

Golden Gardens eNews

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March 2021 Vol. 7-13

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Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

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Golden Gardens eNews

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californiagardenclubs.com

Greetings CGCI members:

It's official - CGCI has changed it's mailing address from Graton, California to San Fernando, California **effective March 1, 2021**. The **new mailing address is P.O. Box 823, San Fernando Ca 91341-0823**. Robin Pokorski is the new Post Office Box Chairman and Donations Coordinator. We will miss David West as Chairman in these positions that he has held the last few years.



When sending mail to CGCI at the P. O. Box, please remember that the **envelope must be addressed to California Garden Clubs, Inc.** and not a chairman's name. The Post Office only recognizes California Garden Clubs, Inc. and not an individual's name. If you do not address the correspondence correctly, your mail may not get to us or it may be returned to you. And since the Post Office will be forwarding mail during this time of change, please be careful how you address the envelope.

We are still updating CGCI's website to change the mailing addresses on the various donation forms. This process will be completed shortly.

I am thrilled to see in your newsletters that there are many clubs doing garden club activities. Hopefully, we will be back to in-person meetings soon.

The *Diablo Foothills District* under the direction of Mona Dunlap, District Director, invited me to attend their February virtual district meeting. They were able to handle reports and business and still have time for an outstanding program on exotic plants to grow in their home gardens. I hope you are able to take advantage of the various virtual meeting platforms available to you so you stay in contact with your members.

Also, *Southern California Garden Club* invited me to attend their recent virtual club meeting. President, Greg Pokorski, included a program by members on house plants. They showed how easy it is to grow Air Plants and African Violets. In addition to showing their specimens, they demonstrated transplanting and propagation. It was a great educational program.

A special thank you to the Valley Lode District for acknowledging my birthday with fun cards.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in-person some day but until that day, I am available to meet virtually with your clubs and districts. I look forward to your invitation.

Shane
CGCI President 2019-2021



CGCI Calendar

californiagardenclubs.com/calendar

- **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
gudron56@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

San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden was created in the late 1990's and exists today in name only. The goal is not to return the one and one-half acre garden to its exact previous layout, but to collaboratively create a new garden that fulfills the original goal of representing the native plant communities, as well as creating an educational center and outdoor classroom to learn about the unique flora of San Bruno Mountain. *Mission Blue Nursery* is propagating 1000 gallon plants representing 100 species native to San Bruno Mountain for this restoration project.

Since the last issue, \$550 was received with gratitude from **Nancy Huseby, Cynthia Woods, Audrey Hargis** and **Buttes District**, as well as **in Memory of Anne Capes**, Circle of Poppies. We appreciate the generosity of charitable contributions from individuals, districts and clubs that total **\$16,410** since June 2019 for the *San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden* project. It's not too late to support this President's Project that is near and dear to President Looper's heart. (see photo from CGCI's 2019 Fall Board Meeting)

You are welcome to join us as we continue to raise \$3,590 for educational and interpretive signage needed to reach the goal of \$20,000 by June 2021. Make checks payable to CGCI with "President's Project" noted on memo line and note change of mailing address to: 850 Grandview Rd., Sebastopol, CA 95472-2930. An updated donation form can be found on CGCI's website using this link: [President's Project](#)



Your generosity makes it possible for everyone who visits the *San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden* to learn the unique stories of the mountain and its native plants. Thank you for your support of our important work!

Spring Garden Planning

by Alexis Slafer



As we look forward, spring becomes a bouquet of opportunities. No matter what time of year you plan your garden, the best designs use the design process, incorporating the principles and elements of design. As soon as weather permits start preparing for spring: clean your tools and your beds. Then map your garden to scale and put your desires on paper. As you walk around, indicate the sun's path, any concerns you have, possible hard-scape features and/or structures you would like to include. Would a playhouse be perfect in that corner? Remember this is just one moment in time. What would you like to experience in your garden with your morning cup of coffee or evening glass of wine? Consider all of the seasons - what design qualities will be enhanced in summer or mid-winter? How will the shade patterns change as newly planted trees mature? Will activities be active or passive? Be sure to include anything that is important to you. You want to consider who will use the space - children and/or adults. What about climate including temperatures and plant growing zone? Think about the amount of rainfall and when it occurs, soil structure and pH, sunlight as well as wind speed and direction. Of paramount importance is asking, "What are the results that I'd like to see? How will my goals be achieved immediately after installation, during the transition to maturity and beyond?" Based on those answers and if you plan well, your garden will be enjoyed to the fullest.

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 823
San Fernando, CA 91341-0823
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
Blue Star Memorials
CGCI Endowments
CGCI Scholarship Fund
Sempervirens Fund

CGCI 2021-22 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

by Martha Smyser



CGCI will be awarding scholarships to three outstanding students for the 2021-22 academic year.

GRACE MACKEY, a junior at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo is the winner of the \$2,000 Robert L. Gordon Scholarship. She is studying Environmental Management and Protection in the Natural Resources Department. Her goal is to either become an environmental consultant or an environmental lawyer. She is a Scholar Mentor for Cal Poly Scholars, a program for high achieving, low-income students.

CLAIR BEALE is the winner of the \$2,000 Krystal Migliore Scholarship. Clair is a graduate student at Cal State Chico studying Regenerative Agriculture and she hopes to work as a Soil Conservationist. She aims to help change current agricultural methods to increase crop size, use less water and save our soil.

The winner of the \$1,500 President’s Project Scholarship is TAYLOR REIN, a junior at UC Berkeley studying Environmental Science. He is extremely active working with the Berkeley Campus, the City of Berkeley, Berkeley elementary and middle schools and the East Bay Regional Parks to make all these areas more bee friendly and to increase public awareness of the importance of pollinators.

One of these students is the California submission to the Pacific Region Scholarship Committee and all three have been sent to National Garden Clubs in hope that they will be awarded an NGC Scholarship.



Big Basin Recovery Fund

by Co- Chairmen Rosa Radicchi and Judy Unrine

CGCI approves \$5000 to Match member donations up to \$5000 for Big Basin Recovery Fund

CGCI has supported Big Basin Redwoods State Park since 1973. At the 2021 Winter Board Meeting, the CGCI Board of Directors approved a new Big Basin Recovery Fund. They also donated \$5000 to the Sempervirens Fund. The August 2020 Lightning Complex wildfire burned over 97% of Big Basin State Park. Nearly all the buildings and infrastructure was destroyed.

Your donations to the Big Basin Recovery Fund, up to \$5000, will be matched by CGCI. Please continue donating to the Sempervirens Fund but your donation to the Big Basin Recovery Fund at this time will be matched by CGCI. Please consider donating to this fund now to take advantage of the generous offer CGCI has made to match your donation to rebuild the historic Visitor Center, other infrastructure, and the signage at CGCI groves in the park.

For questions please contact Judy at judysgarden01@gmail.com, or Rosa at radicchi@aol.com.

Make checks payable to CGCI and mail to P.O. Box 823, San Fernando, Ca. 91341-0823. Notation for Big Basin Relief Fund. Include donors name, address, email, and phone number.

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)

Welcome new members to the **Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP)**
At the CGCI Winter Board Virtual Meeting the following were approved.

Three clubs

Auburn Golden Gardeners, Inc., Golden Foothills District

Green Valle Garden Club Est 1965, Palomar District

Knights Ferry Garden Club, Valley Lode District

Two districts

Montana De Oro District

Palms to Pines District

Homegrown Bouquet

by Claire Jones, *Keeping In Touch, NGC*

There is nothing more satisfying than going out to your garden and cutting what you need for the creation of a homegrown bouquet. With the onset of COVID, I started creating a Bouquet of the Day using only flowers from my garden, roadside or houseplants to beautify my home. The growing and arranging of flowers is therapeutic. Instead of spending money on greenhouse grown or imported flowers, I challenged myself to use only what was readily available. Growing and using vibrant foliage was also one of my priorities. A floral arrangement should be just like a garden; the foliage is what holds everything together.



Tips for creating your own homegrown bouquets:

Plant a combination of annuals, perennials and bulbs with different bloom times so you have flowers and foliage available over a long time.

Instead of using non-compostable floral foam, start by arranging multi-stemmed larger flowers or foliage into your water filled vase. The structure of the branches supports more delicate, single-stemmed flowers.

For vases, think of containers that you would not normally use for flowers. Galvanized buckets, large mixing bowls, pitchers, crocks, teapots, tea-cups, pumpkins/gourds, mason jars and empty cans are all great for arranging.

If you have a theme or season in mind, do not be afraid to use props or accessories to interpret your idea.

Explore and forage in the woods and on roadsides for great finds. I have collected teasel, pine cones, Lotus pods, lichen-covered branches, Goldenrod and grasses. Park off the road for safety and wear long sleeves and pants to guard against ticks and poison ivy. A fluorescent safety vest is also helpful.

Even in the dead of winter, you can bring in interesting branches, abandoned wasps nests, mosses, rocks and winter bloomers like Lenten Rose, Winter Jasmine, Camellia or Mahonia.

Do not forget to use fruits and nuts, as well as foliage and flowers from your houseplants. Philodendron leaves make an excellent accent. Sprays of cherry tomatoes or blackberries are distinctive in arrangements.

Plant things that can be dried like Hydrangea, Strawflowers and Cockscomb. Growing, cutting and arranging flowers are a great way to exercise your creativity and bring the beauty of the outdoors inside. Join my #Bouquetoftheday Facebook group and post your creations.

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

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 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)

My Secret Garden

by M. Karin Matray, Red Bluff Garden Club

From the street, you would never know it was there. Even visitors to our backyard are unaware of its existence. It can't be seen from the patio or the back lawn. But, just out our kitchen side door sits a sunken secret garden. Two steps down and you are in a different world.

It started seventeen years ago as an herb garden. We built pebble gravel pathways. We planted rosemary and lavender, parsley and oregano, thyme and wild strawberries. Then we added a plum tree and a wrought iron rocker bench. Rose bushes came next, with a birdbath. Lastly, we half-buried clay pots, sank water dishes into the earth and mounted a low wrought iron fence and gate. We needed these last additions because - the true secret to this little hidden garden is that it is home to ... turtles!

They are common desert box turtles, gifted to us years ago by a school librarian and her husband who bred and raised them. Their names are Michael and Kobe, named after I-know-not-whom. They love to lie in the sun, dig in the dirt and eat – snails, cucumber skins, cabbage, fruits, the fallen plums, and the wild strawberries. But their absolute favorite food is raw hamburger. And surprise-surprise, they quickly emerge from under the garden growth when I enter the garden and call out to them. They move swiftly on their short legs looking for a hamburger handout or just to nibble on my red-painted toenails. Michael likes to follow me around as I work in the garden, hoping for a tasty worm morsel to appear as I dig and weed. Our secret garden is totally free of insect pests but, over the years we have acquired one most unusual pest.

Two years ago, a noisy blue jay appeared on a branch in the plum tree. He quickly learned that our turtles were easy marks for stealing chunks of hamburger and other tasty treats. Soon, that pesky blue jay began to tap at our kitchen window in the late afternoon – reminding me that it was turtle feeding time. Our grandson bestowed the name "Tapper" upon the assertive bird, and Tapper has made himself a regular customer to our little outdoor turtle restaurant (no masks required!). He speaks most rudely to me as I prevent his thievery, scolding me from a high branch in the plum tree.

Now, in early February, our secret garden is quiet – no turtles and no Tapper. Michael and Kobe are still hibernating. I know they are safe and warm in the richness of the garden earth. Sometime in early March, when the sun becomes warmer and flowers have begun to bloom, they will emerge. They will be groggy and hungry, and I will be eager to greet them with a springtime hamburger brunch. But, I will also be on the lookout for Tapper, happy to welcome him to another season of the Hunger Games.





Nina Blonski, Chairman
pennypines@cagardenclubs.org
Total amount donated in 2020 \$23,460

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.

Environmental Art Exhibition and Competition

by Judy Unrine

Important Announcement: The Environmental Art competition will be held at the 2021 CGCI Convention in May.

We are inviting California Garden Club members interested in participating in this fun event to contact us immediately. Your participation can help the environment while boosting your creativity. Any recycled or repurposed object can be incorporated into a design. There are five categories for competition including Fiber, Collage, Sculpture, Assemblage, and Jewelry. We are looking forward to seeing how the different materials you use will create many variations on the theme of art. First time artists are welcome. Anyone can join this exciting, new experiment by creating new form from a found object.

Please contact this chairman for an application if you are interested in participating:

Judy Unrine
Judysgarden01@gmail.com
1-310-378-0227



So You Wanna Recycle

by Gail Vanderhorst, NGC Recycling Chairman

Well, it's strawberry time. Time to plant the strawberry plants and in a little while time to eat the fruit. So here is an idea for recycling those little green plastic strawberry baskets that we all get when we buy strawberries in the market. Eat the strawberries and save the container. Place it right side up over newly planted seeds, like lettuce seeds. The seeds will sprout and grow right through the openings in the basket and keep your lettuce leaves off the ground and make the picking of the lettuce much easier.

You can also do this for any starter seeds that you might want to grow in starter cups. This time place the strawberry basket upside down over the new seeds that have been planted in the starter cups. It will protect them from birds, bugs and other critters eating the new growth. Happy strawberry eating and happy recycling.

