one of the college advisors about our scholarship program. A sign-up sheet will be available at our next meeting on November 9.

During our last field trip, several members expressed an interest in going to Pottery World in Rocklin. If there is enough interest, we will continue the trip there after Butte College and have lunch at the Pottery World Café.

PGCI General Meeting, December 14 at 1:00 p.m. Holiday Potluck

Our members are such wonderful cooks and bakers, so we'll be having a holiday potluck to enjoy the variety of holiday dishes you all prepare. It's also been fun to have members decorate the tables so if you'd like to bring your favorite holiday décor to add to the cheer. Sign-up sheets will be available at our November meeting. Get together with a few friends and make your table special.

Beautification Team Report

October was a quiet month for the Beautification Team. This is due in part to the eight postfire years of having workdays nearly each week of the month to bring the gardens we care for into a healthy pleasurable sight.

Can you remember the hot weather in the early weeks of this month? It was easy to choose not to go out to groom our gardens. Then the cool fall temperatures came in. We went to the Elliott Triangle to do some cleanup. Pulling sweet peas, weeding, deadheading and cutting away dying leaves made it look better. There was a light drizzle, but it was not worth stopping our progress.

All the gardens are in good shape for now, so we'll just keep an eye on their growth for a bit. We all know as gardeners that there will be a need for our attention in a few weeks.

This November marks the eighth year since the Camp Fire that wiped out most of Paradise, parts of Magalia and the surrounding areas in its path from the fallen PG&E power line in Pulga. Changing the bitter to sweet has been a continual work on the Ridge. Our Beautification Team has so many great memories of getting to know each other through pulling weeds, planting seeds and watching things grow as we ourselves grew into a dynamic team. We are grateful!

Come once, come twice, or join us on a regular workday schedule. Jeudie is at the back table at each meeting to give you the details.

Enjoy all the color changes of autumn.

Jeudie

PARADISE GARDEN CLUB **General Meeting** **October 12 2026**

Meeting commenced at 1:00 PM

Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance – President Todd Hummel

Today's Program - John Thompson, GM at Butte Valley Supply & Earthworm Factory gave a detailed presentation on *Building Soil Health*.

Treasurer's Report - Margaret - The club balance is $29,270.01. The signature card for the checking account 3511 at Tri Counties Bank needs to be updated to show the removal of Ellen Michels and the addition of Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary. Michelle McNeill made a motion to add Cheryl Habriel and remove Ellen Michels. The motion was seconded and passed.

Beautification – Jeudie – Elliott Triangle the next project.

Good of the Order - Thank you to all the members that brought snacks. Watch for a Mailchimp about a field trip to Butte College horticulture department and nursery. Please contact Anne if you are interested in helping find gardens for next year's Tour.

November program – Calli-Jane West, Community Partner Liaison, Butte County Fire Safe Council.

Meeting concluded at 2:30 PM Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary



Photos by Nancy Howe

Thank you, John!

John Thompson, from Butte Valley Supply & Earthworm Factory, spoke on "Building Soil Health", giving us a greater understanding of the incredible amount of living organisms within soil and the responsibility we have to nurture and appreciate what we cannot see. Healthy soil is the base for thriving gardens. This was a very interactive, fascinating presentation.



Garden Offerings, wonderful things to share.



PGCI members participated in The Wellness Fair at Bille Park. Photo by Linda Strand-Talmo



Look out! Wendy volunteered to team with Toby as Hospitality Team Lead. Wendy 's flare for fun and creativity will be a nice addition to this group of wonderfully gifted people.

Nancy served as Hospitality Lead for six years and has stepped down to work on other pursuits.

PARADISE GARDEN CLUB **Board Minutes** **October 12, 2026**

Meeting commenced at 11:30 AM

Present: Todd Hummel, Cheryl Habriel, Margaret Hawe, Jeudie Lovell, Guests Wendy Wicklund and Linda Strand-Talmo. Absent Anne Pace.

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

Treasurer's Report – $29,270.01 balance. Margaret checked with Tri Counties bank regarding investing a portion of the club's funds. Board members will meet with Edward Jones representative to discuss investment on October 21 st at 10:00 AM. The signature card for the checking account 3511 at Tri Counties Bank needs to be updated to show the removal of Ellen Michels and the addition of Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary. Jeudie Lovell made the motion to add Cheryl Habriel and remove Ellen Michels. The motion was seconded and passed.

Margaret advised Lisa Lipkin is learning the Treasurer job as a backup to her.

Membership – Linda will be nominated as Membership Chair at next year's elections. In the meantime, she will tutor under Margaret.

Beautification – The next workday will focus on the Elliott Triangle.

Participation in Community Events - The Wellness Fair at Bille Park September 19th went well. Booth set-up by Carrie is a good model for the future.

Home on the Ridge Expo at Johnny Appleseed Days October 3rd and 4th. We need a banner to identify us and help create better traffic to our booth.

Hospitality - Wendy brought up the possibility of adding Hospitality as a Board position. At present we have a very small Board (5 members) and it would be a benefit to have more decision makers. Cheryl made a motion to add Hospitality Chair as a Board position, It was seconded and voted by the Board unanimously in favor. It will be presented to the General membership and be voted on at the November meeting.

Today's Program – John Thompson, GM at Butte Valley Supply & Earthworm Factory Building Soil Health

Upcoming Activities

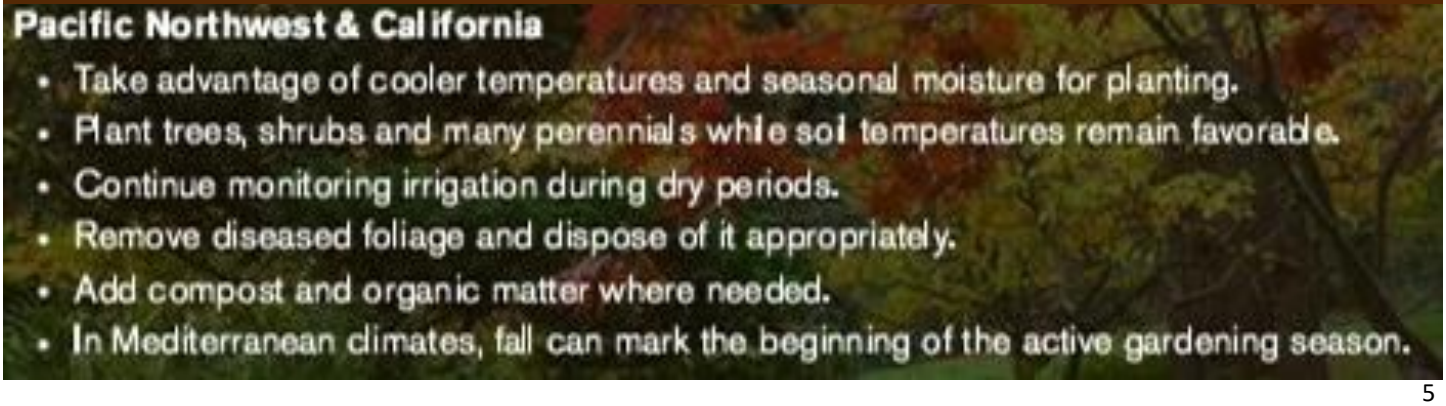
Recruitment for 2nd Vice President of Publicity position was discussed

November program – Calli-Jane West, Community Partner Liaison, Butte County Fire Safe Council.

Meeting concluded at 12:40 PM.
Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary

Excerpt from: **FALL GARDEN TO-DO LIST BY REGION,** by AUTHOR Victoria Schmidt

Published in the National Gardner, Fall 2026 National Garden Clubs, Inc., pages 45-46



FALL GARDENING: TIPS FOR A FALL GARDENS

Author: Victoria Schmidt

Published in The National Gardener, Fall 2026 National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Fall is one of the most rewarding seasons in the garden. It is also a season for reflection—evaluating what worked, improving the soil, planting for spring, and creating habitat for wildlife. Whether your garden is preparing for winter dormancy or entering its prime growing season, these tips can help you make the most of the months ahead.

1. **Take Stock of Your Garden:** Before putting the garden to bed, take a critical look around. Photograph successful combinations, note plants that struggled, and identify areas that need redesign or additional plants. Your fall observations can become next year's garden plan.
2. **Plant Trees, Shrubs & Perennials:** In many regions, fall is an excellent planting season. Cooler air temperatures reduce stress on newly planted specimens, while warm soil encourages root development. Give newly planted plants adequate water and mulch, and select species appropriate for your local climate.
3. **Plant Spring-Blooming Bulbs:** For gardeners in areas with sufficient winter chilling, fall is bulb-planting time. Daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and other spring bulbs should be planted before the ground freezes. Choose firm, healthy bulbs and follow planting-depth recommendations for each species.
4. **Keep Watering:** Plants don't stop needing water simply because temperatures have dropped. Newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials especially need consistent moisture while establishing roots. In dry climates, continue monitoring soil moisture even after the growing season appears to be winding down.
5. **Make the Most of Fallen Leaves:** Leaves are one of the garden's best—and free—resources. Shred them with a mower to use as mulch, add them to the compost pile, or incorporate appropriate amounts into garden beds. Avoid piling thick layers of whole leaves directly onto lawns or delicate plants.
6. **Don't Clean Up Everything:** A perfectly tidy garden isn't necessarily a healthy garden. Seed heads can provide food for birds, while hollow stems and leaf litter can provide shelter for overwintering insects. Remove diseased plant material and invasive weeds, but consider leaving healthy stems and seed heads standing through winter.
7. **Build Better Soil:** Fall is an excellent time to add finished compost or other appropriate organic matter. Consider having your soil tested before adding lime, fertilizer or other amendments. Healthy soil is the foundation for healthier plants—and testing helps prevent unnecessary amendments.
8. **Collect Seeds & Propagate Plants:** Fall provides an opportunity to collect mature seeds from many garden plants. Label collected seeds immediately with the plant name and collection date. Depending on the plant and your climate, fall can also be an excellent time for division, layering or taking cuttings.
9. **Protect Plants From Extreme Weather:** Know your garden's hardiness zone and approximate first frost date. Protect tender plants when necessary, bring susceptible containers indoors, and use appropriate mulch or protective coverings. In warm climates, however, fall may signal the beginning of another growing season rather than winter preparation.
10. **Plan Next Year's Garden:** Don't wait until spring to start planning. Review your garden journal, order seeds and bulbs, research new plants, sketch potential changes and make a list of projects. Fall planning gives you a head start when spring arrives.

Author: Victoria Schmidt, TNG Editor-in-Chief

The Case for Imperfect Gardens

Author: Theresa Chapman

Published in The National Gardener, Fall 2026 National Garden Clubs, Inc.



I have noticed something over the years. Flower gardeners speak in the language of promise: buds, blooms, color, fragrance — it's a vocabulary of anticipation. My garden, on the other hand, speaks in the language of proof. Mine is less about hope and more about dinner.

In many ways, blooms are a kind of "hopium." They are a belief in what might open tomorrow. I admire that deeply. But my particular joy has always been in the literal fruits of my labor — the tomato that actually ripens, the lettuce that becomes lunch, the harvest that justifies the mosquito bites and the crooked trellises. My beds in August are not photogenic. They are sprawling, chewed, uneven...and unapologetically productive.



That said, I'm learning. I've begun planting flowers — not because I can pronounce all their names yet, but because I've come to appreciate what they do. They bring pollinators. They bring birds closer to the feeder. They soften the edges of my utilitarian rows. I still measure success in pounds harvested, and yes, I once gave an entire presentation on software that calculates optimal seed-starting dates.

But I am beginning to understand the quieter pleasure of growing something simply because it is beautiful.

Perhaps an imperfect garden is simply an honest one. Some of us grow bouquets. Some of us grow salads. Most of us, if we're lucky, are growing into something new.

About the Author: Theresa Chapman, Seasons IV Garden Club, Southwest District, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. Theresa and her husband garden together at Beartown Homestead near Tazewell, Virginia. She serves as club secretary, District Horticulture Chairman, and District Editor for the Virginia Federation magazine. Theresa works as a senior software developer for an e-commerce technology company.

Contemplate



Photo, haiku & garden by Nancy Howe.

Pumpkins, falling leaves,

Rain, puddle splashes,

Laughter, Thanksgiving.