

Golden Gardens eNews

NGC 1st Place winner for State Newsletter!

www.californiagardenclubs.com

November 2020, Vol. 3-13

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Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.**

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californiagardenclubs.com

Greetings CGCI Members:

It is inspiring to me as President that so many clubs are meeting while practicing social distancing, fundraising with online plant sales and holding board/general meetings virtually.

You never know when an opportunity may arise in this pandemic. Here are some examples that clubs have shared with me:



Paradise Garden Club was featured in the October/November 2020 magazine *Country Women*. In addition, CGCI Board of Directors members, Ward and Cheryl Habriel, are named in the article. The article is about their club's project "Daffodils Across the Ridge" and how the planting of the bulbs has offered glimpses of hope after the wildfires. Try to get a copy of this magazine to read more. 'Kudos' on the publicity and project!

Pinole Garden Club indicates in their newsletter that they are inventing new ways to celebrate the season safely while still conducting the club's activities. They use "Google Duo" - a free video chat for some meetings. Check it out as an alternative to Zoom. In addition to virtual, they have also conducted meetings at a local picnic area to catch up with the club's business.

District Director, Berni Hendrix, is offering Zoom to clubs in the **Valley Lode District** by using the district's Zoom access codes as well as provide assistance and training. Their newsletter features the organization of a new club, **Mountain Floral Arrangers**. Also, **Ceres Garden Club** was able to showcase a successful garden tour while fundraising for Penny Pines at three of the gardens. Wow!

Red Bluff Garden Club is continuing to display a floral design in the local library with a detailed explanation of the design. However, being smart garden club members, they have their club membership brochures next to the design. Clever marketing!

'Thank you' for sharing your newsletters!

CGCI's Jewelry Box online silent auction took place last week to raise funds for the *San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden* restoration project. Thank you to all who participated to make it a success. Another FUNdraising virtual event is being planned for February, just in time for Valentine's Day.

CGCI is planning their next virtual event by participating in **#Giving Tuesday** scheduled for **December 1, 2020**. CGCI's Endowment Funds Promotions Chairman, Carol Jauregui, with the assistance of Website Chairman, Jane McKee, and Facebook Chairman, Pat Claves, are working together to include CGCI in the **#Giving Tuesday** list of participants. "Giving Tuesday" has become a global movement that inspires people to give, collaborate and celebrate generosity. It kicks off the charitable season when many focus on the holiday and year-end-giving. This is an opportunity to utilize social media as a tool to promote CGCI and its objectives as well as support the CGCI Endowment and Scholarship Endowment Funds. Watch for additional details in future e-Blasts.

Enjoy Thanksgiving wherever it finds you, celebrate safely and stay well!

Shane



CGCI Calendarcaliforniagardenclubs.com/calendar

- **January 24-27, 2021:**

CGCI Winter Board Meeting
Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys
Host: So. California Garden Club

- **May 30-June 4, 2021:**

CGCI Convention
Embassy Suites, So. San Francisco
Co-Hosts: Santa Clara Valley and
Bay Ocean Districts

CGCI Schools Chairmen

Environmental: Michael and Leticia
Biedenbender: mikeb.cvgc@gmail.com

Flower Show: Gudrun Kimmel
gudrun56@att.net

Gardening: Greg Pokorski
gregpokorski@earthlink.net

Landscape Design: Alexis Slafer
aslafer@ca.rr.com

NGC Schools

All registration forms are on the
CGCI website Calendar page

californiagardenclubs.com/calendar**2019-2021 President's Project**

By Julie A. West, Chairman

Thanksgiving is around the corner and we are grateful for the generosity of the clubs, districts and individuals who are supporting restoration of the *San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden* project. We are busy tabulating the bids of the **SPOOKTACULAR** online President's Jewelry Box FUNdraiser recently held (mentioned in the September issue) and will announce the results in next month's issue. A special 'thanks' to Webmaster, Jane McKee for her expertise working out the details of CGCI's first "virtual" Silent Auction.

'Thank you' also to **Caroland's Garden Club, Fallbrook Garden Club, San Dieguito Garden Club and Toluca Lake Garden Club** for their charitable donations received since the September issue. Total contributions received to date are **\$13,420** of the \$20,000 goal established to restore *San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden*. Your generous support is treasured and always welcome! It's a great way to recognize individuals within your club or district.

Please make checks payable to CGCI with "President's Project" noted on memo line and send to P.O. Box 75, Graton, CA 95444-0075. If questions, you may contact Chairman, Julie West (julieawest@aol.com) and/or visit the President's Project page/link on CGCI's website: <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/presidents-project-2019-2021>



The CGCI Facebook is
in need of videos.

Do you have a video
on any aspect of gar-
dening, landscape design, floral
design, environmental con-
cerns or any other subject in
which garden club members
may be interested? If so,
please send your video to the
CGCI Facebook Administrator
at patclayes@aol.com.

By the way, if you are sub-
mitting for an NGC Facebook
(Social Media) award, please
note that NGC wants to see vid-
eos on your Facebook page.

Like us on Facebook: [https://
www.facebook.com/
CaliforniaGardenClubsInc](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaGardenClubsInc)

Floral Design

Susi Gillum, NGC master judge, member of Chico Horticulture Society, OFAD and member of Bidwell Designers for 43 years. She has been designing for 57 years. Her husband, Mike, encouraged her to design and now is a designer too. Susi's design is an NGC multi-rhythmic design.



CGCI Programs & Projects

Go to californiagardenclubs.com for details

- **Membership**
Chairman: Adele Kelly
 P.O. Box 27179
 San Diego 92198-1179

- **Insurance**
Chairman: Robin Pokorski
 512 Newton Street
 San Fernando 91340-2421

- **Group Tax Exemption Program**
Chairman: Sue Bennett
 7560 Shelborne Drive
 Granite Bay 95746-8617
gtep@cagardenclubs.org

- **Penny Pines**
Chairman: Nina Blonski
 Checks to US Forest Service
 Online form

- **President’s Project 2019-2021**
- **Project Mission Blue**
Chairman: Julie West
 850 Grandview Road,
 Sebastapol 95472-2930

- **Scholarship Applications**
 Chairman: Martha Smyser
 4949 Mammoth Ave.
 Sherman Oaks 91423-1319

- **Stamps**
Chairman: Terry Sampson
 10596 Orchid Avenue
 Hesperia 92345-5380

- **Donations to the following projects are mailed to:**
 California Garden Clubs
 P.O. Box 75, Graton 95444-0075
 Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
 Blue Star Memorials
 CGCI Endowments
 CGCI Scholarship Fund
 Semprevirens Fund

Youth Awards

The **CGCI Youth Awards Program** offers a variety of ways for our youth to express themselves and gain recognition for their efforts. For example:

Award #60. Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. This year the contest is dedicated to **Woodsy Owl** for Woodsy’s 50th Anniversary. Woodsy’s theme is **“Lend a Hand, Care for the Land.”** [Smokey Bear posters WILL NOT be accepted.] Note “to be received by” deadline of **January 23.**

Award #61. Sculpture Contest. To encourage youth to keep our planet green by practicing the three Rs: **Reusing, Recycling, Repurposing.** Note Postmark deadline of **December 1.**

Award #62. Poetry Contest. “Exploring Backyard Mysteries.” Note Postmark deadline of **December 1.**

Award #64. Junior Essay Contest. “How my Vegetables Grow.” Note Postmark deadline of **January 10.**

Award #65. School Garden Award. Note Postmark date of **December 1.**

See CGCI [Awards Manual](#) for more information.

See CGCI Evaluation Forms for judging requirements:

<http://californiagardenclubs.com/awards> (and look under “Youth”).

Any questions, please feel free to contact:

Youth Awards Chairman **Lisa Cosand** at sflowerpic@aol.com or CGCI Awards Chairman at patclayes@aol.com.



POLLINATORS

By Terry Sampson, Pollinators Chairman

Do you remember growing up and playing in your back yard? We would hold dandelions under our chin and if our chin turned yellow that meant we liked butter. We would pick snapdragons and put them on our fingers and then open and close our fingers and it looked like the flower was talking. As we got older we can’t forget the “she loves me, she loves me not” daisy. As we plucked off the petals, we always thought could we count the middle of the flower if it worked out in our favor?

All of those flowers are still around and many more. When someone says to you, “Oh, you belong to a garden club” the next thing they usually say is that they don’t have room for a garden. I explain that gardening is just not vegetables, but it can be flowers and herbs also. Flowers do not take up very much room and you can grow herbs in cute little pots on your patio.

I encourage people to grow as many flowers as they can for the pollinators. Pollinators are so important for all crops. The small pot of flowers someone plants on their patio will attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators which in turn may fly to their neighbor’s house and pollinate that tomato plant and when their neighbor comes over with a basket of tomatoes you would know you played a part in the scheme of things.

With all of this pandemic going on and people staying closer to home it has given us the opportunity to really realize that Mother Nature was not the least bit bothered by what was happening in the world. Your fruit tree still produced those huge apricots. Your apple tree had so many blossoms so this fall the apples will make a great pie.

Now is the time to spread the word about how important it is to plant flowers so the pollinators can do their job. There are many different types of bees that pollinate and some of them are really nice. They could care less about you and really not into stinging you. Two of those types are the Mason Bee and the Leaf cutter Bee.

When you are invited to a friend’s house for dinner (yes, it will happen again someday) bring them a flowering plant or a pot with several packets of seeds in the pot. Add a small bag of compost with it and they will be very grateful. (you do make your own compost, right?) Sharing your love of plants will spill out onto others. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Awards, Honors & Recognition

CGCI offers many ways to say
“Thank You” or “Good Job”

NOTE: Check the forms for the
correct mailing address

californiagardenclubs.com/forms

♥ **Awards Program**

Chairman: Pat Clayes
californiagardenclubs.com/awards

♥ **Business Commendations**

Chairman: Judy Bates
Online request form

♥ **California Consultants Council**

Chairman: Sue Bennett
Sue_c_bennett@att.net
Consultant of the Year,
Environmental, Gardening, &
Landscape Design awards.

♥ **Honor Book**

Chairman: Bette Langford
102 Calle Cuervo
San Clemente 92672-2423

♥ **Life Memberships**

Chairman: Carlotta Wixon-Welker
14216 Karry’s Place
Grass Valley 95945-7934

♥ **Long-Term Certificates**

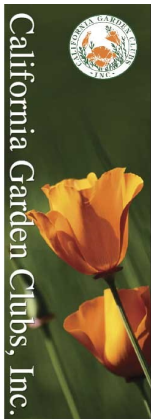
Chairman: Judy Bates
Online request form

♥ **Member Award of Distinction**

Chairman: Judy Bates
5075 Valley Crest Dr #246
Concord 94521-4914

Promotional Materials

Did you know that CGCI offers
promotional and informational
materials and many are FREE*!



- Banners
- Bookmarks*
- Rack Cards*
- Pamphlets*

(Check the website for
ordering details)

2020 CGCI Awards Program

By Pat Clayes, Awards Chairman

**APPLICATIONS THAT MUST BE
POSTMARKED BY DECEMBER 1, 2020**

Although the 2020 garden club year has been unlike any other, CGCI is optimistically continuing with its Awards Program.

The following Award applications must be postmarked by
December 1, 2020.

- #1: Community Impact
- #2: Blue Star
- #3: Civic Development
- #6: Memorial Planting
- #11: Achievement for a Single Event*
- #14: Garden Therapy
- #16: Membership Promotion
- #19: National Garden Week
- #21: Conservation Projects
- #23: Home Garden
- #25: Operation Wildflower
- #26: Pollinator Education
- #28: Environmental Event
- #30A -D: Flower Show
- #31: Small Standard Flower Show
- #35: Flower Show Schedule
- #50: Newsletters*
- #51: Publications*
- #52: Social Media
- #53: Website
- #54: Club Yearbook*
- #55: District Yearbook*
- #61: Youth Sculpture Contest
- #62: Youth Poetry Contest
- #65: School Garden



Please see the 2020 Awards Manual at: <http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/Awards/Online%20Awards%20Manual.pdf>

And please see the evaluation forms (some of which have been revised) at: <http://californiagardenclubs.com/awards>

Questions, please contact Awards Chairman Pat Clayes at patclayes@aol.com. Thanks to all for keeping the CGCI Awards Program alive during this unprecedented time in our lives.

* Note changes for judging chairmen and/or address to send applications.

**President 2019-2021****Gay Austin****Headquarters:**

4401 Magnolia Avenue
 St. Louis, MO 63110-3492
 Telephone: 314-776-7574
 Fax: 314-776-5108

Email: headquarters@gardenclub.org**Publication:** *The National Gardener***Website:** gardenclub.org**Ongoing projects:**

- Plant America
- Ames Garden Tools
- Blue & Gold Star Memorials
- US Botanic Butterfly Garden
- School Gardens
- Spring Planting for Butterflies
- Water Projects

(Go to gardenclub.org for details on these and other projects)

**Director: 2019-2021****Robin Pokorski****Publication:** *WACONIAH***Website:**PacificRegionGardenClubs.org**Conventions:**

Aug. 9-12, 2021: Silverton, Oregon
 2022: Washington

Blue Stars Shine in the Pacific Region!

California has been challenged to dedicate 5 Blue Stars each year (2019 - 2021). Will your club help California rise to the challenge?

Are you receiving *WACONIAH*, the newsletter of the Pacific Region?

If not, you can subscribe here
 (it's FREE):

[californiagardenclubs.com/
cgcinewsletters](http://californiagardenclubs.com/cgcinewsletters)

Habitat Learning Project

By Diane Dillard, Roseville Better Gardens Club

The Discovery Club (DC), a before-and-after-school program at Green Oaks Fundamental Elementary School, has been recognized for its creation of a schoolyard wildlife habitat. Located within the rural community of Orangevale (Sacramento County), two DC teachers returned from the COVID – 19 quarantine this summer and decided it was time to spruce up the back area of the DC classroom. The creators, Jenn Frates, *Child Development Permit Teacher*, and Lauren Celiceo, *Child Development Assistant*, said the area was “super sad” looking and there was a single, broken, feeder hanging on a nearby tree. Their goal was to make the area outside their back window prettier and observe some cool wildlife from the comfort of their classroom. From there, their ideas started to flow.

DC teachers Jenn and Lauren came up with the idea to make a super learning experience for students in their care. They replaced the broken feeder and began building new ones, including homemade miniature picnic table feeders, a popsicle stick porch swing feeder, a Lego-based bird feeder, and a “dessert bar” that holds grape jelly and sliced oranges to entice the local birds, bees and butterflies. Today, they have 19 active bird feeders four (4) birdhouses.

Students have been involved in the habitat program from the beginning. They helped paint some of the feeders, and now help refill the low-hanging reachable feeders and toss seeds on the ground for ground feeders.

The four-month-old program’s results are impressive! The DC teachers say the benefits far outweigh the work involved in maintaining the program. The students are having lots of fun while learning about bird varieties and other wildlife.

If a school or school-based daycare program wishes to start their own school habitat, the steps are simple:

Brainstorm ideas and look for what type of wildlife may be visiting your area. Secure the **approval of the school principal** and the supervisor before getting started.

Create a plan to offer multiple food and water sources, a place to raise young, cover/shelter for wildlife, and decide which sustainable practices you will follow. Discuss ongoing maintenance and who will be responsible for helping with this to maintain an active habitat. Get the students involved in every step of the process.

Look for **suitable containers** to be used as bird feeders and store-bought bird feeders. Build some of your own.

Research foods you can offer such as thistle in socks for finches, peanuts for squirrels, and corn cobs for birds.

Plant a small flower garden nearby to grow some of the food sources such as sunflowers, flowers or California native plants with flowers and berries that birds love to eat.

Cover and shelters should be provided for wildlife to hide and also for a place to raise their young. This could be a birdhouse, a bat house, owl house or a hiding place for frogs and lizards. It could be a pile of sticks or wood.

Seek donations and don’t hesitate to ask for help. A friend may have an unused bird house or feeder to add to your program. Look for old birdhouses or feeders also at garage sales and your local thrift store.

Inform others about your program and let them know if you will gladly accept donations of food, feed, and funds to buy more wildlife food.

Show your excitement about seeing new species of birds and the students will be excited too and have fun.

Contact The National Wildlife Federation about getting certified as a backyard school habitat at www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat.





Nina Blonski, Chairman
pennypines@cagardenclubs.org
Total January 1 to September 7, 2020 \$19,448

Penny Pines update:

Some of the US Forest Service Offices are still closed due to the COVID-19 restrictions and/or the wildfire events around the state. **Please contact your local Forest Service office to determine if they are able to accept and process checks and certificates.**

Healing Gardens

From NGC publication *Keeping In Touch*

By *Carcille Burchette*

We are experiencing a pandemic none of us has ever seen. Because we live here in the United States, a modern nation, it is difficult to accept that we have been “buckled down.” Great strides, at warp speed, have been met along with setbacks and a promise of vaccines possibly this fall and early next year.

This pandemic has shut down schools, businesses, government offices, nursing homes, commercial and personal travel - shutting down the nation’s economy. The isolation we have had to endure has had a negative impact not only on us economically and socially but emotionally as well.

Plans have had to be changed, some in major ways. Friends whose children were about to exchange wedding vows were postponed; others who could only see their new grandchild after being released from the hospital became the new reality. Perhaps worse was the prevention of the family members and friends who often visited loved ones in the nursing homes and hospitals, sometimes only days or hours within their passing.

These unprecedented times with an unknown virus have now been plagued with much social unrest and violence in our streets. We need healing and in a big way! This is a perfect time for garden clubs to plan for a Healing Garden in their community. These gardens do not have to be large, just peaceful. They should let the beauty of the flowers and foliage carry one away from the worries and fears of the present and unsure future while instilling hope. Expensive sculptures are not needed but a bench away from noise and a water feature, if possible, allows visitors to escape for a short time.

Much of the planning for a Healing Garden can be accomplished without coming together - social media abounds. I am betting that many club members have yet to pay their dues, wondering if any garden club activities will happen. This is a much-needed way to get back in touch with each other, sharing ideas on where and how to plan for the garden. I encourage each club to create a Healing Garden, no matter where, no matter the size. We need healing for others and ourselves. Wishing you good health!

