



## *Golden Gardens eNews* California Garden Clubs, Inc.

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[Julie A. West](#), President

[California Garden Clubs, Inc.](#) is a Member of [Pacific Region](#), [National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)

### **Message from the President** **Julie A. West**

Pacific Region's Convention in Anchorage, hosted by the Alaska Garden Clubs, was fabulous! Congratulations to the numerous CGCI award winners. Please note that the Pacific Region project, "Let Me Count the Ways" has changed its deadline to October 30, 2012 to be received by Pacific Region. I think every member of CGCI who completes this tally of time spent on behalf of garden club activities will be surprised...those activities include driving to/from various projects (garden therapy, youth, flower shows, community gardens, etc.), compiling plus proofreading yearbooks and newsletters, answering email inquiries and telephone calls, etc. **Please have your completed tally sheet to me via email by October 15, 2012** to allow time to forward to Pacific Region before October 30, 2012. [Click here](#) for the tally sheet form.



CGCI's Fall Board is rapidly approaching, and the deadline to reserve your room at CGCI's reduced rate with the hotel is **August 20, 2012**. This is the same deadline to register for the board meeting itself to avoid late fees. There are several excellent workshops, including the Awards Workshop that will review CGCI's new three-page format to correspond with Pacific Region and NGC requirements. This eliminates most books of evidence (but not all). The speakers/programs with each meal are featured below. If you are attending only the IRS Workshop on Thursday evening, no registration is required. Non-Board members are welcome to attend additional workshops and meals subject to registration. Be sure to register today so you don't miss "Exploring the Possibilities with CGCI."

## 2012 Fall Board

The CGCI Fall Board Meeting in San Mateo is right around the corner: **Thursday, September 6 through Sunday, September 9**. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Special Speakers

**Price Sheppy**, San Mateo Community Program Manager, Park Stewardship Program, [Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy](#), received his BS degree in Environmental Science at the University of Oregon. He has training from the Oregon Master Gardener Zoo and is a Perm Culture Design Consultant. He currently is working for the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC) as the Park Stewardship Community Program Coordinator.



Price has been working for the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy for five years. During that time he has held positions as a Biological Monitor, Public Information Coordinator and Restoration Technician. Currently he works as the San Mateo Community Programs Manager working on community based habitat restoration projects and educating people about the environment. Before moving to the Bay Area Price graduated from the University of Oregon with a B.S. in environmental science and has worked at a sustainable living center called Aprovecho.

Price will conduct a workshop on Friday, September 7, from 10:30 am - 11:30 am on "Looking at the Future of Conservation in California: Exploring the Changes, Challenges and Opportunities of Conserving California's Ecosystems." Price will be looking at the habitat conservation efforts in the Bay Area and in California and will be talking about what you can do to help.



[Nicholas Straddon](#), Director of New Plants for [Monrovia](#), has been a Monrovia Craftsman for over 23 years. Working with breeders, hybridizers and professional Plant Explorers, he scours the globe for new creations and discoveries in the plant world. Nicholas is also sought out as a resource and guest for television and radio gardening shows across the United States. Nicholas works closely with professional garden writers and Monrovia's customers, providing information on plants both old and new - sharing his views on garden trends. Nicholas has created a series of informative 'Plant Savvy' videos that can be found online.

Nicholas will present a workshop on Friday, September 7 from 10:30 am - 11:30 am entitled "New Cultivars with Monrovia." Then, that night, he will be the speaker at dinner on "Sustainable Trends in the Nursery Industry, from a Global

Perspective . . . and a few Smokin' New Plants."

**Katsuko Thielke** is a refreshingly inventive, enthusiastic and popular Ikebana artist. She began Sogetsu studies in Japan in 1962, earning her teaching degree in 1969. Coming to the USA in 1970, she resumed her Sogetsu studies with Shuko Kobayashi and Shoka Narimatsu, advancing to the rank of Somu, first grade. In addition to frequent participation in I.I. San Francisco Bay Area Chapter events, she has given programs in Sacramento, Monterey and Colorado. Katsuko teaches Ikebana at Mission College, as well as in the cities of Los Altos and Mountain View. In addition to her membership in I.I. San Francisco, she belongs to [Sogetsu Branches in San Francisco](#) and San Jose-South Bay Branches and the Ikebana Teachers Federation.



Katsuko will be the speaker at dinner on Saturday, September 8, 2012, on "Creativity in Unusual Sogetsu Ways." [Click here](#) to see some of her designs.

[Elise Hinman](#) works as the Community Outreach and Restoration Intern for the Park Stewardship Program of the [Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy](#) along side Price Sheppy. She has been directly involved in Project: Mission Blue through the restoration and monitoring of lupine patches, growing lupines at the nursery, and educating both youth and the public about the Mission blue butterfly. Elsie is excited to present the yearly [Project: Mission Blue](#) report and update CGCI about the growth and accomplishments of the project at lunch on Saturday, September 8.



## Awards

The updated 2012 CGCI Awards Manual is now on line (as well as all of the updated application and evaluation forms). [Click here](#) for the Manual. [Click here](#) for the forms.

A workshop will take place at Fall Board on Friday, September 7, 9:00 am to 10:15 am by [Pat Clayes](#), CGCI Awards Chairman. She will explain how to apply for awards, review the new application form that eliminates most books of evidence and encourage recognition for outstanding accomplishments. [Click here](#) for fall board meeting registration form.

A completed sample application form is on the website. [Click here](#) to view it.

## Awards from Pacific Region Convention

[Click here](#) for the California award winners from the Pacific Region Convention last month in Alaska.

## Youth Awards

Attn: All Youth Activities  
Coordinators

### High School Essay Contest

Reprinted from NGC's *Keeping in Touch* (August-October 2012)



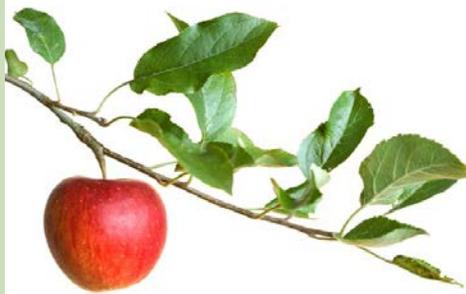
With Labor Day just around the corner, now is the time to start thinking about our Youth Contest for NGC. The Essay Contest theme for 2012 is, "**Ways We Can Protect Aquatic Ecosystems.**" The contest is open to students in grades 9 -12. A \$1,000 NGC Scholarship will be awarded to the National winner, and second place winner will receive \$100. The length of the essay should be between 600-700 words. For complete rules, please visit the [NGC Website](#) and go to the link "Youth" and then "Contest." Questions? Contact [Joyce Reid](#), Youth Poetry/Essay Contest Chairman.

### Youth Awards Manual

To see the updated youth awards page on the CGCI website, [click here](#). Questions? Contact [Linda Riddle](#), Youth Awards Chairman.

## The "IRS in Your Garden" Workshop at Fall Board

This is your last chance to attend this complimentary workshop by [George Perko](#), CPA, MBA, which is sponsored by CGCI during the IRS Amnesty Program that ends on December 31, 2012. No registration fee is required for non-board members attending ONLY this one workshop. The workshop will take place on Thursday, September 6, 2012 from 7:30 pm -- 9:00 pm at the San Mateo Marriott Hotel, Synergy 4, 1770 South Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94402.



## Want to Sponsor an NGC School and Don't Know How or Have Questions?

Here is your chance to speak with the experts at the CGCI Fall Board Meeting.

On Friday, September 7, 2012, from 9:00 am until 10:00 am, the CGCI Schools Chairmen (see names below) will hold a Q&A regarding the four schools in the Connect 3 Room of the San Mateo Marriott Hotel, 1770 South Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94402. [Click here](#) for registration form if you plan to attend.

[Dolores Moffat](#) - Flower Show Schools  
[Greg Pokorski](#) - Gardening Study Schools  
[Shane Looper](#) - Environmental Study Schools  
[Alexis Slafer](#) - Landscape Design Schools

## Joint Council Meeting at Fall Board

The Gardening Consultants Council (which includes Environmental Consultant members) and the Landscape Design Council will meet on Sunday, September 9, 2012 from 9:00 am until 11:30 am in the Inspire 2 Room, San Mateo Marriott Hotel, 1770 South Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo, CA. See the respective council pages on the CGCI website ([click here](#) for Gardening Consultant Council and [click here](#) for Landscape Design Council) for agenda and additional information. Contacts: [Myrtle Findley](#), Gardening Consultants Council / [Pat Clayes](#), Landscape Design Council Chairman.



## May 11-18, 2013 CGCI Fundraising Cruise Aboard the Sapphire Princess

CGCI members, family and friends have the opportunity to enjoy a leisurely 7-day voyage along the Pacific Coast from Los Angeles to Vancouver with ports of call in Santa Barbara; San Francisco; Astoria, Oregon; Seattle, Washington and Victoria, British Columbia. A donation of \$50 per person will be made to support the ongoing objectives of CGCI and a balcony cabin mid-ship is a bargain at \$1,325 per person (plus government fees and taxes of \$115 per person and subject to change). [Click here](#) for the flyer.

For an additional charge per excursion, shore trips have been designed specifically for CGCI members that include an additional \$10 donation to CGCI.

[Read more](#) . . .

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## News from CGCI Chairmen

### Dudleya - A California Native Succulent

by [Dana Lozano](#), Horticulture Feature Editor

Succulents are all the rage! They have always been a favorite in the garden, but now seem to be re-discovered for their low water requirements and their adaptation to thriving in containers, along garden borders, in rock gardens and in general, creating a growing plant quilt of color and texture wherever they are grown. [Read more](#) . . .



### 2011-2013 CGCI President's Project

by [Ruth Browning](#) and [Linda Simonds](#), Co-Chairmen

The President's Project continues to raise funds for the educational sign project at the Kenneth M. Stocking Native Plant Garden at Sonoma State University. CGCI President Julie West asks that we share her thanks for the gifts from individuals, clubs and districts. Twenty-six garden clubs, nine districts and thirty individuals have donated to the President's Project. To date, the project has raised \$10,766, well on the way to our goal of raising the funds to install three signs in the garden. We are now collecting funds for the second sign, Fresh Water Marsh/Wetlands. [Read more](#) . . .



### Life Memberships

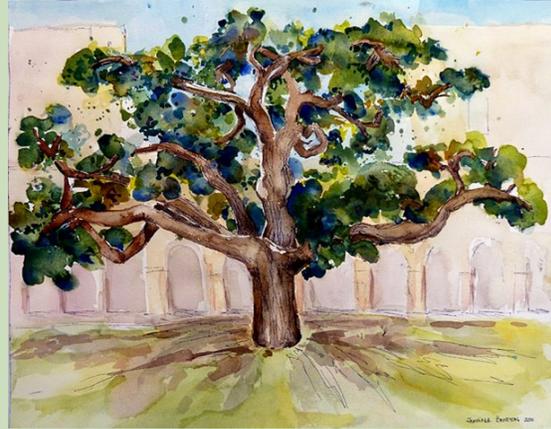
by [Carlotta Wixon](#), Life Membership Chairman

It is thrilling to report that, since the 2011 Convention, 40 new Life Members have been welcomed to our roles. That is an encouraging number; it means that \$4,000 has been added to our CGCI Scholarship Fund. Most of these new memberships were given as a surprise to club or district officers as they left office. Others were given to people deserving recognition for the work they did for their clubs. Whatever the reason, all recipients appreciate the honor. Treat yourself to a Life Membership! It is a simple process and the certificate and pin will be sent to you within a few days. Your club president and/or district director has the applications for CGCI, Pacific Region and NGC that are completed and sent to this chairman. [Read more](#) . . .

## Where Are the Great Oaks of California?

by Jennifer Bentson, Artist, Chevy Chase Garden Club

Did you know that the oak is the National Tree of the USA? Both the US and California have a Register of Big Trees. This is where I started on my project to paint the "California Oaks as Art."



### Largest Engelmann Oak in the USA

The largest Engelmann Oak in the US is in Pasadena, CA. I used Google to find an address for this tree. There were articles about a 400-year old Engelmann Oak at California Institute of Technology (Caltech). This must be the oak. I met with Caltech and promptly received a commission to paint its dying oak. I then received a list of major oaks from California's Big Tree List. Oops! The largest Engelmann Oak in the US is located in a hedge in someone's home. I obtained permission from the homeowner and painted that oak. [Read more](#) . . .

## Invasive Plants - Part 5 of 10

The Terrible 10 Invasive Plants of Southern California: fountaingrass; castorbean; tree of heaven; cape-ivy; vinca; ivy; arundo; fennel; iceplant; and pampasgrass.

### Terrible Invasive Plant #5 of 10 - Vinca (*Vinca major*)

Vinca is a fast growing ground cover with dark green leaves and stems that excrete a white milky latex sap when broken. The purple-blue flowers have five fused or connected flower petals. Vinca thrives in part sun and moist soil but also will grow well in very poor soils and full shade. It is most frequently found near locations where it has been planted and spread from a nearby garden. Once established, it forms dense mats that prohibit the germination and growth of native plants.



## News from National Garden Clubs, Inc.

### Hydrangea Pictures Needed on Flickr

By [Robin Pokorski](#), NGC Flickr Chair, NGC President's Project



Can you grow hydrangea? Take a picture of your hydrangea and send it to me to post on the NGC Flickr site! The hydrangea is our NGC President's favorite flower. Let's celebrate how our Pacific Region states grow the hydrangea! Send pictures to Robin Pokorski at [RobinP@juno.com](mailto:RobinP@juno.com). Then visit the [site](#) and find ideas for your club.



### Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Congratulations to our 21,975 participants and the garden clubs that sponsored them in NGC's Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl 2012 poster contest. The State Chair with the highest participation of youth was once again Barbara S. Ohmsen of Virginia. The winner for the First Grade was Georgia Raguz, the Highland Heights Garden Club, Ohio. The Second Grade winner was Amir A. Mohaideen, the Wellington Garden Club, Florida. The Third

Grade winner was Emma Henry, the Marvell Garden Club, Arkansas. The Fourth Grade winner was Collin Sharp, the Water Valley Garden Club, Mississippi. The Fifth Grade winner and the Grand Prize Winner are Caroline Tan, the Rake and Hoe Garden Club, New Jersey. Look for their winning posters on both the Forest Service's website and NGC's website. Also, it is not too early to get the news out about next year's contest. See those new documents on the website. Contact Elaine Dates - [elainedates@comcast.net](mailto:elainedates@comcast.net) or 80 2-658-4061 for further information.

[Also, contact [Denise Davis](#), CGCI Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman for more information.] [Photo above was taken at CGCI's June 2012 Youth Luncheon.]

## [NGC Website](#)

### Member Sign-In & Password

Sign-In = member

Password = proud

NGC has been very busy designing a new and exciting website; [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) stayed the same but there are now 3 levels of security. The public side has no security. The member side which is for every garden club member has a sign in and a password. Sign in, MEMBER password PROUD. Please share this with your garden club members via emails or in your newsletters, but please do not publish on your website. The NGC Board member Password was given to all board members at the last meeting in Buffalo.



## News from Pacific Region

### WACONIAH News

By [Dave West](#)

Effective immediately, WACONIAH subscriptions have increased: \$15 for 2 years; \$30 for boosters which include 2 year subscription. [Click here](#) for the subscription form.

### "Reaching Out, Let Me Count the Ways"

2011-2013 NGC Pacific Region Director's Project - [Debbie Hinchey](#), Director

The goal is to tally the influence that garden clubs have in the community. Few seem to realize the time and financial commitments or the variety of activities that garden clubs and their members accomplish for their communities. By collecting this data, we can show the positive impact for future press releases, grants, support and membership.

The Director asked garden club members to record their activities, donations and hours spent for one year beginning July 2011. If you think an activity benefits your community through garden club record it on the Activity List ([click here](#)). Please return the Activity List to the CGCI President [Julie West](#) by October 15, 2012.

## Back to School

*Upcoming Schools/Refreshers & Flower Show Judges Symposia in California Environmental, Flower Show, Gardening & Landscape Design*



Check CGCI [Calendar of Events](#) for links to brochures, flyers, registration forms, etc. For schools in other states, check the [NGC website](#).

- **August 20-22, 2012 - Flower Show School**, Course I. Sponsor: Judges Council of Southern California. Chairman: [Martha Hunt](#). [Click here](#) for the brochure and registration form. Course II: January 7-9, 2013 / Course III: August 12-14, 2013 / Course IV: January 6-8, 2014.
- **August 30-31, 2012 - Gardening Study School**, Course II, Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino. Sponsor: Southern California Garden Club. Chairman: [Robin Pokorski](#). [Click here](#) for brochure and registration form for Course II / Course III: January 30-31, 2013 / Course IV: March 28-29, 2013. See Press Release under [Calendar of Events](#).
- **May 5-7, 2013 - Flower Show Judges Symposium**, Location TBA.
- **October 12-13, 2012 - Gardening Study School**, Course I. Sponsor: Humboldt District. Chairman: [Mary Lou Goodwin](#). [Click here](#) for the registration form. Course II: January 4-5, 2013 / Course III: April 5-6, 2013 / Course IV: July 12-13, 2013.

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## Upcoming CGCI Official Events (other than schools)

See [CGCI Calendar](#) for club, affiliate, associate plant society and district "special" events which are open to the public.

- **September 6-9, 2012** - CGCI Fall Board Meeting, San Mateo. Host: Executive Committee. Chairman: [Shane Looper](#).
- **September 26-29, 2012** - NGC Fall Board Meeting, Little Rock, Arkansas.
- **February 5-8, 2013** - CGCI Winter Board Meeting. Host: Golden Foothills District. Auburn Holiday Inn.
- **April 21-24, 2013** - [Pacific Region](#) Convention. Host: CGCI. Chairman: [David West](#). Hilton Sonoma Wine Country Hotel, Santa Rosa.
- **May 11-18, 2013** - CGCI Fundraising Cruise. [Click here](#) for the flyer.
- **May 21-27, 2013** - NGC Convention, Seattle, Washington.
- **June 3-7, 2013** - CGCI Convention, San Diego. Host: Palomar District. Chairman: [Jane McKee](#).

- **June 5-9, 2014 - CGCI Convention, Glendale. Host: San Fernando Valley District.**

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