

Golden Gardens eNews

www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org

January-February 2015, Vol. 7-1

California Garden Clubs, Inc.

www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org

A member of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Pacific Region

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all of our CGCI members!

We hope your plans for 2015 include attending the CGCI Convention from June 8 to June 11 at Circus Circus in Reno, Nevada. Come meet the officers and chairmen who serve CGCI. Sue Bennett will be installed as the 2015-2017 CGCI President.



This is a great opportunity for networking with CGCI members from every part of California. Spend time in the Awards Room to read about the best and most innovative club projects. Club and District yearbooks are always a source of inspiration. Listen as each chairman discusses his/her chairmanship, and learn how your club can benefit by involvement.

Amazing optional tours are planned:

- ◆ *June 8: Private three-hour tour of the National Automobile Museum, Reno*
- ◆ *June 12: Bus tour to Virginia City including train ride to Carson City, and a three-hour Lake Tahoe cruise on the Miss Dixie that includes dinner.*

See you in Reno!

-- Rita

President's Travel Schedule 2015

January 23-24	Flower Show Symposium, Bakersfield
February 3-5	CGCI Winter Board Meeting, Fresno
February 10	Valley Lode District*
February 17	Sacramento River Valley District*
February 23	San Fernando Valley District

*Official Visit

OFFICIAL CALENDAR

See CGCI Website Calendar for club, affiliate, associate plant society and district "special" events which are open to the public.

- ◆ **February 3-5, 2015** - CGCI Winter Board Meeting, Fresno Hotel and Conference Center, Fresno. Host: Sequoia Foothills District. Co-Chairmen: [Diane Lane](#) and [Carley Metcalf](#).
- ◆ **April 18-20, 2015** - [Pacific Region Pre-Convention Tour](#).
- ◆ **April 20-22, 2015** - [Pacific Region Convention](#), Eugene, Oregon.
- ◆ **May 14-17, 2015** - NGC Convention, Louisville, Kentucky.
- ◆ **June 8-12, 2015** - CGCI 84th Convention, Circus, Circus Hotel, Reno, Nevada. Host: Golden Foothills District. Co-Chairmen: [Joan Craig](#) and [Myrtle Findley](#).
- ◆ **September 2015 (TBA)** - CGCI Fall Board Meeting. Hilton Hotel, Concord. Host: Diablo Foothills District. Chairman: Marlene Kinney.

OFFICIAL SCHOOL CALENDAR

Upcoming Schools/Refreshers & Flower Show Symposia in California

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

- ◆ **January 23-25, 2015** - 55th Flower Show School Symposium, DoubleTree, Bakersfield. Chairman: [Mary Arakelian](#).
- ◆ **February 11-13, 2015** - Flower Show School, Course IV, Diablo Foothills District. Livermore. Co-Chairmen: [Victoria Lucido](#) and [Dolores Moffat](#).
- ◆ **April 23-24, 2015** - **Landscape Design School**, Series 26, Course II. Sponsor: Luther Burbank District.. Chairman: [Mary Ann Swanson](#). Course III: October 22-23, 2015 / Course IV: April 28-29, 2016

Clubs/Districts:

Want to sponsor a school? If so, contact [Shane Looper](#) for Environmental Studies; [Gudy Kimmel](#) for Flower Show Schools; [Greg Pokorski](#) for Gardening Study; and [Alexis Slafer](#) for Landscape Design.

CGCI BOARD RATIFIED PROJECTS

See the CGCI website for information about these CGCI projects and how to donate.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
Endowment Funds
Golden Legacy Society
Habitat for Humanity Landscaping

Penny Pines
Project Mission Blue
Reforestation & Restoration
Scholarships

Sempervirens Fund
Rare Plant Treasure Hunt

Golden Gardens eNews is published every other month or whenever necessary. It is free. See the CGCI website for the links to subscribe and view past eNewsletters. One can unsubscribe at any time. Deadline to submit articles is the 23rd of the following months: August (for September issue); October (for November issue); December (for the January issue); February (for the March issue); April (for the May issue), June (for the July issue).

FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT



Yes, I would love to be a CGCI Chairman!

by Sue Bennett, President-Elect

Have you thought about your New Year’s resolution(s) for 2015? I have and would you believe that most of my resolutions include CGCI in them!

My goals are to obtain candidates for the Board of Directors during the 2015-2017 term; ask districts to host meetings; obtain accommodations for board meetings and conventions; and finalize my president’s project.

I have already started asking chairman, and some have approached me to say they are staying on. Thank you! Thank you also to those who have been up front and said, “I’m sorry, I won’t be able to help during your term.” This helps me fill the vacancies and not have to wait until the last minute.

Please put on your list of New Year’s resolutions: **“Yes, I would love to be chairman! CGCI has been wonderful for me. I have a lot to offer, and I look forward to learning something new.”**

Please let me know of your interest as soon as possible -- District Directors especially, who will be “released” from your duties and will become available. A list of unfilled chairmanships is available from me. If interested, please contact President-Elect Sue Bennett via email at sue_c_bennett@att.net or call 916-791-9459. I look forward to having you part of the team.



HORTICULTURAL MOMENTS

By Krystal Migliore, 2nd Vice President - Membership Chairman



Members join garden clubs for the information and stay for the people. “Horticulture Moments” feed both needs and more.

What is a Horticulture Moment?

Horticulture Moments:

- An educational bonus scheduled for each month’s meeting.
- Presented by garden club members who have been randomly selected in advance (with the year’s schedule appearing in the club’s yearbook).
- Topics are related to horticulture and are selected by the member/presenter.
- Short, about five minutes in length.

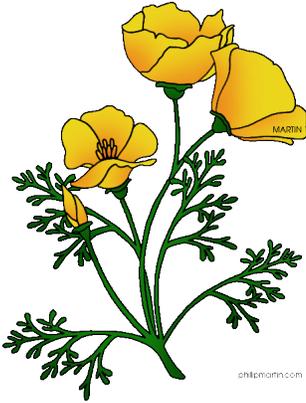
Horticulture Moments are important because they:

- Provide education on a wide range of topics including some that are wonderfully unexpected. You never know what you will learn!
- Allow the audience to learn more about the interests of a fellow garden club member.
- Let the member/presenter share his/her horticulture interests or passions.

Continued on Page 4

HORTICULTURAL MOMENTS

(Continued from Page 3)



- Help the member/presenter get past the fear of public speaking when they talk about something he/she loves.
- Provide an opportunity for the member/presenter to shine!

There are less obvious, long range benefits as well. Awhile back, while driving home from our garden club's board meeting, my mother, a friend and I started talking about our club's Horticulture Moments. My mother shared with us that without the experience of presenting her first Horticulture Moment; she **never** could have become a board member.

How did a five minute Horticulture Moment make such a difference? You'll need the rest of the story. My mother is very shy and was terrified of speaking in public. She said there was no way she could have done a Horticulture Moment alone but did not want to cancel. The solution? She and her sister presented their Horticulture Moments together. The topics they selected complemented each other and were ones they both knew well: pruning fruit trees and pruning roses. After much anticipation, with notes in hand and knees knocking, it was time. Mom says she does not remember if she used her notes, but she does remember her quick demonstration on how to prune a fruit tree. It was easy because she had done it so many times over the years in her own garden.

She survived the experience, and the reward was yet to come. Afterward, during a break a number of members came to her with questions, and she had the answers. There were also several members who told of their own fear of speaking in public. What was expected to be a terrifying experience turned out to be a rewarding and empowering experience instead!

Before the Horticulture Moment, my mom had been asked to serve as an officer and had declined (because of the fear of speaking in front of a group). **Since** that first Horticulture Moment experience, she realized she could speak in front of the group. While public speaking still is not her favorite thing, she has served as the club's treasurer for three years and this year serves as the club's parliamentarian.

To learn more about Horticulture Moments or any membership related topic, contact this membership chairman.

Possible points for discussion at your next board meeting:

- Does your club need more prospective officers?
- Do you have a program that puts members in a position to shine? If so, is it working? If not, what are the possibilities?
- What can be done to help your members overcome the challenges of speaking in front of the group?

DUES REMINDER

Clubs and associate plant societies shall forward dues periodically for new members joining after July 1 to the CGCI Membership Chairman. Please use the "Dues: Additional Members" form on the CGCI website when submitting your periodic payments.



There are two season diversions that can ease the bite of winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalog.

--Hal Borland, American writer

COMMUNICATIONS

By [Jane McKee](#), Communications Director



The new CGCI website is almost here! The release date will coincide with the Winter Board meeting, February 3-5. The site has been redesigned and reorganized . . . the “look and feel” is different, and there are some new features, but it retains the same basic content (with updated information, of course). This is **YOUR** resource for CGCI information: membership, forms, events, programs and projects, awards and more.

We also offer calendar listings for your special events and email accounts for your organization. For example: myclub@cagardenclubs.org, website hosting or links to your existing website and a Zip Code Locator service. These are just a few of the benefits of CGCI membership, so check them out and take advantage of these FREE services.

Questions? Contact cgcicomunications@cagardenclubs.org.

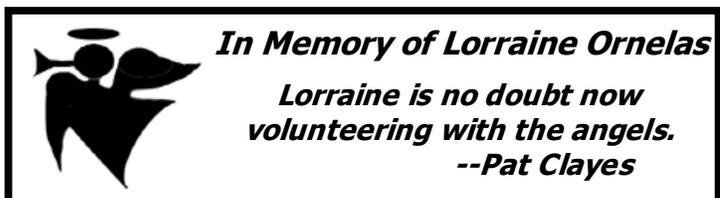
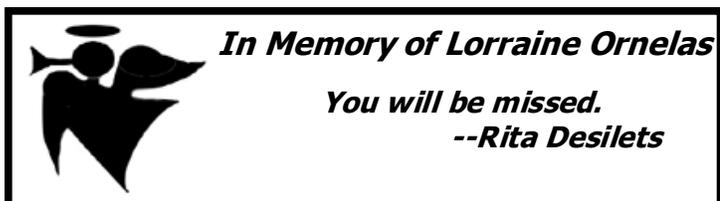
CGCI GROUP TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM NEWS

[Bev Davies](#), CGCI Group Tax Exemption Program Chairman

Important Reminder!

Renewal filing for the CGCI Group Tax Exemption Program for member clubs/districts deadline date is **February 1, 2015**. This Chairman urges those clubs/districts that have not yet filed to submit their renewal and \$15 fee as soon as possible.

Remember to file annually: the IRS 990-N, 990-EZ or 990 (depending upon annual income); the CA Franchise Tax Board 199N or 199; and the CA Attorney General Registry of Charitable Trusts, RRF-1. You can find these forms on the CGCI website.



WANTED

School Sponsor Wanted

It is time to start working on California's next Gardening Study School. This four course (six classes and ten hours of instruction per course) program is one of National Garden Clubs' four major educational programs. Curriculum and general information are posted on the CGCI website.

Interested clubs or districts should contact [Greg Pokorski](#), CGCI and NGC Gardening Study Schools Chairman.



PACIFIC REGION NEWS

By [Sue Bennett](#), CGCI's Pacific Region Special Projects Coordinator

THANK YOU to the Districts, Clubs and Chairmen for submitting information for the 2013-2015 Pacific Region Project: **"It's Our World! It's Our Responsibility! Plant Seeds of Knowledge and Stewardship."**

The Districts, Clubs and CGCI Chairmen were asked to identify, collect and publicize new or ongoing projects that educate members and the public in making responsible choices that protect and conserve our natural resources . . . Air, Water, Forest, Land, Plants and Wildlife. The reporting period was from April 2013 to October 1, 2014.

A spreadsheet, one page for each "topic" plus a page on CGCI, totaling 7 pages, were submitted. Like those who submitted data, I did my best to come up with what the Pacific Region wanted. I tried to be as consistent as I could. Example: Most folks had contributions to Penny Pine Plantations labeled as O = Other; a few had it labeled as C = Club; I left it at O; even though the club collects money, club members do not actually do the activity of planting. In regard to Penny Pines and donations, I also guessed as to how many hours; I figured 10 meetings a year -- 10 hours; I didn't know how many members to note as it related to "contributions" as it only takes a few minutes to put money in a container; however, the treasurer has to count the money and complete the forms. When no member count or other numbers, I took the average of the total club number and guessed how many hours. Most clubs have 45 minutes to an hour for speakers.

A few days later, I was asked to summarize the report: "I sure wish you had a shorter version of the huge report you sent me. I have cut and pasted two sheets together and sometimes the lines don't match up." Then a week or so later, I was asked to send a picture. I'm curious as to what other states entered!

Enough said. The results: The totals represent 4 districts, 60 clubs and 1 affiliate, including data from NGC Schools and CGCI information (Tri-Refresher, President's Project, Wildflower Conference, Project Mission Blue, etc.).

Members: 20,072; Hours: 184,498

Of course, there are exceptions to everything. I could not count hours for the following, however, they were included in the report: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Reforestation/Restoration Project, President's Habitat for Humanity Project, Sempervirens Funds and Penny Pines collected at state board meetings.

Thank goodness for spreadsheets that do automatic calculations.

To quote Sandra Ford (Pacific Region Director's Project Chairman), "Sue. You should win an award for just putting this together. My husband had quite a time trying to reduce it in size and keeping it large enough to be able to read. Got it down to six pages printing half at a time. Now to line both pages together. What a tremendous job you did. Thank you so much."

I end by stealing part of Sandra's quote: "What a tremendous job! Thank you so much for submitting the data, but more importantly what you do for CGCI and our world."



The **Pacific Region's 72nd Annual Convention** will be held on April 20-22, 2015. Theme: "From the Mountains, to the Valleys, to the Waters." The Convention will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 66 E 6th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401.

Telephone: 541-342-2000

Reservations: 1-800-937-6660

Registration deadline is April 2, 2015.



CGCI PRESIDENT'S PROJECT UPDATE

By [Sara White](#), CGCI President's Project Chairman

Since the last issue of *Golden Gardens eNews*, donations from the following donors have been received:

Buttes District
Palomar District*
Chicago Park Garden Club
Lake Oroville Area Garden Club
Pinole Garden Club
Albert Chang
Krystal Migliore, in honor of Irene Herringer

checks being lost in the mail. The above donations total \$560.00, and the total collected since June 2013 is \$6,160.00 (\$200.00 less for the lost checks).

If you have not yet donated or applied for a grant to do landscaping, please go to the CGCI website for the donation and grant application forms.

Thank you for your contributions to the Habitat for Humanity Landscaping President's Project.

CGCI is awaiting replacement checks from Huntington View Garden Club and Burbank-Valley Garden Club due to

*replacement for lost check.

NEED A PIN

for your

Club President, Club Past President, District Director, Past District Director?

It is never too early to plan for club installations and honoring officers and others for their dedication. Plan to obtain pins at the February Winter Board Meeting in Fresno.

Look for the State Pins and Miscellaneous Sales table. See the CGCI website for the order form.

Questions? Contact [Beverly Switzer](#) & [Hank Vanderhorst](#), "The Pin Team"

NEED A BANNER

for your

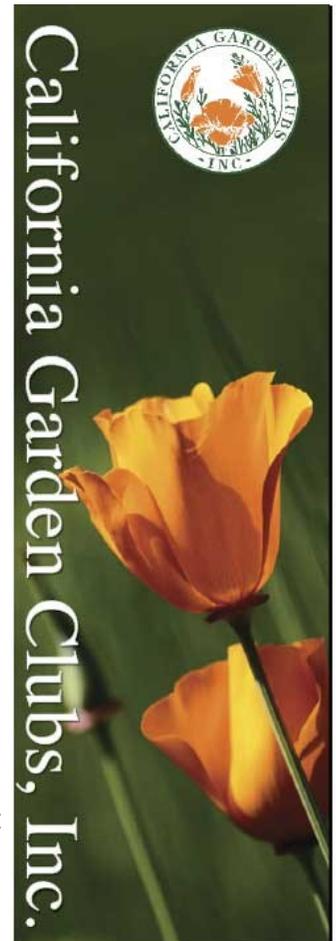
Club or District?

Use banners at plant sales, monthly meetings, flower shows and/or schools.

To order a banner, See the CGCI website for the order form.

Send your check for \$75 payable to CGCI to Banner Chairman [Launa Gould](#). Use California Garden Clubs, Inc. as shown or customize with your club or district name. Your club or district name will replace the large California Garden Clubs, Inc. on the left side of the banner; the CGCI logo will remain.

For banner stand construction instructions, see the CGCI website.





PENNY PINES

PENNY PINES DONATIONS DECEMBER 2014 REPORT

Total Donations: \$5,168.00

By Pat York, Chairman

BAY BRIDGES DISTRICT

Berkeley GC	
Honor: Phil Stanley	\$68
Friends of Heirloom Flowers	
Honor: Beverly "Bev" Kinney	\$68
Pinole GC	
Honor: Annette Thomas	\$68
San Leandro GC	
Honor: Monica Orton	\$68
Honor: Sharon Marchetti	\$68
Honor: Roberta Cooper	\$68
Honor: Peggy Seaman	\$68
Honor: Hill Tribble	\$68
Honor: Isabel Preciado	\$68

BAY OCEAN DISTRICT

Carolands GC	\$68
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BUTTES DISTRICT

Lake Oroville Area GC	
Honor: Jackie Jackson	\$68
Honor: Colleen LaGrone	\$68
Paradise GC, Inc.	
Memory: Kay Briley	\$204

CASCADE DISTRICT

Anderson Valley GC	
Memory: David Hoyum	\$68
Redding Wonderland GC	
Memory: Velma Crain	\$136

COSTA VERDE DISTRICT

San Pedro GC	
Honor: Lou Hagemeyer	\$68

DIABLO FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Blackhawk Bloomers	
Honor: Shirley Lowes	\$68

GOLDEN FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Auburn GC	
Honor: Rosemary Hedley	\$68

Honor: Rick Krach	\$68
Memory: Joyce Richtor	\$68
Colfax GC	
Honor: Adrian Littlefield	\$68
Honor: Sharon Gieras	\$68
Honor: Chris Bushman	\$68
Meadow Vista GC	
Honor: Club Members	\$68
Roseville Better Gardens Club	
Memory: Doy & Ann Neighbors	\$68
Memory: Yoe May Ahtoy	\$68
Honor: Mike Neighbors	\$68
Honor: Becky Neighbors	\$68
Honor: Dan & Chris Neighbors	\$68
Honor: Carlotta Wixon, for service as District Director	\$68

HUMBOLDT DISTRICT

District Donations	
Honor: Carla Powell	\$68

MENDO-LAKE DISTRICT

Clear Lake Trowel & Trellis GC	
Honor: Susan Buckles	\$68
Ukiah GC	
Honor: Arleen Shippey	\$68
Honor: Viola Richardson	\$68
Honor: Cynthia Bollens	\$68

MONTANA DE ORO DISTRICT

Paso Robles Multiflora GC	\$136
Memory: Connie Tosch	\$68
Memory: Ellis Kingston Woods	\$68
Honor: Karen Capadona	\$68
Honor: Members Mid-State Fair Project	\$68

ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT

Del Norte GC	
Memory: Jim Redman	\$68

PALOMAR DISTRICT

San Dieguito GC	
Memory: David Montag	\$68
Honor: Evalyn Rodgers	\$68

Temecula Valley GC	
Memory: Conrad Gene Stayner	\$68
Village GC of La Jolla	\$748

SACRAMENTO RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT

Geranium City GC	\$136
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SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DISTRICT

Burbank-Valley GC	
Honor: Robert Heymann	\$68
Southern California GC	
Honor: Steve List	\$68
Honor: David King	\$68

SEQUOIA FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Sequoia GC	
Honor: Judy Silguero	\$68

TOP O' THE STATE DISTRICT

McCloud GC	\$204
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VALLEY LODGE DISTRICT

Newman GC	
Honor: Millie Bizzini	\$68

YOSEMITE GATEWAY DISTRICT

Atwater GC & Camellia	
Honor: Karen Parker	\$68

MISCELLANEOUS

La Habra Women's Club	
Memory: Gerhardt Koettnitz	\$68
Honor: Hannelore Koettnitz	\$68
The 39ers	
Memory: Sandra Fremd	\$68
Torrance Women's Club	\$204

Please update page 47 of your
*Yearbook, Manual & Roster with
this new address:*

Klamath National Forest
1711 South Main Street
Yreka, California 96097

BEST "GREEN" RECIPE AWARD

Submitted by [Myrtle Findley](#), HT-3 Award Sponsor

3rd Place Winner from 2013 Awards Year

HOLIDAY SPINACH SALAD w/Raspberry Lemon Dressing

by: Nancy Sills, Pioneer Garden Club, Sacramento River Valley District

1 avocado, sliced
 ½ c fresh raspberries
 ½ c pecan pieces, chopped or broken
 ½ c pomegranate seeds

- Wash spinach, blot with paper towel, place in serving bowl.
- Add sliced avocado on top of greens.
- Sprinkle with fresh raspberries, pecan pieces and pomegranate seeds.

Serves 4

Dressing:

¼ c crushed raspberries
 ½ c fresh Meyer lemon juice
 ¼ c of pure honey
 ¼ c olive oil

- Crush raspberries with fork add other ingredients; stir together.
- Drizzle dressing over salad when served.



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. NEWS

MEMBERSHIP PHOTO CONTEST

The NGC Membership Committee would like to see the essence of NGC membership portrayed through your photos with captions. What does NGC membership mean to you and your state or local club? Give it some thought and take some pictures that best convey the idea of NGC membership. Then, join in the photo contest!

The NGC Membership Photography Contest Award may be awarded to the highest scoring photograph with a caption best depicting the theme, "**NGC Membership is . . .**"

Entries may originate in any format but must be submitted electronically. All entries must be the original work of a national or international member and free from copyright restrictions. Members are member clubs, groups of member clubs, state garden clubs, NGC Regions and international affiliates.

The photograph should be a .jpeg or .jpg format with the highest resolution possible. Digital manipulation of the photograph is permitted. A release form for everyone depicted in the photograph, including minors, must be included. Release forms are available on the NGC website. Entries must be received by **March 15, 2015**.

First Place: \$250 gift card to [Member Services](#) / Second Place: \$100 gift card to Member Services / Third Place: \$50 gift card to Member Services.



The next meeting of the California Consultants Council will be held at the CGCI Winter Board Meeting in Fresno on Monday, February 2, 2015 at 8:00 p.m. Any questions, contact CCC Chairman [Julie West](#).

TREES

COAST REDWOOD

By [Joyce Dean](#), Member of the Garden and Floral Arrangers Guild, Palms to Pines District

The *Sequoia sempervirens* or coast redwood tree is a California native from California's coastal ranges. The *Sequoia sempervirens* is one of the two California state trees.

This tree is a member of the *Taxodiaceae* family and the genus *Sequoia* is named for the Cherokee Chief Sequoyah. Also known as George Guess, Sequoyah was the son of a British merchant and a Cherokee woman. He became a Cherokee chief and established and published the alphabet for the Cherokee language.

Sempervirens comes from Latin and means "always green."

This magnificent evergreen tree is among the tallest living species in the world. Some specimens are more than 350 feet in height. The coast redwood can live many hundreds of years, and some live several thousand years. The coast redwood grows very rapidly to 40 to 300 feet high with a spread of 25 to 35 feet.

If you plan to plant a coast redwood, be sure to allow plenty of space for its proper development. They do not enjoy competition from other trees and structures.

Due to its leaf anatomy, which allows large volumes of water to be lost from its foliage, it is relatively drought

sensitive with high water needs. It likes lawn water in the summer.

This tree appreciates deep mulch over its roots, and its red-brown needles can make a carpet of fragrant mulch so you do not have to rake-up tree litter. The coast redwood grows naturally in groves; and, since a new tree may start as a sprout from an existing tree, regular pruning of trunk sprouts is required.

The wood of the coast redwood can be used in a number of creative ways. The unique qualities of the wood — the presence of acid and the absence of pitch and rosin in its composition — makes it resistive to fire and, therefore, safe wood for building. From Eureka to San Diego, this is the material of which many houses have been built.



PHOTO: Courtesy of Joyce Dean



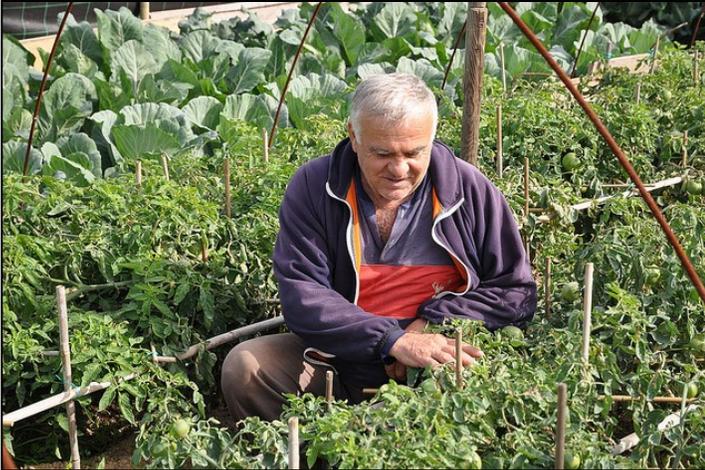
Penny Pines is a great way to help Mother Nature replant her California forests after the devastating fires which occurred last year. Many of our CGCI garden clubs have contributed to this very worthwhile project and continue to contribute -- just check the listing on page 8 of this *Golden Gardens eNews!* Please remember to send a copy of the notification and donation form to me, and send the form with your check to the participating forest of your choice -- See the CGCI website for the form. You can also honor or remember a person -- just complete the "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" line on the form.

Thank you!

[Pat York](#), Penny Pines Chairman

GARDENING TRUISMS - PART 1

By [Colette Bauer](#), Member of Red Bluff Garden Club



The title of this article should be “Gardening Truisms as Seen Through The Eyes of One Gardener.” That is because what is true of my gardening practices may not be true of your gardening techniques. With that caveat, let’s look at some gardening tips that I have garnered over the years.

The best fertilizer you can apply to your garden is your own footsteps. This was my Dad’s rule which he practiced for well over eighty years. Since my family earned our living by growing and selling tomatoes and other truck garden items, this was very important to our livelihood. I was reminded of this rule last summer when a section of my yard started looking really bad. It looked like it was not getting enough water. I started hand watering many of the plants, but even this was not doing the job. I convinced my husband to adjust the drip line to water every day. This, too, made no difference. Finally, with the two of us trying to figure out what was happening, my husband had an epiphany. He checked the battery on the automatic watering system, and, sure enough, the battery was dead. Problem solved – but many of the plants still struggled.

Weeds are a fact of life. Yes, weed cloth is wonderful, and yes it does help but does not totally eliminate weeds. I put bark over the weed cloth – the weeds still grow. I have put gravel over the weed cloth - the weeds continue to thrive. The fact is, if you are going to garden you are going to pull weeds. The only exception was my grandfather, Papa. When he was in his upper eighties he

was still growing a vegetable garden. He, however, suffered with macular degeneration. His comment about weeds was, “Gardening is so much easier now – there just aren’t any weeds.” Probably not a good solution to the weed problem – keep pulling!

If a plant is said to be somewhat invasive, you can be sure it is. This is evidenced by the Scotch broom and the pampas grass along California’s North Coast. My mother-in-law loved bamboo. She planted it along the north side of her house, and it took over. When we remodeled and moved into her home, we pulled out most of the bamboo (fully expecting to be struck by lightning at any time). We hope we solved the invasive problem by digging a 2 foot deep ditch and filling it with concrete surrounding where we decided to leave some of the bamboo. So far so good.

There are many other “Gardening Truisms” some of which I will discuss in the future. These three are a good start for passing on the knowledge I have learned over the years: The best fertilizer for your garden is your feet, weeds are a fact of life and many plants are or can be invasive. Happy gardening!

Note: Photo from Microsoft



A friendship can weather most things and thrive in thin soil; but it needs a little mulch of letters and phone calls and small, silly presents every so often — just to save it from drying out completely.

-- Pam Brown

(from Pinole Garden Club’s newsletter)

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



This chick lucked out. Another hour and it would have been hawk food.

By Troy Nicolls ([Carolyn Hoyum's](#) son)

News Flash!

Human oral hygiene products culprit in rash of recent neotropical bird deaths. Act now and help save the earth!

This poor house finch chick was recently found hanging helplessly from the sun baked rafters of a local homeowners home in Northern California. Upon closer inspection, the chick's rescuer found the bird to be a victim of common dental floss entanglement which is apparently becoming a widespread problem throughout affluent regions of North America.

Fortunately for this small bird, the rescuers untwisted the floss just in time to prevent emergency transport to a local animal rescue center for surgical removal of the affected limb. The chick's parent unknowingly had used the deadly petroleum based waxed floss as nest building material.

Given the lack of natural degradation of synthetic fibers used in common dental floss, personal and professional hygienists throughout the land are urged to boycott the sale and purchase of this deadly luxury and end the needless suffering! Local organic entrepreneurs suggest hemp based twine as an ecological alternative.

GARDENING TIPS



Tips for Controlling Earwigs in the Garden

By [Joyce Dean](#), NGC Life Flower Show Judge

Earwigs are common pests in California gardens. Although earwigs are not dangerous or poisonous, these little critters are not easy to control.

A number of commercial baits, traps and sprays are available that can help. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions.

If you prefer more organic forms of control, try using rolled-up newspapers to trap earwigs at night. Don't toss the newspapers into the trash, as the earwigs will scurry off rapidly. You must place the newspaper with earwigs in tightly sealed containers in the sun until the earwigs have died. Or you can try drowning them in soapy water.

Some say the earwigs can also be trapped in tuna or cat food cans sunken flush to the ground if you add about a half-inch of oil to the can.



For Angel Greetings, send your check in the amount of \$25 payable to CGCI to Angel Greetings Chairman [Pat Clayes](#), P.O. Box 757, Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352.

For more information and the form, see the CGCI website.

ROSE TALK

Rosa 'Betty Boop'

By [Kathy Bramhall](#), Red Bluff Garden Club



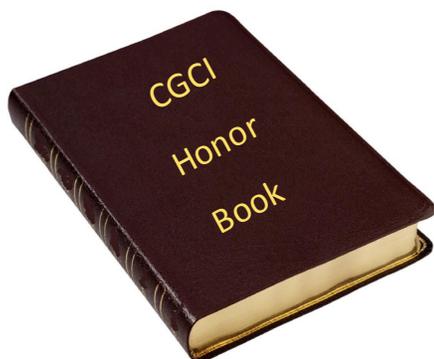
Here is the story of my new award-winning '*Betty Boop*'. Of course, you all know Betty Boop as a cartoon character created by Max Fleischer in the 1930s. On the other hand, the '*Betty Boop*' of which I speak is *Rosa 'Betty Boop'* which is a floribunda rose introduced in 1999 by award winning rose hybridizer Tom Carruth. I bought my '*Betty Boop*' as a small cutting from the Anderson Valley Garden Club's spring plant sale two years ago. This is the first year she has fully bloomed.



Rosa 'Betty Boop' is just as flamboyant as the cartoon character for which she is named; with petals in ivory to yellow outlined with red edges and bright yellow-gold stamen, she just glows! Each blossom is 3-4" across, flat or slightly cupped with 6-12 petals. The shrub is compact at 3-5 feet high and wide. She likes full sun, is disease resistant, has a mild and pleasing fragrance, and needs no dead-heading as she doesn't form rose hips. She does need late winter pruning and regular deep watering and mulching in the summer to hold moisture. Last summer, after two weeks of 100+ heat here in Red Bluff, my '*Betty Boop*' had 22 blossoms on it—I admit they are smaller than the flowers from the first flush of bloom back in May—but hey, they were there, which is more than I can say about most of my poor roses.

Rosa 'Betty Boop' is a cross of two other floribundas, '*Playboy*' and '*Picasso*'; both I happen to have in my rose garden! Breeder Tom Carruth won the All-American Rose Selection in 1999 for '*Betty Boop*' and another introduction of his, '*Fourth of July*'. Carruth was the Director of Research & Marketing for Weeks Roses of California 1988 to 2012. His primary goal was to make roses more attractive to the home gardener; breeding them to be hardy, disease resistant, and easy to care for rather than the "fussy queens of the garden." '*Betty Boop*' is only one of over 75 roses Carruth introduced during his career.

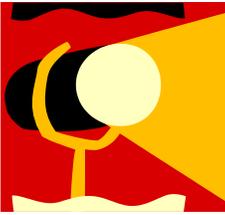
Betty Boop, the cartoon character, was popular with the public, as my friend Shirley McKenzie who collects the memorabilia will attest; and '*Betty Boop*', the rose, is popular with plant lovers everywhere, as Tom Carruth dreamed.



HONOR BOOK

Give the perfect. A gift that you do not have to water, prune, dust or put together. Give the gift of a place in the Honor Book to remember or honor that special person.

For Honor Book recognition "In Memory of" or "In Honor of," send your check payable to CGCI in any amount to CGCI Honor Book Chairman [Emily Wisneski](#), 9811 Howland Drive, Temple City, CA 91780. See the CGCI website for the donation form.



SPOTLIGHT: Palomar District

By [Jane McKee](#), Communications Director

On Thursday, November 13, Palomar District of California Garden Clubs, Inc. dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker in the Memorial Garden of Miramar National Cemetery.

The Blue Star became an icon in World War II and was seen on flags and banners in homes for sons and daughters away at war. The Blue Star Memorial project, adopted in 1945 by National Garden Clubs, Inc., honors those who have served, are serving, and who will serve in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. There are over 2200 Blue Star Memorial Markers across the U.S. CGCI adopted the project in 1947, and to date there are 18 dedicated Blue Star highways in the state and over 200 Memorial Markers or By-way Markers. The Miramar Memorial is the 17th in San Diego County.



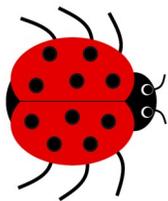
Andrea Little, National Garden Clubs Blue Star Chairman; George Speer, Palomar District Blue Star Memorial Dedication Coordinator; Rita Desilets, California Garden Clubs, Inc. President; Ronnie Dale, Palomar District Blue Star Chairman; and Lynne Batchelor, Palomar District Director.

The Blue Star Memorial in the garden.



George Speer and Ronnie Dale co-

chaired the Blue Star Memorial Project, and George was the Dedication Coordinator. Special guests were Andrea Little, National Garden Clubs, Inc. Blue Star Chairman (from Boston, MA); Rita Desilets, CGCI President; Lynne Batchelor, Palomar District Director; Robin Pokorski, NGC Corresponding Secretary and former CGCI President; George Unrine, CGCI Blue Star Memorials Co-Chairman; Dave Roberts, Supervisor, 3rd District San Diego County; Tom Garcia, representing Assemblymember Rocky Chavez; Capt. Dawn Summers, San Diego Police Department; Loretta Cook, President North County Blue Star Mothers; LtCol Mitchell Criger, Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS; Chris Abeyta, Eagle Scout Candidate, Boy Scout Troop 301; and Douglas Ledbetter, Director, Fort Rosecrans & Miramar National Cemeteries.



ADVICE FROM A LADYBUG

- Be well rounded.
- Spot new opportunities.
- Spend time in your garden.
- Enjoy the wonder of nature.
- Don't let the small things bug you.
- Keep family close by.
- Be simply beautiful.

FROM OUR DISTRICTS



Series 26, Course I Landscape Design School Success

By [Julie West](#), California Consultants Council Chairman

Last October, **Luther Burbank District** sponsored Series 26, Course I of the Landscape Design School with 50 attendees plus three on a waiting list. The room pictured on the left was full, and NGC newly accredited instructor, Thomas Eddy, was fabulous! Twenty-three attendees took the exam (who all passed) and seven Landscape Design Consultants refreshed their credentials.

The food was delicious with brunch items, lunch and snacks. There was much comradery among those who attended and thirty-nine of the fifty indicated that they plan to return for Course II.



Course II of Series 26 is scheduled for April 23-24, 2015 with two additional newly accredited NGC instructors, Laura Kelly (ASLA, LEED AP) and Sarah Sutton (ASLA, LEED AP, BFQP), and Thomas Eddy will return. You will find the flyer and registration form on CGCI's website calendar. We expect Course II to fill up quickly, so do not procrastinate and end up on the waiting list. The class is limited to 50 participants.

Above: NGC Accredited Instructor, Thomas Eddy, MA, ASLA

**Right: Committee Members:
(Left to Right)
Cindy Moore, Registrar;
Mary Ann Swanson, Chairman;
Bev Davies, Publicity;
Julie West, Proctor;
Dave West, District Director;
Thomas Eddy, Instructor;
Linda Simonds, Instructor Liaison;
and Ruth Browning, Treasurer
and Hospitality**



INTERVIEW WITH A FLOWER SHOW JUDGE Master Flower Show Judge Mary Crowell



By: [Pat Claves](#), Editor

A: The quality and enthusiasm of the instructors and the participants for the most part has made Flower Show School a wonderful, fun, learning and exciting place to be for such a short amount of time. It is always great to learn something new, keeping us judges on our toes and up-to-date. I still go to schools when they are local and, of course, love Symposia too.

Q: Did you originally intend to take the exams at Flower Show School?

A: Yes I did. Edie insisted anyway, so we had no choice.

Q: What about your instructors?

A: For the most part a very interesting and knowledgeable group.

Q: Why did you decide to attend Flower Show School Courses?

A: Edie Pate, from the San Jose area, a master flower show judge and designer extraordinaire and horticulture maven, took both Shane Looper and me under her wings and mentored us. Edie saw something in us when she judged the San Mateo County Fair. Seeing our amateur designs and horticulture, she said, "Get thee to a Flower Show School." So essentially she decided for us, "You are going to Flower Show School and I wouldn't take NO for an answer."

Q: What was your overall experience at/impression of Flower Show School?

A: At first I was intimidated by the oral and written point scoring as we jumped right into Flower Show School at course 4 and 5 and the reading was daunting. The quality of horticulture and designs were wonderful, and we had for the most part great instructors. I remember one horticultural instructor, Diane Johnson, from Oregon, who made horticulture so interesting and exciting that I almost decided there and then to become an instructor, which, of course, did not happen.

Q: What has surprised you most about Flower Show School and becoming an NGC Judge?

Q: What do you enjoy most about judging a flower show?

A: Seeing all of the designs and horticulture that exhibitors bring to a show, being able to help them by critiquing and commenting on their exhibits, seeing all of the effort and thought that goes into their designs and getting to see excellent and well-grown horticulture.

Q: What are your thoughts about the required symposia?

A: Very important for all of us Flower Show Judges to keep up with trends, new plant materials, new ways to use materials and, of course, keeping up our judging skills.

Q: Final thoughts?

A: We do need to encourage our younger members to become judges and keep the ball rolling with fresh eyes.

[Mary Crowell](#) lives in San Mateo, California and is a member of the Peninsula Succulent Club; Fury Designers; Bay Area Floral Arrangers Guild; Organization of Floral Art Designers; San Francisco Epiphyllum Society; San Mateo Garden Center; San Mateo Arboretum Society; Founders Council of Flower Show Judges; and Bay Ocean District.

OFAD REFLECTIONS

By [Mary Arakelian](#), Flower Show Symposia Chairman



The first annual Organization of Floral Art Designers (OFAD) seminar, held on August 23 to 25, 2014, was a weekend of “total immersion” in artistic floral design, amid power flowers, great food, friends and fun.

From amazing programs, eye-catching designs on pedestals in hallways, “artist-designed” containers in metal, ceramic, acrylic and glass, to the well-stocked boutique of treasures and to invited vendors of mechanics, it was a feast of major proportions.

OFAD weaves Ikebana’s ethereal design beauty with European, Asian and American historic trends, NGC’s and GCA’s many design types and AIFD’s newest techniques and materials. Post-event comments called the OFAD seminar dazzling, uplifting, electrifying, amazing. With so much to experience and to absorb, the 6.0 earthquake made it a seismic event! OFAD ROCKS!

Skillful planning afforded time for networking and sharing enthusiasm. Buffet breakfasts, lunches and happy hours in the atrium brought small groups together, fostering new friendships. East, West, Northwest and Southwest, even Georgian, Floridian and Canadian voices sparked the shared “high” with visions of “What If?” and “Why not?”

OFAD’S second annual seminar, **August 21-23, 2015** plans for an even greater feast of artistry, creativity, education and fun. Mark your calendar now. Watch the CGCI Website to register early, enroll in workshops and create a pedestal design which says “ME, I am an ARTIST.” Bring an equally artistic floral designing friend to share our next “DO NOT MISS” annual event.



SAVE THE DATE:
August 21-23,
2015
Organization of
Floral Art Designers
2015 Seminar in
South San
Francisco

