

The Diamond Years



1931-1932 to 2006-2007

Diamond Jubilee Logo (on cover) designed by
Maryanne Lucas

**The
DIAMOND YEARS**

1931-1932

2006-2007

**Seventy-Five Year History
of
California Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**Compiled and Edited by
Julie A. West
Second Vice President**

Published June 2009

Mission Statement: California Garden Clubs, Inc. promotes gardening, floral design, civic beautification, environmental responsibility and the exchange of information and ideas.

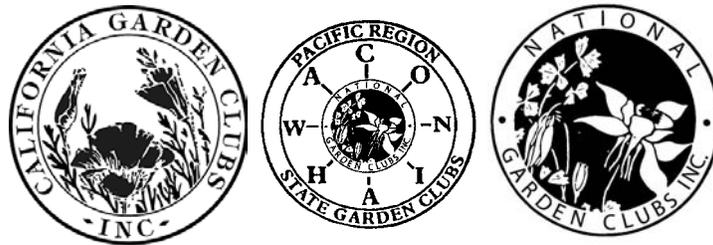
CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

1931-1932 to 2006-2007

DEDICATION

Let this book,
"The Diamond Years,"
be a testimonial to all who have served California
Garden Clubs, Inc. and made our organization the
integral part of National Garden Clubs, Inc. that it
is today.

Robin Pokorski, President 2007-2009



FOREWORD

When presented with the prospect of writing a seventy-five year history book for California Garden Clubs, Inc., I did not know where to begin. Upon receiving a copy of *The Golden Years* capturing the first fifty years of our history, CGCI decided to keep *The Golden Years* intact and append it with current information. Please note that *The Golden Years* is in a smaller font. The updated portions are delineated by the following symbol



and easier to read larger font. The only portion changed is the “Table of Contents,” and the original cover was not utilized. In addition, a new chapter, Division X New Programs, Projects & Events covering the last twenty-five years, was added.

Upon invitation, a number of sections of this book were prepared by California Garden Clubs members whose names appear with their articles, and whose cooperation is sincerely appreciated. Contributions from the following persons are gratefully acknowledged in the order in which they first appear in the book:

Robin Pokorski, Dedication and President’s Message

Beverly Brune, Division I - Structure

Jane McKee, Fallbrook Garden Club

Mallory Hartt, Doris Nagy and Lorraine Ornelas, San Pedro Garden Club

Greg Pokorski, Southern California Garden Club, Landscape Design Study Program, Gardening Study Schools

Kathie Hoxsie, Vista Garden Club

Emilie White, Chico Horticultural Society

Joyce Dean, Redlands Horticultural & Improvement Society

Diane Charbonneau, *Golden Gardens*

Robin Pokorski, *Golden Gardens* and Permanent Files

Elisabeth Tufo, Awards and Diamond Jubilee Celebration

Rosa Radicchi, Conservation of California’s Redwoods

Pat York, Penny Pines

Jo Bucheger, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Marianne Kistler, California Poppy Reserve

Mary Lou Goodwin, Stagecoach Hill Azalea Project and
Landscape Design Council
Mary Hugg & Lisa Novick, Theodore Payne Foundation
Dolores Moffat, Flower Show Schools and State
Standard Flower Shows
Patricia Clayes, Landscape Design Study Program
Shane Looper, Environmental Study Schools
Myrtle Findley, Gardening Consultants Council
Harriet Behrens, Visiting Gardens and Tours
Alexis Slafer, Visiting Gardens and Tours
Eileen Fiumara, Alice Hilton Memorial Library
Janet Eyre, Memorial Gardens
Ruth Angevine, Blue Star Memorial Markers
Anne Capes, Garden Therapy
Doris Rivas-Brekke, Garden Therapy

All unsigned items were written by this editor who also thanks those members who contributed bits and pieces for various portions of the book. In addition, appreciation is extended to Jane McKee, who assisted with original proofreading, and a big thank you goes to the following individuals who helped with final editing:

Beverly Brune
Patricia Clayes
Robin Pokorski (including the fancy footer found at bottom of each page)

Essential final proofreading assistance, provided by Pat Clayes, is worthy of special recognition. Pat persevered through numerous drafts with eagle eyes in our attempt for perfection.

Graphics assistance was provided by Mark Deamer and Deanna Ridolfi. I am grateful for Mark's scanning of original photos from *The Golden Years* and converting the Editor's color photos to black and white found in various updated sections. I am also thankful for Deanna's Photoshop abilities with the logos. Peg Cummings from Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc. kindly provided the NGC logo.

The opportunity to work on such a memorable project was exciting and appreciated! I hope you will enjoy reading, learning and sharing these moments in history of California Garden Clubs, Inc. as much as I.

Julie A. West
Editor

2nd Vice President
Sebastopol, CA
March 2009

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- The First Thirty-Three Years of California Garden Clubs, Inc.,
1931 – 1964*
- California Garden Clubs History, 1964-1976*
- We Were There, 1933 – 1973: Official History of Pacific
Region*
- The Golden Years, 1931-1932 to 1981-1982*
- California Garden Clubs History, 60th Anniversary,
1931-1932 to 1991-1992*
- Golden Gardens 1982-2007: Official Publication of
California Garden Clubs, Inc.*
- California Garden Clubs, Inc. Minute Books, 1982-2007
- California Garden Clubs, Inc. Yearbook, Manual and Roster,
1982-2007*

President's Message

We celebrated the 75th anniversary of our founding with a 75th Diamond Jubilee in 2006 and 2007, kicked off at the 75th Convention in Ontario and concluding at the 76th Convention in Bakersfield. As we continue our next 75 years, let us take a look back at our roots. A strong, healthy tree starts from good, strong roots. We are grateful that a strong foundation was set by our founding leaders. That base has allowed CGCI to grow into the largest state federation in National Garden Clubs, Inc. We can be proud of our growth. I encourage you to continue this growth by planting trees in your community and through the Penny Pines Reforestation program, by planting plants and flowers in your own yards and in your cities and neighborhoods. Our organization will grow as we become more visible in our neighborhoods and communities. Read through these pages and be proud of the positive difference districts, clubs and members of California Garden Clubs, Inc. have made and are making in our Golden State. We cannot change what has already happened, but we can be a part of the story that positively affects the future.

Vince Lombardi said, "Individual commitment to a group effort...that's what makes a team work..." and I think Coach Lombardi was right. The individual commitment of our members to California Garden Clubs and by extension to Pacific Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc. is astounding, and our team is working. We are making a difference. To be part of the Pacific Region and National Garden Clubs is to be part of a huge force for good that stretches across our nation. It is exciting, and I want to be a part of it. I can see you do too.

Dig in and enjoy,

Robin Pokorski
CGCI President
2007-2009

**The
Golden Years**

1931-1932

1981-1982

**Fifty-Year History
of
California Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**Compiled and Edited by
Mrs. Robert A. Harmon
Member, Board of Trustees**

Published by Kruckeberg Press
Los Angeles, California
1982

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The publication of this fifty-year history of California Garden Clubs, Inc. has been made possible through a generous grant from Chevron U.S.A., Inc., a longtime benefactor of the California garden club federation.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
1931-1932 to 1981-1982

DEDICATION

**This Fiftieth Anniversary Book,
“The Golden Years,”
is hereby dedicated
to**

the members of California Garden Clubs, who
have contributed through their commitment
and actions over the years to the progress
and realization of the hopes and dreams
of the founders made in 1931-1932.



“COMMITMENT + ACTION = PROGRESS”

FOREWORD

When the prospect of a fifty-year history of California Garden Clubs, Inc. was first under consideration, it was the opinion of this editor that the goals and accomplishments of the California garden club federation might best be described under subject matter headings, following each of the major projects and programs from its inception to the present day. The principal activities of California Garden Clubs seem to fall of their own accord into the divisions set forth in the Table of Contents, bringing particular attention to the contributions made in the fields of horticulture, conservation and education and those programs undertaken in the public interest.

Upon invitation, a number of sections of this book were prepared by California Garden Clubs members whose names appear with their articles, and whose cooperation is sincerely appreciated. All unsigned items were written by the editor. Contributions from the following persons are gratefully acknowledged:

Mrs. Georg W. Daiber, State President
Mrs. Wallace F. Hirsch, Past State President
Mrs. Henley Miller, Chairman, Junior, Intermediate and High
School Gardeners Membership
Merritt S. Dunlap, President, Fallbrook Garden Club
Dorothy Estill, Monterey Peninsula Garden Club
Mrs. Willard Land, Historian, Piedmont Garden Club
Mrs. George R. Lewis, President, San Fernando Valley
Horticultural Society
Dorothy Siefert Norris, Past President, San Pedro Garden Club
Mrs. Joseph F. Harris, President, South Pasadena Garden Club
Elva Dawson, Vista Garden Club
Mrs. Kern H. Copeland, Chairman
Civic Development, Litter and Pollution Control
Mrs. Roland Graf, Past Director, Mendo-Lake District
Mrs. David Martin, Chairman, California Native Flora and
Theodore Payne Project
Stella M. Collier, Past Director, Sequoia Foothills District
Mrs. John N. Fehrer, Past State President; Chairman, Club
Programs
Mrs. Henry T. Read, Past President; Chairman, Anza-Borrego
Committee
Marianne Kistler, Desert Empire District
Mrs. Milton R. Bell, Past State President; Chairman, Stagecoach Hill
Azalea Project
Mrs. T. D. Roberts, Master Flower Show Judge
Mrs. R. Nelson Nicholson, State Third Vice-President; Senior
Active Landscape Design Critic
Mrs. Charles Buran, Chairman, Environmental Education

Mrs. Roy F. Hedtke, Chairman, Gardening Study Courses
Mrs. Harold W. McCoy, State Librarian, 1968-1973
Mrs. John Connelly, Chairman, Library and Permanent Files

Virginia Harmon
Editor

Mrs. Robert A. Harmon
Glendale, California
April 1982

REFERENCES AND SOURCES

The First Thirty-Three Years of California Garden Clubs, Inc., 1931 – 1964
California Garden Clubs History, 1964-1976
California Garden Club Federation 1932 Yearbook, Number One
We Were There, 1933 – 1973: Official History of Pacific Region
Fifty Years of Service, 1929-1979; Official History of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.
The National Gardener, selected issues: Official Publication, National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.
Golden Gardens 1932-1982: Official Publication of California Garden Clubs, Inc.
California Garden Clubs, Inc. Minute Books, 1931-1982

DIVISION I – STRUCTURE

California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Annual and Semi-Annual Meetings

Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson, Founding President

National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.
(National Garden Clubs, Inc.) and
Pacific Region

Junior, Intermediate and High School Garden Clubs



Emblem designed in 1932 by the California School of Arts and Crafts, Oakland.

Organized



December 5, 1931

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Fifty-one years ago, twenty-two adult and one junior garden club joined together to form the California Garden Club Federation, organized for the primary purpose of promoting amateur gardening, with a concurrent interest in plant and bird life, and in conservation and enhancing the natural beauty of the State of California. In the intervening years this membership has increased more than tenfold, and the treasury of a few hundred dollars in 1931 now averages into five figures. Surviving a severe depression and a devastating world war, the federation of garden clubs devoted to horticulture, conservation and beautification has become a well-known volunteer organization, greatly appreciated by civic bodies and professional, as well as, amateur gardeners.

The original constitution of the California Garden Club Federation has now been amended and revised many times, reflecting changing needs and styles as well as steady growth. Originally, the Board of Directors was composed solely of fifteen Directors, one from each of the eight districts as defined, and seven Directors elected at large. From this group of fifteen, the Directors themselves elected the officers who would serve for the following year. Two state meetings were held annually to transact business and promote new programs, with presidents of clubs and club delegates attending both.

Dues were 15 cents per capita, which included 5 cents for each member for National Council dues, with a maximum of \$30.00 for state membership for any club. District Directors were nominated by committees selected within their own districts, later to be elected at the state annual meeting in the spring. This was also the time of the election of the directors at large, who were chosen by a state nominating committee.

There were eleven standing committees, whose titles reflect the principal interests of the state garden clubs federation: Lectures and Lantern Slides, Publicity and Publications, Conservation, Billboards and Roadsides, Legislation, Programs, Flower Shows, Junior Garden Clubs, Pilgrimages and Advisory Committee. It should be noted that this original Advisory Committee should not be confused with the Advisory Council of past state presidents which was created in 1947. The

Advisory Committee of the 1930's consisted of some of the most outstanding horticulturists and conservationists of the day, who were available for lectures and other programs, and who generously contributed many articles to *Golden Gardens* magazine.

Almost immediately after accepting the constitution and bylaws, that established a working framework for California's garden clubs, changes were suggested. In addition to the adult and junior garden club memberships, and the Associate membership for those unable to find a convenient garden club to join or who had some special project in which they were interested, several new categories were defined. In 1933 these included Sustaining Members (\$10.00), Life Members (\$100.00) and Honorary Members, chosen by the Board of Directors. Before long, elections of officers were for two-year periods, and the name of the organization was changed to California Garden Clubs, Inc. New chairmanships were added and the federation studied ways to subsidize the traveling expenses of its officers. In 1936, it was voted to include the chairmen of all standing committees on the Board of Directors, bringing the total Board membership to thirty at that time.

After the first ten years, it was decided to abandon the semi-annual state meeting in the fall. It was this year, too, that the procedure of electing Board Directors, who in turn would elect the officers from among their own number, was discontinued, and the position of Director at Large was eliminated. By 1943 the cost of a state life membership had been reduced to \$50.00, and that year there were thirteen life members on the rolls. Six years later, the Life Membership Endowment Trust Fund was established and a Board of Trustees authorized to "supervise, maintain and administer said fund," with Mrs. Frederick Scatena, Past President, elected as chairman.

As the activities of California Garden Clubs, Inc. continued to increase, it became imperative to supply new chairmen and officers with material pertinent to their positions, and in 1944 a complete set of procedure books was compiled to supplement or replace the working outlines furnished by Mrs. Slosson for the first Board of Directors.

Until 1980, the Board met quarterly, with occasional special meetings called for special purposes. Since that time the regular Board meetings have been held in the fall and winter, with a third meeting immediately preceding the state convention, and an Organizational meeting held the day after Convention. Other significant changes have also taken place. The Executive Committee has grown from seven members to ten with the addition of a Financial Secretary, a Parliamentarian, and the Editor of *Golden Gardens*. Instead of eight districts, there are now twenty-six, and the past presidents who make up the Advisory Council are members of the Board of Directors with full privileges, whether or not they hold a chairmanship. There are presently 113 members on the Board of Directors filling 139 positions, not including special chairmanships. High school gardeners and group members have been added, and associate memberships have been discontinued. The list of life members now numbers more than five hundred, and total state membership stands at approximately 12,500.

The success of California Garden Clubs, Inc. in its endeavors of the past fifty years proves again the point so often made that gardening is indeed a noble calling, ever changing, always exciting and forever challenging.



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

The legacy of the first fifty years of California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI) continued for the ensuing twenty-five years. A number of special projects were adopted, on-going projects completed and attention focused on the ever-changing environment. These concerns are reflected in the adjustment of the make-up of the Board of Directors. The chairmen of the Board of Directors also serve to describe CGCI's progress during the last twenty-five years with much success and are a tribute to CGCI leadership.

The 2006-2007 term had 78 members on the Board of Directors filling 92 chairmanships in addition to District Directors and various committee members. Four statewide flower shows were held in 1985 and 1998 (both in San Luis Obispo) as well as in 2000 and 2002 (both at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show). The website was created in the late 1990s.

Changes in the election year occurred with Meredith (Hughes) Clark serving a single year term (1984-1985). CGCI was now synchronized with National and other states which held elections in the odd-numbered years.

District changes occurred with the creation of two new districts, while two other districts disbanded. Central Coast Counties District (Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties) disbanded in 1983-1984, and member clubs were assigned to Santa Clara Valley District. Plumas-Lassen District (Counties of Plumas and Lassen) disbanded in 1990-1991. In 2007, Diamond Mountain Bloomers, located in the former Plumas-Lassen District, was ratified as a Club-at-Large.

The new Buttes District (Counties of Butte, Colusa and Glenn with specified areas in Sutter and Yuba Counties) was formed and accepted in 1984. Buttes District today has eight member clubs, including Chico Horticultural Society, a charter member of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

The second new district, Diablo Foothills District, was created in 1988 when Bay Bridges District was split into two separate

districts. This new district includes the I-680 corridor east of the Berkeley-Oakland Hills in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, while Bay Bridges includes Alameda and Contra Costa Counties west of the Berkeley-Oakland Hills including the cities of Pinole and Fremont. Today, Bay Bridges District includes 17 clubs and 2 Affiliates, while Diablo Foothills District includes 11 clubs and 2 Affiliates.

In addition to those district changes, San Bernardino Valley District changed its name to Palms to Pines District in 1995. There was no change to its geographical description.

A statewide liability insurance program was offered in 1988 for clubs and associate plant societies with a fee separate from dues being required for the insurance. Insurance availability proved to be an incentive for joining California Garden Clubs, Inc., and it still serves to increase membership today.

Several income items in the budget were in need of increases. The fee for a state life membership was increased in 1983 to \$75 and again in 2007 to \$100 with the fees supporting the scholarship program. The number of Life Members now totals 754. In 2007 state dues were increased from \$1.25 to \$2.25 that includes 50 cents per member for National Garden Clubs, Inc. In 2005 subscriptions for *Golden Gardens* were increased from \$3 to \$5 per person in 100% clubs and from \$3.50 to \$6 for an individual subscription. The number of issues was reduced from six to five issues per year.

Several events were planned during the 2006-2007 term for California Garden Clubs, Inc.'s 75th anniversary, "Diamond Jubilee," that culminated with a celebration at the 2007 convention. Included were a door-decorating contest, sale of silver-colored ornaments and Jubilee trees dedicated at state meetings. A denim jacket was given to each district to be enhanced with creative embroidery, beads, etc. that were then auctioned at the convention. See Diamond Jubilee Celebration on page 222.

CGCI adopted its mission statement in 2007: *California Garden Clubs, Inc. promotes gardening, floral design, civic beautification, environmental responsibility and the exchange of information and ideas.* The goals and ideals of California Garden Clubs, Inc. continue to be met with the dedication of its Board of Directors and members throughout California.

Beverly Brune
CGCI President, 1997-1999
Pacific Region Director, 2005-2007

ANNUAL AND SEMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS

1 st Annual	April 1932, Hotel Oakland, Oakland
1 st Semi-Annual	October 1932, Santa Maria Inn, Santa Maria
2 nd Annual	April 1933, Hotel Huntington, Pasadena
2 nd Semi-Annual	October 1933, Hotel Del Monte, Del Monte
3 rd Annual	April 1934, Hotel Senator, Sacramento
3 rd Semi-Annual	October 1934, El Encanto Hotel, Santa Barbara
4 th Annual	June 1935, Hotel El Cortez, San Diego
4 th Semi-Annual	November 1935, Hotel Californian, Fresno
5 th Annual	April 1936, Hotel Leamington, Oakland
5 th Semi-Annual	October 1936, Santa Maria Inn, Santa Maria
6 th Annual	April 1937, Hotel Laguna, Laguna Beach
6 th Semi-Annual	October 1937, Hotel Del Monte, Del Monte
7 th Annual	April 1938, Hotel Huntington, Pasadena
7 th Semi-Annual	October 1938, Hotel Senator, Sacramento
8 th Annual	April 1939, Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco
8 th Semi-Annual	October 1939, El Encanto Hotel, Santa Barbara
9 th Annual	May 1940, Beverly Hills Hotel, Beverly Hills
9 th Semi-Annual	October 1940, Ahwahnee Hotel, Yosemite National Park
10 th Annual	May 1941, Clift Hotel, San Francisco
10 th Semi-Annual	October 1941, Hotel Del Monte, Del Monte
11 th Annual	May 1942, Huntington Hotel, Pasadena
12 th Annual	May 1943, Women's City Club, San Francisco
13 th Annual	May 1944, Women's City Club, Hollywood
14 th Annual	Cancelled because of wartime travel restrictions. Officers installed at State Board Meeting, May 12, 1945 at Hotel Californian, Fresno. Balloting by mail.
15 th Annual	May 1946, Hotel St. Francis, San Francisco
16 th Annual	May 1947, Hotel Huntington, Pasadena
17 th Annual	April 1948, Casa del Rey Hotel, Santa Cruz
18 th Annual	May 1949, Hotel Senator, Sacramento
19 th Annual	June 1950, Mar Monte Hotel, Santa Barbara
20 th Annual	April 1951, Mission Inn, Riverside
21 st Annual	May 1952, Eureka Inn, Eureka
22 nd Annual	June 1953, Hotel Del Coronado, Coronado
23 rd Annual	May 1954, Veteran's Memorial Building, Santa Rosa
24 th Annual	May 1955, Veteran's Memorial Building, Visalia
25 th Annual	May 1956, Biltmore Theater, Los Angeles

26 th Annual	May 1957, Rio Theater, Monterey
27 th Annual	June 1958, Hotel Del Coronado, Coronado
28 th Annual	May 1959, Ricky's Studio Inn, Palo Alto
29 th Annual	May 1960, Miramar Hotel, Santa Monica
30 th Annual	May 1961, Claremont Hotel, Berkeley
31 st Annual	May 1962, Los Angeles Statler-Hilton, Los Angeles
32 nd Annual	May 1963, Hotel El Dorado, Sacramento
33 rd Annual	May 1964, Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim
34 th Annual	May 1965, Jay McCabe Hall, San Jose
35 th Annual	May 1966, Kona Kai Club, San Diego
36 th Annual	May 1967, El Rancho Tropicana Hotel, Santa Rosa
37 th Annual	May 1968, Elks Lodge Club House, Visalia
38 th Annual	April 1969, Sheraton Palace Hotel, San Francisco
39 th Annual	May 1970, Holiday Inn, Stockton
40 th Annual	April 1971, Edgewater Hyatt House, Long Beach
41 st Annual	May 1971, Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills
42 nd Annual	May 1973, Hotel Del Coronado, Coronado
43 rd Annual	May 1974, Huntington-Sheraton Hotel, Pasadena
44 th Annual	April 1975, Oakland Hilton Inn, Oakland
45 th Annual	April 1976, Woodlake Inn, Sacramento
46 th Annual	April 1977, Royal Coach Motor Hotel, San Mateo
47 th Annual	May 1978, South Coast Plaza Hotel, Costa Mesa
48 th Annual	April 1979, Oakland Edgewater Hyatt House, Oakland
49 th Annual	April 1980, Antelope Valley Inn, Lancaster
50 th Annual	April 1981, Holiday Inn, Stockton
51 st Annual	May 1982, Century Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles



1983-2007 Annual Conventions

52 nd Annual	May 1983, Holiday Inn, Redding
53 rd Annual	April 1984, Hyatt Islandia, San Diego
54 th Annual	May/June 1985, Marriott, Santa Clara
55 th Annual	May 1986, El Rancho Tropicana, Santa Rosa
56 th Annual	May 1987, Hilton, Concord
57 th Annual	May 1988, Holiday Inn, Visalia
58 th Annual	May 1989, Sheraton Sunrise, Rancho Cordova
59 th Annual	May 1990, Holiday Inn, Victorville

60 th Annual	May 1991, Red Lion Inn, Rohnert Park
61 st Annual	May/June 1992, Humboldt State University, Arcata
62 nd Annual	April/May 1993, Red Lion, San Diego
63 rd Annual	April/May 1994, Park Terrace Inn, Redding
64 th Annual	May 1995, Holiday Inn, Visalia
65 th Annual	May 1996, Red Lion, Ontario
66 th Annual	May 1997, Hyatt, Westlake Village
67 th Annual	May 1998, Warner Center Marriott, Woodland Hills
68 th Annual	May 1999, San Francisco Airport Marriott, Burlingame
69 th Annual	May 2000, Holiday Inn Select, Bakersfield
70 th Annual	April 2001, San Ramon Marriott, San Ramon
71 st Annual	April 2002, Radisson, Stockton
72 nd Annual	May 2003, Embassy Suites, San Luis Obispo
73 rd Annual	May 2004, Doubletree, Modesto
74 th Annual	June 2005, Sheraton Grand, Sacramento
75 th Annual	June 2006, DoubleTree, Ontario
76 th Annual	June 2007, DoubleTree, Bakersfield

Beverly Brune
CGCI President, 1997-1999
Pacific Region Director, 2005-2007

MRS. LEONARD B. SLOSSON

Founding President
California Garden Club Federation,
California Garden Clubs, Inc.

“Garden Club organization progressed well through the dynamic force of this woman with a charmingly soft voice, fire in her eye and determination in her purpose. She had a sensible outlook and the cleverness to couple power with persuasion.” – (Mrs. Maria Wilkes, “We Were There,” 1933-1973.) After reading such descriptions of Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson, Founding President of the California Garden Clubs Federation and Founding Vice-President of Pacific Region, it was important to produce more background on this enduring personality.

She was born in San Francisco; married a very successful lawyer, Leonard B. Slosson; and they made their home in Los Angeles. Elvenia had her own inherited wealth, the Casper Lumber Company in Mendocino County, south of Ft. Bragg. She was a young woman when her son, Paul, was born severely retarded. Even though she had nurses around the clock to care for Paul, she was a recluse for eighteen years. She became a devout Christian Scientist and was very serious in her religious beliefs. During this sad and trying period, Elvenia spent

much time in a beautiful, walled garden in the rear of her home, where the nurses could take Paul and where her absorbing interest in gardening was nurtured.

It was shortly after Paul's death that Mrs. Slosson started the organization of the California Garden Club Federation. Although she was an active member of the Wilshire Garden Club, she was ill-prepared for public life and working with women. This often caused some complications, but it never diverted her from her objective, a strong California Garden Club. She traveled tirelessly during the early depression years, talking to garden clubs and encouraging them to join the state organization. Her younger companion, adoring friend and driver during these early days was Rosamund Bacon, of Stanford, who furnished most of this early information. During their travels Mrs. Slosson met nurserymen and women horticulturists throughout the state. She made close friendships with Charlotte Hoak in Los Angeles, Kate Sessions in San Diego, and Alice Eastman in San Francisco.

Rosamund Bacon states that "right from the start she sought out experts in the horticulture field and gained great satisfaction from the hours spent with them." There were several horticultural researchers at Berkeley and at the University of California at Los Angeles to whom she often turned for advice and later, for articles for "Golden Gardens." One was Mr. H. M. Butterfield, who became active in the fledgling garden club movement.

Even before joining National Council, *Golden Gardens*, the state publication, made its appearance. Mrs. Slosson was very creative, with a great amount of talent for writing and editing; and during the early years she was the mainstay of the magazine. Charlotte Hoak was the editor; Rosamund Bacon did the chores of getting out the magazine; but Elvenia Slosson was the creative source.

At the organizational meeting of the California Garden Club Federation in Santa Maria, December 5, 1931, Mrs. Slosson was elected president of the twenty-three clubs. The object, not too much altered in the intervening fifty years, "shall be to promote interest of the amateur gardener in flowers and in his own garden, which naturally leads to an interest on his part in the beautification of his own community and finally in that of his state, the latter interest becoming an influence for the benefit to all, through force of numbers; and to assist in movements for conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of our state."

At the First Annual meeting, April 23, 1931, the President told of her dream of united clubs, of her vision of helping hands, and of an out-of-doors guarded and beautiful. She spoke of better flower shows and the need of knowing how to judge them, and of the strength and growth there is in union.

In 1932, the first State Yearbook was compiled by Mrs. Slosson; and on December 5, 1932, the California Garden Club Federation was admitted to membership in National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. Mrs. Slosson personally wrote a Procedure Book for the first officers and chairmen. The State Library was started, seeds of rare plants were

distributed to clubs, and garden centers and junior gardening were started in the state.

During her presidency, Mrs. Slosson was not only Managing Editor of *Golden Gardens*, but she compiled and edited the "Flower Show Judging Pamphlet." In April 11-14, 1935, National Council held its Sixth Annual Meeting at the Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel, hosted by California Garden Clubs, with Elvenia Slosson as President.

Elvenia served as California president four years, in the middle of which in 1933, she became the founding vice-president of Pacific Region. There the Regional speaker's bureau was born and a set of native tree slides of Pacific Region states was compiled. Oregon was re-admitted to National Council and Arizona joined in 1935. With Washington and California, this amounted to four Pacific Coast Region states, with Idaho planning to join the next year. Her term as vice president lasted until 1937.

During the years 1941-1943 she was appointed to the National Executive Committee as a member-at-large. This was marred by the illness of her husband, and she devoted her time caring for him until his death in 1947. That year she organized the Bulb Society and was appointed National Parliamentarian for Mrs. Lewis M. Hull, National Council President.

In 1949, Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson was elected the eleventh National President at the convention in Portland, Oregon. She reactivated Regional Meetings in the forty-two federated states and revived the Council of State Presidents which she had launched in 1935. Stories were collected from the various state federations and she compiled "Pioneer American Gardening", now out of print. National Affiliates were started in 1950 when the Men's Garden Club of America became the first member. Following her interest in youth, the "Elvenia J. Slosson Junior Garden Club Achievement Award" was given annually until 1956, when it was revised to reappear in 1961 as the current National Award #14.

As president, she lived part of the time in New York to be near the National office and her attorney; in this way, through her management and loyalty, she was able to keep National Council out of a serious lawsuit. Through her efforts the position of National Council was greatly strengthened and the balance left to the National treasury when her term concluded was \$20,000. This information was derived from Mrs. John B. Simons, who was Elvenia's confidante and National Membership Chairman during her presidency.

At the California Garden Clubs, Inc. convention at Coronado in 1958, the assembly voted to place a sofa in the new National Home in her honor. This pleased her immensely as she went off to the East Coast for installation duties and visiting friends. She became ill and died on October 22, 1958. In 1965, California Garden Clubs had her name placed on the wall at the National Permanent Home as a "Steward of Tomorrow." As she chose those as helpers who would work together for a common cause and would be loyal to the purpose, Elvenia J.

Slosson's name will stand high as the first person to have thought of, and carried out, the colossal work of organizing this great state.

Under the terms of her will, she left the residue of her estate, about one million dollars, in trust, the income going to five relatives for life and the remainder to the Board of Regents of the University of California. The trust terminated with the death of Stuart Slosson on September 16, 1969. The estate then went to the University to be used for arboretums, beautifying highways, supporting plant expeditions for ornamental plants, encouraging local garden clubs, and encouraging publications relating to the history of gardening and current articles on ornamental horticulture, all oriented toward research. In 1972, the "Elvenia J. Slosson Grant" was made to Toshio Murashige for \$229,183, this to cover a five-year period for "plant cell tissues and organ culture studies in ornamental and other plants." This research gave rise to the "green revolution" in the early 1970's when plants appeared in every home, in nursery, grocery and department stores, and in many other places. Very little credit was given to the Fund by the researcher, although he was very grateful.

In 1975, a committee was established to make suggestions as to how the fund should be used. It was agreed that the use of the funds be for high quality, research oriented, and ornamental horticulture for the home garden. The fund should receive recognition, with results published in a form for the general public, using amateur garden journals such as *Golden Gardens*, as well as professional journals. The Fund also was not to support overhead budget, but would provide public service functions, lectures, forums and special publications.

Grants have been given to many diverse projects including University campus arboretums, developing new plant varieties, entomology, fertilizers, elm and oak tree problems, publications, books, pamphlets, and slide and TV programs. In 1981, some of the specific projects were the biology and ecology of leaf miner on chrysanthemums; solarization of soil for non-pesticide pest control; biological control of white fly; studies of Mojave desert shrubs; control of frost injury; development of succulent plants for Southern California; Lester Rowntree documentary conclusion; and two projects with which California Garden Clubs is familiar, Tom Brown's "History of California Victorian Gardens" and the UCLA Landscape Design Study Course.

The Fund is constantly generating new revenue and will be alive and well for years to come, a noble memorial to Elvenia J. Slosson, Founding President of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Mrs. Wallace F. Hirsch, Past President
California Garden Clubs, Inc.

"Looking back through the years, we see keen, fine faces and the resplendent characters of the many wonderful people who have been Federation banner carriers and leaders through allied fields of action. They are the bright, shiny GOLDEN RIBBONS tying together the loving

work of each member in all parts of the state to make California Garden Clubs, Inc. endure, not only to this day, but, we hope, forever.”

“Yesteryears,” by Maria Wilkes



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Alice Hirsch, Elvenia J. Slosson Fund committee member, reported in 1985 that the theme for applications submitted the last three years was “Minimal Maintenance of Private and Public Landscapes for Optimal Performance.” The Slosson Committee was soliciting recommendations for a research theme for the period 1987 – 1992. At Fall Board in 1996, Alice reported that 29 applications were received covering a wide range of topics. One of the most interesting submissions was a proposed study of the structure and economic contribution of the horticulture industry of California. Nineteen grants were funded ranging from \$5,000 to \$23,733. The total grants awarded were \$221,685.

In 1999, CGCI President, Bev Brune began serving on the Slosson Committee at the University of California – Davis. In 2006 garden club member, Camille Van Ast joined the committee. The Slosson Endowment Fund continues to generate funding for high quality, research-oriented, ornamental horticulture projects for home gardeners. The committee of approximately 12 members meets annually in January to evaluate proposals. In 2007, approximately \$350,000 was awarded in various grants. Visit its website <http://slosson.ucdavis.edu> for current information.

Beverly Brune
CGCI President, 1997-1999
Pacific Region Director, 2005-2007



Federated



December 5, 1932

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE GARDEN
CLUBS, INC. (NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.)
AND PACIFIC REGION**

It was a visit to the third annual convention of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. in Tennessee in 1931 that inspired Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson to envision a federation of garden clubs in her native California. Full of enthusiasm, she returned from Chattanooga and toured the state, visiting established garden clubs and telling them of some of the things the other states had been able to accomplish through the combined activities of their garden clubs. Her travels began in July, and she was soon to learn that the largest number of garden clubs already organized centered around the San Francisco Bay Region and around Pasadena, and that there were also a number of active garden clubs in the Santa Barbara, San Diego, and Sacramento areas. The garden club leaders she contacted were responsive, and the organizational meeting for the California Garden Club Federation was held in December of that same year, 1931, easily meeting the National Council requirement of a minimum of ten clubs for eligibility to join the national group. By that date, twenty-three garden clubs had taken a vote and signified their intention to form the California Federation.

A second requirement for national affiliation was that the new state federation had to have been organized and functioning for at least one year before being accepted as a member of the National Council. This was accomplished on December 5, 1932, and thus began fifty years of cooperation and participation in the programs of National Council of State Garden Clubs.

As with any organization, dues of its members are an important factor for implementing activities, and National Council receives dues from its member states for adult clubs at the current rate of twenty-five cents per capita, plus ten cents per capita submitted by the high school gardeners clubs. A token payment of \$10.00, submitted by the state federations themselves is also paid annually for the junior and intermediate clubs. Many garden club members also have become Life

Members of National Council, paying a fee of \$100.00 each for this privilege, with half the fee used in the National Scholarship program and the other half (since 1955) assigned to the Permanent Home and Endowment Fund.

Additional support of the Permanent Home and Endowment Fund was also pledged by California Garden Clubs in 1954 to help construct a National Council headquarters building in St. Louis, Missouri. National Council had worked in New York City out of the homes of its officers from its founding in 1929 until sometime in 1935, when space was leased in Rockefeller Center. There followed a number of other moves to other rented quarters until the Permanent Home was completed in 1958. Meanwhile, from the time approval to build the Home was received at the annual convention in 1954, garden clubs across the nation were urged to contribute to the Permanent Home Fund, as it was decided that there would be no loans or mortgages and that the project would be financed entirely by contributions. California Garden Clubs, Inc. accepted the challenge and voted to donate \$1.00 per member to the Permanent Home, as did the other states in the national federation. A number of other contributions to National Council have also been made by California over the years, supporting the funds established for gifts of varying amounts, as well as additional gifts specified for certain furnishings and plantings.

In much the same way that California Garden Clubs is divided into districts, the National federation has established a total of eight regions throughout the United States for the purpose of providing the necessary link between National Council and the state federations. California is a member of Pacific Region, which also includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Rotation systems have been established to designate the state to provide the Pacific Regional Director and to name one member and one alternate to the National Council Nominating Committee every term. A rotation system also determines the years when each state shall entertain the annual Regional Convention.

Financial support for Pacific Regional activities is obtained presently through three major sources: a National Council contribution earmarked for the program of the annual Regional meeting, \$10.00 from each member state for clerical expenses, and \$50.00 from each member state for the Director's expenses. In addition, the net receipts from each annual Regional meeting are forwarded to the Regional Director by the hosting state. It is also the custom for each Region to adopt a so-called unified Regional activity for each Director's term, in which all member states are urged to participate.

California has hosted the Regional Convention six times to date:

1939	-	San Francisco
1953	-	San Francisco
1957	-	Monterey
1962	-	Los Angeles
1969	-	San Francisco
1977	-	San Mateo



Additional Pacific Region Conventions 1982-2007

1984	-	Sacramento
1992	-	Costa Mesa
1999	-	Sacramento
2007	-	Burbank

California has hosted the Pacific Region Convention ten times in seventy-five years.



Past Presidents of California Garden Clubs, Inc. who have been elected to serve as Pacific Regional Vice Presidents (1933-1943) or Directors (1943 to present) include:

Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson	First Regional Vice President, 1933-37
Mrs. Samuel A. Guiberson	April 1943 – July 1943
Mrs. Frederick N. Scatena	1943-45
Mrs. John O. England	1951-53
Mrs. Joseph A. Gallagher	1959-61
Mrs. Vincent T. Gilchrist	1969-71
Mrs. Henry T. Dolezal	1979-81



Additional CGCI Pacific Region Directors 1982-2007

Mary Tebo	1991-93
Beverly J. Brune	2005-07



National Council, as well as Pacific Region, holds an annual convention in the spring, where the principal business is transacted, reports are received and awards announced. The National Council fall meetings, which began in 1931, were originally convened as semi-annual meetings of the corporation, which the state presidents and delegates attended. However, since 1947 the fall meetings have been attended by the National Board of Directors only and are known today as Fall Board Meetings. California is entitled to send its president, plus ten delegates and ten alternates, to both National and Regional conventions, which is the maximum number of representatives permitted under current bylaws.

Invitations to host a National Convention are not offered according to a pre-set plan, as at the regional level, but are made at the option of the

member states. It has been California Garden Clubs' honor to entertain the Annual Convention of National Council several times, although a national fall meeting has never been held in California. The four National conventions hosted by California are:

1935	-	Los Angeles
1953	-	San Francisco
1952	-	Los Angeles
1982	-	Los Angeles



National Conventions Hosted 1983-2007

2000	-	San Diego
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NGC Executive Committee Meetings Held in California

January 1996	-	San Francisco
January 2006	-	Glendale



As new programs have been accepted by National Council, California Garden Clubs, Inc. has adopted similar activities at the state level, by and large maintaining a parallel pattern of programs and projects. Certain special programs have also been suggested periodically by the National Council Board, and California Garden Clubs has cooperated whole-heartedly, as in National Council's Bicentennial Projects, for instance. The bicentennial observation was threefold: the rediscovery or the establishment of a network of historic trails; an International Flower Show in Florida; and a College Contest incorporating the states' official bird, flower and tree in a collage design. Although California Garden Clubs has never established a National Vision of Beauty Calendar chairmanship, photographs of arrangements by California floral designers have been numerous and outstanding, and the sale of calendars has been widespread, often bringing the state National recognition for outstanding results.

During the yearlong Fiftieth Anniversary of National Council, a campaign was conducted by California Garden Clubs to accumulate the funds to purchase a Golden Circle of Trees as a suitable gift to commemorate the fifty years of service just completed. This circle of trees is a pattern of new growth established centuries ago by the California coast redwood to perpetuate itself as the mother trees aged and fell or were destroyed. A circle of new redwood trees springs up around the base of the older tree, to grow through the years to replenish the forest, which was considered by California Garden Clubs to be an appropriate symbol of the continuing growth of the National Council.

The final event of the National Fiftieth Anniversary was a large-scale celebration in Washington, D.C. in September 1980. This ambitious undertaking was known as Exhibition 50 and included elaborate displays in the Hall of Americas in the Organization of American States Building and a Golden Anniversary Flower Festival in Washington Cathedral. Supporting funds were solicited throughout the state, as suggested, with contributions collected from garden clubs and individual members. California Garden Clubs was represented at the Washington gala with outstanding floral exhibits and a photographic portrayal of the South Coast Botanical Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula, presented as an exceptional example of a successful land use project in California.

California Garden Clubs, Inc. is proud of its many accomplishments and recognizes that the inspiration for many of its achievements has been the vision of National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. as it sought to fulfill its pledge "to aid in protection and conservation of natural resources, to protect civic beauty and encourage the improvement of roadsides and parks."



**National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)
1981-1982 to 2006-2007**

International Flower Shows were held in conjunction with the 1985 convention in Nashville, TN, in 1989 in Rochester, NY and again in San Diego.

The Friendship Garden at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. was dedicated on April 24, 1991. A \$5,000 Operation Wildflower grant and contributions from individuals, clubs and state garden clubs funded the project. The 1.5 acre garden was intended to convey diversification and naturalization with its 40,000 naturalized spring flower bulbs.

State dues to NCSGC (now NGC) were increased to 50 cents per capita in 1995. *The National Gardener* was changed from a bimonthly to quarterly publication during the 2003-2004 administration. In 1997 the "Golden Circle" was established to honor NGC board members with 25 years of service.

In 1997 NCSGC (now NGC) began planning to participate in the three-acre National Garden project adjacent to the U.S.

Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. The dream was to build a butterfly garden within the National Garden. Donations to the project from individuals, states and clubs were encouraged, and in April 1999, NCSGC presented a check for \$357,228.13 to the National Fund on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. The ensuing years presented many delays and problems including the death of Bob Hansen, Executive Director of NFUSBG (National Fund for the U.S. Botanic Garden). The challenges were overcome, and in September 2006 three hundred people from all over the country attended the dedication of the Butterfly Garden. Included are plants that attract butterflies, a bronze sundial and four benches featuring butterflies and roses. Ultimately, NGC received credit for \$525,057.96 for the National Garden. At the end of 2005, there was over \$89,000 in the National Garden Project to educate the public on butterfly gardening.

On October 1, 1999 Deen Day Smith Sanders cut the ribbon for the expanded Headquarters which was made possible by the generosity of her family. The size of Kellogg Hall on the first floor was increased significantly, and an elevator was installed. The expansion of Member Services space on the ground level created needed space for its offerings. In Kellogg Hall, a beautiful carpet with its columbine motif on a green background serves as a spectacular accent in this large room. On Mooney Terrace, more than 93 engraved pavers acknowledged State Garden Clubs, Regions or individuals. Deen Day Smith Sanders was elected Honorary President of NGC in 2003.

On May 4, 2001 at the National Convention in Chicago, IL, delegates voted 288 to 121 to amend the NCSGC Articles of Incorporation, changing the name of the corporation from National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. to **National Garden Clubs, Inc.** A first for NGC was the 2002 convention cruise that departed Boston and anchored in Bermuda.

California Garden Clubs, Inc. is proud to support the ideals of National Garden Clubs as stated in the mission statement developed in 1998:

National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

Beverly Brune
CGCI President, 1997-1999
Pacific Region Director, 2005-2007

JUNIOR, INTERMEDIATE AND HIGH SCHOOL GARDEN CLUBS

In the year of 1932 when Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson was serving as Founder-President of the California Garden Club Federation, records show that the Raymond Avenue Junior Garden Club, sponsored by Miss Charlotte Hoak, was one of the twenty-three founding clubs of the new organization. A few months later, the following excerpt appeared in the minutes of the State Board Meeting of February 27, 1932: "The Southern California Garden Club is the first member group to have formed its own Junior Garden Club. The name of the club is 'The Poppy Club.'" These two early junior garden clubs are evidence of the importance attached to garden club work with young people from the very outset of the state federation.

The first State Chairman of Junior Gardening was Mr. Clayton Palmer, Superintendent of Elementary Agriculture in the Los Angeles schools. He wrote in an article in *Golden Gardens*: "Parents and teachers should avail themselves of every opportunity for affording children intimate contact with Nature. Nature Study for children should be a live subject, not merely a passive observation of natural phenomena, but an actual and active cooperative effort. There should be abundant participation in some activity that develops not only powers of observation, but initiative and creative powers as well. Gardening offers such opportunities and is one of the most convenient, available and valuable agencies for the training of children."

At a State Board Meeting in December, 1933, Miss Charlotte Hoak moved that the age limit of membership in Junior Garden Clubs be set at eighteen years of age, which motion was carried. Since that time, the age category has been divided into three sections, Junior, Intermediate and High School, conforming to the school levels of grammar school, junior high school and high school.

During the years of 1949-1951 and 1951-1953 when Mrs. John O. England and Mrs. J. E. Harton were presidents of California Garden Clubs, their objectives heavily stressed the youth program. It was during Mrs. Harton's term that Mrs. Weston Walker, Orange County District Director, became intensely interested in Junior Gardening, when at a Santa Barbara State Board Meeting she saw a lady, as she says "holding up a garden glove and declaring with great enthusiasm and determination that she was going to see California Garden Clubs have as many junior clubs as there were adult clubs!" Under Mrs. Harton, Mrs. Walker became Junior Gardening chairman for the state.

Mrs. Walker writes: "I organized the Santa Ana Junior Gardeners; and because we needed a senior sponsoring garden club, I urged the mothers to organize, and thus was born the Santa Ana Junior Club Counselors. They sponsored the two Santa Ana Junior Clubs. The City Recreation Department permitted us to use one of their community rooms free of charge for our meetings, and we were in existence over twenty years." It was Mrs. Walker who decided that beside the National

Council of State Garden Clubs Junior awards, there should be some State of California awards; and through her efforts, the California Association of Nurserymen's Civic Beautification Award for Junior and Intermediate Garden Clubs in this state was established.

In the 1963-65 years when Mrs. Weston Walker was in her second term as State Junior-Intermediate Garden Club chairman, Mrs. Henley Miller, then the Bay Bridges District Youth Gardening Chairman, made up six sets of monthly lessons on youth gardening with accompanying teaching aids for youth counselors. Mrs. Walker used these to send to all counselors of newly-formed Junior-Intermediate Garden Clubs. These lessons have been used through the years, as National Council requires that five subjects be taught in the youth program: Horticulture, Nature Study, Conservation, Flower Arrangement and Flower Show Procedure. Each year's lesson set covers these five subjects. It was during these years that the idea for establishing youth garden clubs, within Scout troops, Campfire Girls groups, 4-H clubs, school groups, etc. came into practice. Mrs. Henley Miller has been the California Garden Clubs State Youth Chairman for a total of twelve years.



Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl Environmental Poster Contest, jointly sponsored by National Council and the U.S. Forest Service, began in 1961.

During the presidency of Mrs. Henry Dolezal, a Handbook for Youth Leaders was published, updating the material in the Junior Garden Club Manual compiled by Mrs. Walker in 1964.

In 1960, when National Council divided the responsibility for its youth program and appointed a separate chairman to work with the high school age clubs, California Garden Clubs soon followed suit. However, the appointment of two chairmen to handle the two general age levels of youth activities was discontinued in 1976, and it fell to one chairman to manage the entire youth program, including both membership and awards. This proved to be a tremendous task, and the following year the responsibility for the junior, intermediate and high school gardeners was again divided between two chairmen. One of the new youth chairmen was assigned the membership files for the three organizational age levels, and the second chairman assumed the duties of judging the youth awards and making arrangements for award sponsors and winners to be present at the annual state convention. This arrangement has continued to the present.

Mrs. Henley Miller, Chairman
Junior, Intermediate and High School Gardeners Membership

“Our young people are our greatest hope. They are looking for a meaningful role in the world about them. Let us give them an opportunity to become involved in a positive way in the community; instill in them a desire for attractive homes, school grounds and parks, and a creative pride in their development, maintenance and protection. Let us give them the actual experience of working with community-minded adults toward a mutual goal of a better world in which to live.”

Handbook for Youth Leaders,
California Garden Clubs, Inc.

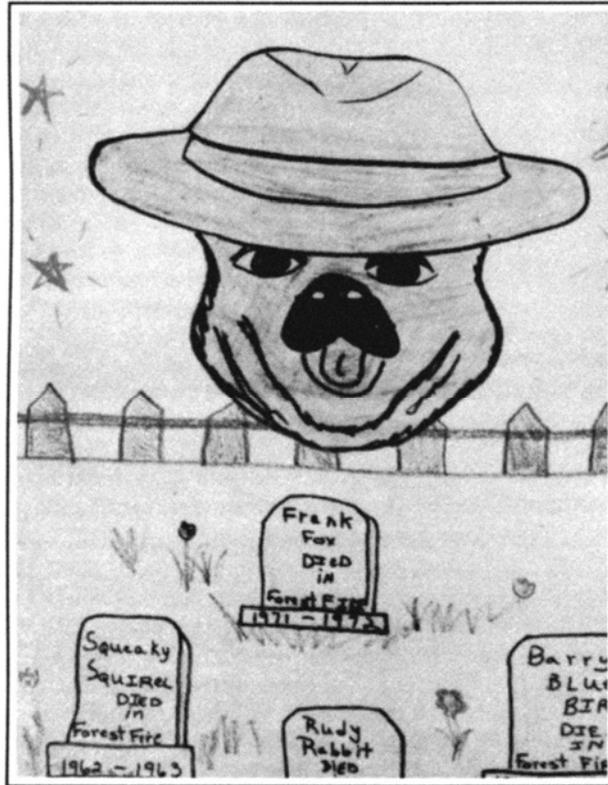


1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Numerous Handbooks have been printed including 500 copies of the *Handbook for Youth Leaders* from the Gold Book Fund in 1984; 300 copies of the *Handbook for Youth Leadership* from the Junior Gardeners Fund, and in 2001, the *CGCI Youth Manual* that was provided to each district. This NGC award-winning manual included information that would prove helpful in establishing youth groups. It included the CGCI forms needed to apply for awards as well as other outreach materials.

California's national winner in the 1994 Smokey Bear Poster Contest was Carla Castillo, a fourth grader at Crestline Elementary School in Barstow. The poster featured Smokey's

face with a scene showing grave markers signifying where forest animals had died in forest fires. The winning poster was on display in Washington, D.C. on August 9, 1994, for Smokey's 50th Anniversary. CGCI paid the expenses for Carla and her family to attend the 50th Anniversary celebration where she received an award from Vice President Al Gore.



Carla Castillo's winning 1994 poster

In 2002, \$100 Youth Grants were made available from a portion of the proceeds set aside from the funds from the NGC convention hosted by CGCI in 2000. The purpose was to further encourage active youth gardeners in reaching specific gardening goals, seeding current projects, or starting new and ambitious avenues in gardening. Upon approval of the Youth Grant Application by the Youth Activities Chairman (YAC), Dorothy Peterson, thirty-five total youth grants were awarded until the funds were depleted.

CGCI connected with the California State Department of Education (CDE) in the 2001-2003 term. All youth clubs were registered with CDE and received the same updated school garden information that was sent to the public schools. CGCI became a partner in the newly formed California School Garden network and expanded youth development through the "Garden in Every School" program.

In 2003, each district was asked to have a Youth Activities Chairman to work with the CGCI Youth Activities Chairman. Youth gardening programs were cultivated through schools, Scouts, 4-H, FFA, FHA, after-school programs, Boys & Girls Clubs and similar youth programs.

On June 6, 2004, the Youth Leaders Conference (organized by CGCI YAC Cheryl Smith) was held following the CGCI Convention hosted by Modesto Garden Club. It was a tremendous success with 33 exhibitors, 17 workshops as well as many informative speakers. Western Growers Association and California Fertilizer Foundation sponsored the event. CGCI had 155 sponsored youth groups throughout the state in 2007.

DIVISION II – CHARTER CLUBS

Fallbrook Garden Club

Monterey Peninsula Garden Club

Piedmont Garden Club

San Fernando Valley Horticultural Society

San Pedro Garden Club

Southern California Garden Club

South Pasadena Garden Club

Vista Garden Club

“The organization was effected December 5th, 1931, at Santa Maria Inn, an ideal garden setting for such a meeting. It was attended by more than forty people, enthusiastic men and women from all over the state, who felt the need of the cooperative efforts of all California lovers for the preservation and conservation of her native beauty and to spread the ‘Gospel of the Garden’ throughout the state.”

“There were twenty-three charter member clubs, seventeen of which sent delegates to Santa Maria. A Junior Garden Club of two hundred members was numbered among the charter member clubs. This Federation makes the thirty-second one of its kind in the country. As rapidly as possible these Federations are becoming members of the National Council of State Garden Club Federations.”

California Garden Club Federation,
1932 Yearbook, Number One



Listed below are two charter clubs' histories not included in
The Golden Years.

Chico Horticultural Society

Redlands Horticultural & Improvement Society

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION CHARTER MEMBERS

Carpinteria Valley Garden Club
Chico Horticultural Society *
Diggers Garden Club, Pasadena
Desert Forum
Fallbrook Garden Club *
Hillsborough Garden Club
Monterey Peninsula Garden Club
Nature Club of Southern California
Ojai Valley Garden Club
Pomona City Garden Club
Piedmont Garden Club
Pasadena Garden Club
Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club
Redlands Horticultural and Improvement Society *
Sacramento County Garden Club
San Fernando Valley Horticultural Society
San Pedro Garden Club *
Santa Barbara Little Gardens Club
Southern California Garden Club *
South Pasadena Garden Club
Ventura County Garden Club
Vista Garden Club *
Raymond Avenue Junior Garden Club

Of the twenty-three original members of the garden club federation in California, nine are still listed on the current roster. These clubs were invited to join in celebrating the Golden Years of California's garden club history, listing their achievements of the past and sharing their plans for the future, to be included in the fifty-year history prepared for the occasion. The continuity of their participation in pursuit of the objectives of California Garden Clubs, Inc. has brought great honor and inspiration to the state organization.



As of 2007, six charter clubs marked with * above are still members of CGCI.

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB

Fallbrook, San Diego County
1931-1982
President: Merritt S. Dunlap

The Fallbrook Garden Club was organized March 26, 1931 with fourteen members, the purposes being to study plant life, culture for growing plants, and an exchange of plants and methods of gardening. Mrs. Mable Richardson was the founder and first president. During the depression the club struggled through difficult times but survived with a firm foundation and a sense of dedication which has been maintained throughout fifty-one years. It was a charter member of the California Federation of Garden Clubs.

During the years, the club has decorated community Christmas trees, installed window boxes on civic buildings, decorated service men's graves, provided bouquets for school graduates, planted wildflower seeds, and provided landscaping for the Fallbrook Hospital, high school, and road intersection plots. It has provided the high school and the hospital at Camp Pendleton with flowers, and the Fallbrook Hospital and Convalescent Hospital with Christmas wreaths. It provides plants or flower arrangements weekly to the public library. It celebrates Arbor Day each year by providing trees for the Little League Ball Park.

On March 26, 1981, exactly fifty years from the date of its founding, the club celebrated its Golden Anniversary at a gala luncheon, with Mrs. Dean Miller, its president for the past two years, presiding.

The Fallbrook Garden Club holds an annual fall plant sale and baked goods sale, which provides the major funds for the club's activities. Among other events, the club has recently increased a high school student scholarship to \$500 for college studies in Earth Sciences, and allocated \$500 for landscaping a prominent corner of the new Fallbrook Community Building. It has also started a Junior Gardeners program in the elementary schools. And with all this, it is continuing past worthwhile programs.

The Fallbrook Garden Club held its 51st Annual Standard Flower Show on April 17 and 18, 1982, entitled FLOWER AFFAIR, "Our First Love." It had 151 classes of entries in four Divisions; and besides ribbons for each class, ten major awards were given. The Horticulture Division was named "An Affair with Flowers," and FLOWER AFFAIR, "Our First Love" was the theme for Artistic Design. Junior Gardeners had "Spring Fever," and the Educational Division display exhibited "Knowing with Feeling."

The Fallbrook Garden Club meets ten times a year and puts out a monthly newsletter, "The Garden Chirp." Its programs feature the latest developments in horticulture and provide trips to outstanding gardens, as well as bring the latest observations of home gardening and bird watching to the membership.

At its founding in 1931 with fourteen members, dues were 5 cents per month. Today they are \$7.00 per year. Membership by 1952 was 68, in 1981 it was 98, and at present it is 123. The club's budget is approximately \$4,100 per year.

The club flower is the geranium; club colors, coral and green; club logo, a goldfinch singing from a marigold; club motto, "Flowers, like friends, should be well chosen;" and present club theme, "Gardening is Fun."

And if you want fun and fellowship in Fallbrook, please visit us at any time.

Merritt S. Dunlap, President
Fallbrook Garden Club



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Over the past 25 years the club has nearly tripled in size (from 100 to 270 members), dues have risen from \$8.00 to \$30.00 for individual members, \$50 for a couple and our annual standard flower show has received eleven national first place awards. Three of our members have served as Palomar District Director, seven members were named Palomar District "Member of the Year" and several members have served as other District and State officers or Committee Chairmen.

In 1985 we honored our first Club "Member of the Year"; in 1996 an evening program was added for those who were unable to attend daytime meetings; and in 1998 study groups were started for those who wanted to learn a bit more about specific areas of gardening. In 2006 we celebrated our 75th anniversary at a gala luncheon with special guest CGCI President Elisabeth Tufo and presented our 75th annual standard flower show. The Club's many projects have evolved over time but remain centered on local needs as well as support for State and National programs. Today these include: Fallbrook Botanical Garden at Live Oak Park, Arbor Day ceremonies, flowers for the library, Memorial Day bouquets, Junior Gardeners, Penny Pines (over 125 plantations), garden therapy, gardening and craft workshops, scholarships for Fallbrook High School graduates, and of course our annual flower show. Our newsletter, "*The Garden Chirp*" is now available to members via our website or e-mail as well as regular mail.

As we look to the future, we continue to be committed to member education, civic beautification and the conservation of natural resources.

Jane McKee, Co-President
Fallbrook Garden Club, 2005-2006

MONTEREY PENINSULA GARDEN CLUB

Monterey County
1930-1982
President: Mrs. John Gore

* * * * *

Along the coast

Pelicans –

At dusk, deep blue sky, Pelicans in flight
Seem to be brushed in by unseen artists' hands.

Gulls –

White gulls hover in flight for a crust of bread
Thrown from a brown bag.

* * * * *

The varicolored pattern of the years of our garden club is a kaleidoscope of ever changing beauty and form, contained in the perfect harmony of its many hues. The never ending variations as the kaleidoscope has turned have evoked the unique character of the Monterey Peninsula Garden Club, the inspiration that has enabled it to maintain a particular brightness through the spectrum of the years.

Perhaps it was a reflection of the Victorian era that prompted men of verve to escort their ladies to garden club meetings, there to converse over a cup of tea and a tart in the garden. Be that as it may, in the atmosphere of multi-colored landscapes touching the changing blue of the sea, noted gentlemen of news and power teamed with their energetic wives to become the Monterey Peninsula Garden Club. Their accomplishments were many.

It was not only a tea time affair; Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel began to show improvement. Garden club members vied for blue ribbons at the County Fair with individual entries and group plantings. They exhibited their displays at the Del Monte Hotel; they held plant sales and staged fashion shows. They presented an oak tree and a plaque in memory of Father Junipero Serra. They entertained the California Garden Clubs Board of Directors with a beautiful tour on the 17-Mile Drive and lunch at the Beach Club. A State Convention was also a special time, with Colonel George Baxter the genial host.

* * * * *

Now the kaleidoscope is turned a notch, and

Trees – Beauty

Trees gowned for spring.

Trees in royal autumn robes.

Trees gaunt, etched against a winter sky.

Trees were planted at Jack's Peak, along the Holman Highway.
Contributions bought Penny Pines plantations, memorial plantings in Big

Basin and a redwood in George Washington Park, honoring Mrs. Ganster.

* * * * *

One more change, then
Flowers –
“He who loses his interest in flowers,
Loses his love of life.”

Plantings and memorials were many. There was an old fashioned pink rose in memory of Mrs. Abby, a descendant of the Boronda family and mother of Mrs. Cyril Church. A bank of old fashioned yellow roses grew at the Doud House. And at Monterey Peninsula College, Daffodil Hill flourished with plantings of poppy seed and bulbs. In 1976, a red, white and blue planting at the Community Center celebrated the nation's bicentennial, and a patio planting graced the Carmel Cherry Foundation. Poppy seed was donated for roadside planting and more seeds for club friends to plant were sent out in special Christmas cards.

* * * * *

The kaleidoscope slides anew.
Children –
“He who helps a child
helps to direct destiny.”

Poppy seeds for Robert Down School children, seedlings for living Christmas trees and money for pots to contain them, helped promote the children's enthusiasm for gardening. A deep interest in the Robert Down School's May Day Celebration, with its ethnic dances and the beautiful maypole dances produced by one of our club members brought us together, the Monterey Peninsula Garden Club and the children at school, on a common ground of participation and appreciation.

* * * * *

Now time slips by, the kaleidoscope moves once more
And we view our vintage...
Deeds for mankind.

Fifty years to celebrate; what a joy it was! To leave for posterity, we have a very fine library, perfected by Mrs. Marguerite Hulse, a trained librarian. To the community, our gifts are picnic tables and barbecues on Ocean View Boulevard. It has been our endeavor to practice and teach the conservation of time and material, of oil, paper and glass. For the preservation of fish and bird life along the Moss Landing area, we helped to preserve the Elkhorn Slough. We have provided bird feeders and bird seed for rest home gardens and refreshments for the residents who enjoy the gardens and their wildling visitors, and we have donated to the hospice for the care of cancer patients.

* * * * *

The kaleidoscope has come full circle,
The finis.
The last fifty-two years have been, indeed,
very good years.

Dorothy Estill
Monterey Peninsula Garden Club

PIEDMONT GARDEN CLUB

Alameda County
1923-1982
President: Mrs. Robert Wells

The Piedmont Garden Club was founded in 1923, with its objective "To stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening and horticulture, to encourage and assist in civic beautification and to protect and conserve our natural heritage." In 1931 it was one of the twenty-three clubs to join the California Garden Club Federation as a charter member, adding this national affiliation to its previous association with the Garden Club of America.

Accomplishments in the field of conservation have included supporting and contributing funds to many organizations, among them the California Conservation Council, Audubon Canyon Ranch, the Student Conservation Association, the California Roadside Council, the National Parks and Conservation Association and the Nature Conservancy. As a life member of the Save-the-Redwoods League, beginning in 1924, the club has assisted in the acquisition of many new parks and groves.

In the field of education, films and material on conservation have been distributed to the Piedmont schools, and teachers have been sent to the annual summer Audubon camps.

A biennial flower show in the Piedmont Community Center, open to all, is a community service effort that is enthusiastically received. Workshops and lectures on horticulture, flower arrangement and related subjects are continually offered to the members with the objective of "learning by doing."

In the field of civic beautification, the Piedmont Garden Club is proud of its many accomplishments, especially the establishment in 1964 of the Piedmont Beautification Foundation, in conjunction with the Piedmont City Council. Tax deductible donations to the Foundation and funds raised by other means are used for the beautification of the city. In cooperation with the city's Park Department, some of the many projects already completed include the following: the planting of over 2,000 street trees; the re-landscaping and lighting of the city's community center and the maintenance of the park area around it; the

planting of flowering Japanese cherry trees bordering a long walk; the placing of an antique, Japanese tea house in the park, complete with a deck area and dry rock pond.

The annual lighting of a giant redwood tree for a month at Christmas is a long standing tradition, while a more recent accomplishment is the well equipped children's play structure developed in one of the parks. Benches and shelters have been placed at various bus stops, and many areas in Piedmont have been landscaped and planted by the Piedmont Garden Club, creating small parks which are oases of beauty in the city.

Many thousands of dollars have been raised to accomplish these projects, and the results are more apparent each year as the trees and plants mature.

Piedmont Garden Club's plans for the future revolve around the maintenance of present projects and developing others in the fields of horticulture, conservation and beautification, here and in the world around us.

Mrs. William Land, Historian
Piedmont Garden Club

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Los Angeles County
1926-1982

President: Mrs. George R. Lewis

The San Fernando Valley Horticultural Society was founded in November, 1926 for garden enthusiasts who were interested in promoting horticulture and in the preservation of the natural beauties of the state.

As a charter member of California Garden Clubs, Inc., Mrs. F. D. Hudson, club president, had a very interesting article in the first state yearbook in 1932. "The club covered a wide territory geographically. Meetings were held in the evenings, for most of the members were employed during the day. Rock gardening was of great interest to many of the members. A picnic was held in the Memory Garden at San Fernando Mission and an interesting debate was held, 'Why Plant a Garden?' The club usually had guest speakers at the monthly meetings, speaking on garden landscaping, rock garden construction and plant material."

When the California Garden Club Federation was first organized, there was only one class of membership for adult garden clubs, which required the payment of per capita annual dues to maintain membership in the federation. All adult clubs were assigned to this class, regardless of size or particular objectives. However, in 1945 it was suggested that single flower groups, such as units of the American Rose Society for instance, or groups with limited objectives should be permitted to join

California Garden Clubs as "group organizations," paying a nominal fee of \$5.00 for their membership in the federation. When this new class of membership was accepted, the San Fernando Valley Horticultural Society elected to change its status, and for many years now it has been listed as a group organization member of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

In July, 1933, reporting on a district meeting discussion on suggestions for a cooperative district project, *Golden Gardens* wrote: "Mr. Charles Reed, of the San Fernando Valley Horticultural Society, made the suggestion of a Joshua tree preserve in the Antelope Valley as being a most worthy project, and he was requested to get further information on this subject to present at the next meeting." Mr. Charles G. J. Reed, society president in 1957-1958 and a member of the Royal Horticultural Society, was a devoted and loyal member, sharing with others his wealth of knowledge on all plants as well as bringing personally propagated specimens to share with others. His passing in July 1970 was a great loss to the San Fernando Valley.

San Fernando Valley Horticultural Society can look back on many accomplishments. A number of garden clubs were formed from our society, including the Hollywood Garden Club and, in more recent years, the San Fernando Valley Rose Society. Our records show we were an associate member of the American Rose Society as early as 1957. In the 1930's and 1940's, flower shows were a community affair with banners displayed on Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys. Mosquito-bar covered temporary booths to protect plants and flowers from the sun and wind.

Through the years nurserymen, horticulturists, camellia growers, rosarians, herbarians and floral arrangers have been active in the San Fernando Valley Horticultural Society. The recent years' meetings have been held bimonthly in the homes of members, sharing garden subjects and viewing members' gardens. Many of our members are also interested in vegetable gardening and fruit trees.

The club has always been interested in conservation. More recent records show we have planted trees at Orcutt Ranch Park in Chatsworth and the Encino Garden Center in Encino, and have taken part in the Bicentennial Arbor Day planting at the New Horizons Work Activity Center for the Retarded in Sepulveda.

Mrs. Helen Carswell, president in 1959-1960, now deceased, was a nationally accredited rose judge and consulting rosarian. Mrs. David Martin, president from 1965 to 1967, is the current California Native Flora Chairman for California Garden Clubs, Inc., as well as Special Committee Chairman for the Theodore Payne Project. Through the years, many of our members have been supporters of the Theodore Payne Foundation for the Preservation of Native Plants.

Mrs. George R. Lewis, President
San Fernando Valley Horticultural Society

SAN PEDRO GARDEN CLUB

Los Angeles County
1928-1982
President: Mrs. Jack Applet

The San Pedro Garden Club was a well established entity before California Garden Clubs was organized in 1931. We hold monthly meetings, with the exception of July. The August meeting is a special one, a "Hat Picnic," at which time everyone comes wearing a hat decorated with living flowers. Awards are given for the most beautiful, the most distinctive and the funniest. Just good fun and good food.

Our regular meetings bring us good speakers on the various aspects of gardening, beautification, conservation and world gardening. Arbor Day is always observed by the planting of a tree. One year in a rather newly developed neighborhood we supervised the planting of over three hundred trees. Another interesting project was the sowing of seeds of our state flower, the California poppy, along the coastline and along the entrance roads to our city. In cooperation with the South Bay Historical Society, we planted a large bed of geraniums at the entrance to Point Fermin Park, a place that had formerly been used as a trash collection spot for the sanitation department. Now it is beautiful with green grass, geraniums, an anchor, a buoy, and a Historical Marker.

As the geranium was chosen as the San Pedro official flower, many of our members specialize in growing the unusual, and even some of the exotic, varieties of this lovely flower. Our membership roster includes people from all walks of life: businessmen, nurserymen, musicians, teachers, and most important of all, homemakers who enjoy gardening and work to beautify their own yards and the neighborhood in general.

Each year we offer a high school student a scholarship for further horticultural study. Several of our members have taken special courses in floral design and floral arrangement, including Ikebana, in order to qualify as judges as well as to just be well informed. Each spring we present a "Geranium Show," and during the Yuletide season we present a show featuring Christmas floral designs. At this time there is also a Boutique Booth and potted plants are offered for sale, featuring geraniums, of course.

We feel that the love and cultivation of flowers is like "ambrosia from the gods," and we work toward the goal of spreading that love to all people.

Dorathy Seifert Norris, Past President
San Pedro Garden Club



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

In 1988, a memorial garden was dedicated to Berniece DeBriere at Averill Park in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary

of the city of San Pedro. Most recently, the club sponsored a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker installed at Fort MacArthur Military Museum in San Pedro.

Garden club member, Kay Schultz, who was also the Archivist of the San Pedro Bay Historical Society (SPBHS), recommended in 1994, a history of the San Pedro Garden Club be published as an interesting Shoreline publication. "San Pedro Garden Club Celebrates 65th Birthday" was published by the SPBHS, sent to all members of SPBHS and sold for \$5.00 each to the public.

In 1998, the "Hat Picnic" transformed into the annual live floral "Hat Parade" and Membership Tea. As a result, membership has increased from 65 to 104 members to date. Prizes continue to be awarded in three categories as established by tradition during the first fifty years.

San Pedro Garden Club received a Resolution signed by the Mayor and the 15 Council members of the City of Los Angeles on the occasion of our 75th Anniversary celebrated in 2003.

Community participation includes the dedication at the Willenberg Special Education School for the children who were killed in Oklahoma City. Hildegard Cox, a past president of San Pedro Garden Club was president of the support group at the school at the time and she arranged the event. In addition, food is supplied for their Thanksgiving and Christmas projects as well as giving baskets to needy families at the school. Hildegard held flower arranging shows several years for the children's participation in various special education schools. The club also hand writes Christmas cards to residents of Beacon House, a home for recovering alcoholics. Currently, the club recycles by collecting aluminum cans, bottles, etc. and saving stamps for the Norwegian Church in San Pedro.

Adopt-A-Spot program by the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce provides civic beautification projects for the club. A slope at the historical Muller House was planted with geraniums (the club's flower); a "spot" at Cooper School was beautified; and the current project underway is planting ground cover on a slope at Willenberg Special Education School. We continue the club's traditional annual Arbor Day celebration by planting trees at various historical sites in San Pedro.

Flower shows are held at various locations including the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, Muller House Museum and George H. Park Community Center. In addition, flowers have been provided for the Los Angeles Maritime Museum reception room;

Regional Library in San Pedro; and Point Fermin Lighthouse for its office.

Club members work diligently with the Junior Gardeners at Seventh Street School including joint participation for the past two years in the San Pedro Community Holiday Parade. A scholarship continues to be awarded each year to a qualifying senior attending San Pedro High School.

The club has had a total of thirteen CGCI Life Members as well as life members at the Region and National levels. In addition, many club members have served on the CGCI Board of Directors as chairmen of various committees, including Lorraine Ornelas as Costa Verde District Director and Ruth Brooker as CGCI Memorial Gardens Chairman as well as six members as Costa Verde District Director.

Mallory Hartt, President
Doris Nagy and Lorraine Ornelas
San Pedro Garden Club

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUB

Los Angeles County
1927 – 1982

President: Mrs. Joseph F. Harris

Southern California Garden Club was founded on June 13, 1927 and is a charter member of California Garden Clubs, Inc. The five founders were Mrs. H. C. Quest, Mrs. H. S. Black, Mrs. A. B. Smith, Mrs. Marion Quest Toy and Miss Dorothy Black. Mrs. Quest suggested naming the new club the Southern California Garden Club to attract a larger membership. She became the first president, and having studied horticulture, the club was started out with a serious study of gardening.

Beginning with twenty-five members, the club grew to include over 360 members before World War II and gas rationing changed the style of living for many of those from outlying areas. New clubs were founded throughout the Los Angeles Basin, starting new organizations in Santa Monica and Hermosa Beach, for example. Mrs. Quest was also responsible for founding the Los Angeles Garden Club, which was formed as the result of a series of gardening classes she had conducted at the May Company Auditorium in downtown Los Angeles.

Southern California Garden Club has the honor of being the first club to join the California Garden Club Federation, and we were also the first in the federation to form a junior garden club which was sponsored by an adult club rather than an individual garden club member. We celebrated our Golden Anniversary in 1977. A brief history of the club

shows that we have always been 100% *Golden Gardens* and we have always been well represented on the state board with one or more officers. We have six Life Members of National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., five Life Members of California Garden Clubs, Inc., twelve Life Members of Southern California Garden Club, three nationally accredited Flower Show Judges, one Special Honorary Member of Southern California Garden Club, and we have provided four district directors.

State projects we contribute to include Poppy Park, Penny Pines, (our nineteenth plantation), and the various programs for buying redwood groves in the Big Basin State Park. We have also made donations to the Blue Star Memorial Highway program and to world gardening, and we have purchased National Council Vision of Beauty Calendars and joined the California Arboretum Foundation. Many other state and national projects have also been supported over the years, both with donations of money and with active personal participation.

Southern California Garden Club has cooperated with the Sepulveda Garden Center since its inception, including the twenty years when the Garden Center Association lay dormant. Then in 1969 the association was reactivated, and Mrs. Fay Alderman spearheaded the effort to enlarge the existing facilities. Our club planted ninety-nine trees at the Center, including flowering trees, evergreens, fruit trees, deciduous trees and bushes; and we have started a Tree Trail which includes the planting of native shrubs. We will have our seventeenth Standard Flower Show at the Center this year. The Garden Center is Southern California Garden Club's continuing environmental and beautification project.

Many other trees have been planted by the club in other locations as well as the Center, such as at Mid-Valley YMCA, Sepulveda Veterans Administration Hospital, Sherman Oaks Park, New Horizons and Erwin Park. Van Norman Bird Refuge was dedicated June 7, 1977, after a lengthy effort, with our state president and local public officials participating.

We are proud of the many awards received for our conservation projects, and have received the top award in many other state contests, as well as a number of national awards. In contributing to the TreePeople, we are pleased to have aided in bringing recognition to its founder, Andy Lipkis. He has received many state and national awards. Mrs. Harrison Minor, Jr., a member of Southern California Garden Club and director of the San Fernando Valley District, is a member of the Advisory Council of TreePeople, which stimulates the club's interest and increases its support of this fine group. The same is true of Mrs. David Martin, California Native Flora Chairman for California Garden Clubs, Inc. A member of Southern California Garden Club and on the board of the Theodore Payne Foundation, Edna Martin inspires our members to support the Payne Foundation in the propagation and sale of native flora.

The club contributes each year to the Sepulveda Veterans Administration Hospital for the patients' Christmas with a \$50.00 check

for canteen books, paid from our boutique fund. Workshops are scheduled to make tray favors for special holidays for patients at the Veterans Administration Hospital and at Olive View Medical Center in Van Nuys, and we also provide flower arrangements for the hospital chapel one month a year. Our Garden Therapy program has flourished under the chairmanship of Mrs. Elenore Hamlin.

A \$100.00 scholarship is given by the club to a deserving high school student each year for further study in horticulture. This is also funded from boutique proceeds. Our club has participated in another far-reaching project - that of placing garden club information in a time capsule, located in the Big Basin Redwoods State Park in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Our president has submitted material about our club, which has been included in the capsule. How exciting it will be, when the capsule is opened up, to relive what went on in years long past and to show the people in that distant future just how much Southern California Garden Club has contributed over the years.

Mrs. Joseph F. Harris, President
Southern California Garden Club



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

The oldest and largest garden club in the San Fernando Valley, Southern California Garden Club has continued to support the objectives, projects and activities of CGCI and National Garden Clubs, Inc. as it looks to the future, recognizing Gardening is a Global Link and Garden Club is A Natural Place to Grow.

In the fall of 1981 the club-meeting day was changed to the third Tuesday of the month. This has not changed since.

In 1993 the club's meeting place was moved from the Van Nuys Woman's Clubhouse, where meetings had been held for 27 years, to the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino where the club could benefit from the free rent. In 2003-2004, the club met at the American Red Cross facility in Van Nuys during the period when the old Sepulveda Garden Center clubhouse was demolished and a new clubhouse was built. The club undertook a major landscaping project at this facility, dedicating its American Red Cross Memorial Garden on June 15, 2004.

The club's 60th anniversary was celebrated with a vintage style show in 1987. A 70th anniversary gala took place on June 17, 1997 with 106 guests, including CGCI President Beverly Brune, two previous CGCI presidents, and at least three future CGCI presidents. A club cookbook was a successful fundraiser for 70th anniversary activities, and *A History of Southern*

California Garden Club was written and dedicated to each and every member of the club from 1927 to 1997 because each was an asset to the club, allowing it to bloom and grow. The gala was featured in an article in the September/October 1997 issue of *Golden Gardens*. A 75th Anniversary Tea included 80 guests on June 18, 2002, and was featured in an article in the September/October 2002 issue of *Golden Gardens*.

In researching the club's 70 Year History, it was found that Mrs. Leonard Slosson, CGCI's founding president, the first Pacific Region Director, and the 11th NGC President, was a member of Southern California Garden Club from at least 1930 until 1944. It was also found that Mrs. William Shearer, CGCI President from 1947-1949, was a member of the club.

Thirty-five women have served as President of Southern California Garden Club from 1927 to 2007 (for 37 presidential terms – because like Grover Cleveland, the club has had two presidents who served multiple non-consecutive terms). Since CGCI celebrated its Golden Years, Southern California Garden Club has benefited from the R&R years (not Rest and Recreation, but lots of activity under energetic Robin and energetic Rita). Robin Pokorski served as president for twelve one-year terms from 1991 to 2003, and Rita Desilets was re-elected to her fifth one-year term in 2007.

Since the 1981-1982 CGCI History, Southern California Garden Club has:

- presented 25 standard flower shows
- donated 66 Penny Pines plantations
- remained 100% *Golden Gardens*
- continued to publish its popular and often award-winning newsletter, *The Green Thumb* (published since 1951)
- increased its annual scholarship from \$100 to \$200 to \$500 to \$1,000
- become a CGCI awards sponsor
- sponsored Gardening Study School Series 13 in Encino (1994-1996)
- sponsored a Flower Show School (1996-1998)
- adopted a logo (1997)
- contributed significantly to the 1998 CGCI Convention in Woodland Hills (hosted by San Fernando Valley District)
- dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker (January 13, 2000) at the Sepulveda VA Medical Center
- sponsored Gardening Study School Series 17 in Calabasas (2003-2004)

- had two members honored as CGCI Man of the Year (Andy Lipkis -1984 and Greg Pokorski-2004)
- established a website
- continued it's popular twice-a-year fundraiser bus tours
- continued to plant one or more trees in annual Arbor Day ceremonies
- sponsored Junior Youth Group, the Gledhill Gardeners
- instituted a spring tour of members' gardens
- undertaken maintenance of the rose garden at the Sepulveda Garden Center
- conducted extensive landscaping at the MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity) facility in Pacoima as a civic beautification project
- participated in or contributed to many club, district, state, regional, and national projects and activities
- continued to retain Sylvia Alderman as a member (Sylvia joined the club in 1955 and is now in her 53rd year of active membership)
- seen 18-year club member Robin Pokorski installed as 2007-2009 CGCI President

In 2007, Southern California Garden Club is proud to brag about its 105 members, 21 CGCI Life Members, 12 NGC Life Members, 12 Pacific Region Life Members, 33 Honorary Club Life Members, 11 Members on the CGCI Board, 3 members on the Pacific Region Board, 2 members on the NGC Board, 5 Flower Show Judges, 4 Landscape Design Consultants, 12 Gardening Consultants, 3 Environmental Consultants, and 2 NGC Four Star Members.

Southern California Garden Club continues to seek new members by having good and varied programs and meetings, and seeks to continue to make a positive difference in the community.

Update by Greg Pokorski
 Rita Desilets, President
 Southern California Garden Club

SOUTH PASADENA GARDEN CLUB

Los Angeles County
1926-1982

President: Mrs. Roy A. Fetterman

Everyone likes to share in the aura of something that is, or has been, a "first," and we of South Pasadena Garden Club are no exception. We are proud of our heritage of charter membership in California Garden Clubs, Inc. and as members of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

In 1979 I was asked by then-acting president, Mrs. Alva Graham to speak to the garden club on the subject of native plants. This was my first knowledge of the existence of a garden club in South Pasadena. I joined the club, not foreseeing how I would be tricked into the presidency by that sly Alva!

Soon after becoming president, I overheard a remark which indicated that this garden club was a charter member of California Garden Clubs, Inc. This did, indeed, prove to be true. Thanks to Dr. Fetterman, who donated the cost of renewing the club's membership in the state organization, the files of the South Pasadena Garden Club now include a letter from Mrs. Wil J. Tebo President-Elect of California Garden Clubs, Inc., welcoming South Pasadena Garden Club again into the full rights and privileges of membership on the fiftieth birthday of the state organization.

Club Secretary Mrs. P. T. Adams researched the microfilmed local papers and found the date of formation of the South Pasadena club and the name of its first president. The South Pasadena Garden Club as founded in 1926 with thirty members and Miss Charlotte Hoak was the president.

The following report on the accomplishments of this club is taken from the first State Yearbook, 1932, when Mrs. J. L. Criswell was president and Mrs. Alva G. Graham served as secretary of the club.

"South Pasadena Garden Club has family memberships. Has held one members' Flower Show and two Garden Fairs, to which the public contributed and which they attended. Has visited gardens in several cities, has a plant exchange among members and has maintained a library of garden magazines for members. Money has been raised by programs showing autochromes made by a member, Mr. Ernest Williams. Community service has been done cooperating with Santa Barbara Club in a campaign to abolish billboards from the highways of California, planting trees in city parks on appropriate occasions, cooperating with Pasadena Garden Club in planting Mesembryanthemums (succulents) along the Santa Fe right-of-way to the city. Provided the city with a complete landscaping plan for planting the Arroyo Seco Park with native shrubs and trees, replanted El Centro school grounds, and presented deodars as living Christmas trees to all city schools. Subscribes regularly to the Pasadena Horticultural

Society, has presented books on garden subjects to the city library, has presented programs of educational and cultural value to the public with outside and member speakers. Also, it organized the San Pedro Garden Club, with one of its founder members as president.”

Plans for the future of the South Pasadena Garden Club include increasing the number of active memberships and striving to achieve in these golden years a measure of community service, beautification and conservation equal to that achieved in youth.

We cannot continue to bask in the slowly fading fragrance and glow of the accomplishments of those who went before, those who made this club a “first,” but must strive to keep that aura fragrant and shining in memory of those who created.

Mrs. Roy A. Fetterman, President
South Pasadena Garden Club

VISTA GARDEN CLUB

San Diego County
1930 – 1982
President: Mrs. Daniel Ilich

The very name, Garden Club, has a warm meaning of friendship. The talk of plants and flowers, vegetables and fruits and the sharing of them bring folks together in companionship. So it is that a garden club is successful from its beginning; with good leadership, it is an organization to be proud of, and the Vista Garden Club is truly such a group.

Ladies in Vista interested in a garden club met for the first time in March of 1930. Records show that Mrs. M. Z. Remsburg was elected president and dues were ten cents a meeting. The official flower chosen at that time was *Strepsolana*, which no one seems able to identify today. A Clean-Up Day was planned for April, 1931; and one of the early-day projects was to obtain a park for Vista, which later was to be named Wildwood Park. Trees were planted and the park was landscaped for \$40.00, with the garden club members taking care of upkeep of the park for a time. This meant carrying water by bucket into the park to keep the trees and shrubs alive, as there was no irrigation. Later, the Vista Irrigation District contributed a meter and water rights, and several lumber companies donated lumber for tables and benches. At the end of the first year, \$81.00 remained in the treasury of the club. This was a good record, as it was a Depression year when even a dime was big money.

In 1932, club members worked to save the pepper trees along the flood control channel, a walkway which later became known as Pepper Tree Lane. This effort to save the trees led to a great deal of publicity, and *Sunset Magazine* carried the story. Fresh flowers were taken to the

library twice a week, and members participated in the Dish Garden Therapy Program at the Navy Hospital at Camp Pendleton, this with the complete cooperation of the American Red Cross.

Recognition and awards came to Vista Garden Club with the expansion of the club's program to include district and state affairs. The *Cricket's Chirp* was initiated as the newsletter of the club, and what a gem of communication it is.

During the 1963-1964 term, the club became a charter member of Quail Gardens Foundation, meanwhile continuing its traditional support of the Penny Pines program. The following year flower seeds for Samoa were promoted, and the club received an award from the American National Red Cross for its garden therapy effort at Camp Pendleton Hospital. And who will ever forget those prickly pear planters? Thirty-five of them were made for the State Garden Club Convention in San Diego.

Then came the proposal to plant hundreds of oleanders along the flood control channel and on West Broadway. In the beginning, members planted cuttings in gallon cans to accumulate enough shrubs to begin the plantings; however, this method proved too slow a process. The merchants in Vista were asked for their support, contributions came pouring in, and 1,275 plants were purchased. The planting was done by garden clubbers and their husbands, with Vista Garden Club members and members of Vista Beautiful aiding in the care of the plants and the city providing irrigation. The oleanders were, and are, beautiful, though many have been moved more than once; and the club has received a Vista Beautiful Award for this planting.

At the 1968 convention of California Garden Clubs, honors came to members of the Vista Garden Club once again. Mrs. Franck E. Gillette was elected second vice president of the state organization, and Colonel Gillette, former mayor of Vista, received the Golden Orange Trophy, the Man of the Year Award. Honors came for his efforts in behalf of garden clubs throughout the State of California as well as for his World Gardening chairmanship. During his service in Korea as commanding officer he was responsible for the founding of hundreds of 4-H Clubs, which resulted in the enrollment of thousands of young people in gardening efforts. During his term as mayor of Vista, he also founded Vista Beautiful. Incidentally, the Mary E. Gillette Litter Control Award is presented annually at the state convention, and one wonders why the Vista Garden Club has not tried for this honor.

Men have been encouraged to become members in the garden club, and they have contributed a great deal to many projects. It was one of the men who spurred the replanting of *Brodiaea telefolia*, which was on the list of endangered plants, and as a result, three hundred plants have been placed in the native flora area of Brengle Terrace Park in Vista.

Members contributed over \$300, plus their energies, to replant an outstanding private collection of azaleas in Quail Gardens Park beneath the giant trees. A Memorial Grove of beautiful pine trees planted in Brengle Terrace Park was dedicated in an impressive moment in Vista history in 1975. As a trumpet sounded high atop the hills and above the

gazebo in the park, surely those in whose memory the dedication was observed somehow must have known that they were not forgotten by members of the Vista Garden Club. This memorial grove is one of the beauty spots in the park, with an expenditure of more than \$700 by the garden club. Sixty-seven trees and shrubs have since been planted at Brengle Terrace Park Recreation Center as a continuation of this memorial.

In 1980, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the club was celebrated, with past presidents receiving special honors and the history of Vista Garden Club being reviewed.

Elva Dawson
Vista Garden Club



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Continued energy, enthusiasm and cooperative effort characterize our past 25 years.

Twice we celebrated major milestones: 60 years in March 1991 and 70 years in 1999-2000. Our club logo, using our newly adopted club flower, *Felicia amelloides* (Marguerite Daisy or Blue Marguerite) was designed by a member in 1991. The mayor of Vista proclaimed March 1, 1991 "Vista Garden Club Day 60 Years of Sharing and Caring." And to attract more members and publicize our community involvement, we produced a new membership brochure. A highlight of our 70th anniversary was awarding 10 members with Life memberships. Each of the 10 honored had held membership in VGC for 20 or more years. Again, the mayor of Vista proclaimed Vista Garden Club Day.

Changes occurred in how we operate. We made revisions and amendments to our bylaws several times. Our meeting location moved from the city's recreation center to the Senior Services Center, and to our current "home" in the Gloria E. McClellan Senior Center. We shortened the name of our newsletter from "The Cricket's Chirp" to "The Cricket." We created procedure books for our various committees and added the job of Historian. New members are now invited to attend an orientation luncheon with our Board and Committee Chairmen.

What we do and how we do it has taken on some interesting twists. We elected our first male president, Bill Winters, in the spring of 1993. JoAnne Gould, newly elected CGCI President, installed him that July. Men continue to join our club and bring to it much gardening expertise, brawn and spirit. Because some years we were unsuccessful in finding eager and qualified recipients, we shifted our scholarship funding efforts from local

high school students to Mira Costa Community College horticulture students. More than a decade ago, workshops were initiated during the morning prior to our general meeting. These workshops today include “how to” programs and visits to local nurseries and members’ gardens. New in 2007 is the “Ask a Master Gardener” feature of our monthly meetings in which our club’s master gardeners are available for consultation a half hour before our meetings begin. Some activities were short-lived: a fall garden tour; a gardener friend program for members; a member recognition program.

Our standard flower show, now in its 74th year, continues to draw upwards of 200 entries as well as visitors from throughout our region. New awards were added: the Richard Neiber Award; the Rosalind Sarver Traveling Trophy for best cut specimen of a flowering shrub or tree; President’s Award of a silver bowl for best entry in design; and the Sonja Longley Award.

The perennial blooms in our joy for gardening remain outstanding in the consistent yet varied work we do in public gardens and other places, parks and schools. Each week, a member places fresh flowers at the front desk of the Vista Library. At Christmas and other times, members make dish gardens or other flower items and distribute them in convalescent homes. VGC has created gardens at the Rancho Buena Vista Adobe; the Rancho Guajome Adobe Historic Site; Sierra Vista High School; Rancho Buena Vista High School; the Vista Library; Association for Retarded Citizens rose garden; Cleo Morgan Park rededication; the Gloria E. McClellan Senior Center; Brengle Terrace Park. A project begun in 1975 and finished in 1983 was the Sensorial Trail for the Blind at San Diego’s Wild Animal Park. Members also serve on the City of Vista’s Beautification Committee.

Our efforts have been rewarded with numerous certificates, awards, and simple ‘thank you’ comments from various organizations and individuals. The pleasure for us, however, is best gleaned, our members agree, in the joys of planting. Members work at the Memorial Grove regularly on weekends planting trees and a San Diego native plant garden.

The school grant program began when a member successfully applied for a grant offered by the Village Garden Club of La Jolla, took that initiative a step further to successfully receive funding in school garden grants from the California Department of Education through its “Flourishing and Nourishing” program. The \$50 grants provide teacher training

and money for supplies, seeds, plants and such. Students learn to grow their own food and make healthy food choices.

For the past 10 years, the number of members in the Vista Garden Club has averaged 120 members.

Kathie Hoxsie, Historian
Barbara Weiler, President
Vista Garden Club



CHICO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Butte County
1921 - 2007
President: Avis Barrett

“On Monday evening, May 9, 1921 twenty-five citizens interested in the cultivation of flowers gathered at the Chico High School for the purpose of organizing a society.” The name of the group was to be Chico Horticultural Society, and the purpose was to promote the art of gardening and whatever might interest the members, and to study the native flora. The first meeting was held September 13, 1921. Dr. David Griffith of the U.S. Department of Agriculture spoke on “The Bermuda Easter Lily” giving interesting information on its history, propagation and growth. Membership grew, and in 1931, the Society became a charter member of California Garden Clubs. In 1962, the club incorporated.

Through the years, the Society has been active in the beautification of the Chico area, planting at many venues: two trees for George Washington’s 200th birthday; camellias in City Plaza; landscaping the Chico Flying Field in 1942 and the City Fire Station; flowering plum trees at the Polk Bridge; junipers and roses at the Fairgrounds; roses in the Chico State rose garden; magnolia, dogwoods and native plants at Pleasant Valley and CARD recreation centers; sycamore, valley oaks and redbuds at Bidwell Park; landscaping at Chico Museum, Municipal Building, City Library and Butte County Library; roses in the rose garden and renovation of Annie’s Garden at Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park; and trees at many local schools.

Donations to conservation have included Save the Redwoods, Theodore Payne Foundation, Stagecoach Hill Azalea

Preserve; Stamps for Bald Eagles, Chico Hooker Oak, Mendocino Botanical Gardens, National Wildflower Center, National Butterfly Garden, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and the U.S. Forest Service Penny Pines plantations. In 1966, Betty Crocker coupons were collected to raise money for the restoration of the Honey Run Covered Bridge (18,328 coupons made a grand total of \$91.64!).

Mrs. Wight, wife of the first president, demonstrated flower arranging in 1922. In 1934, Miss Rassmussen, member and high school art teacher, presented flower arrangements at a meeting. In 1941, flower arrangements were placed weekly in the offices of the Chico Water Company that continued for 37 years until 1979. For many years flowers were placed at the Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park. Programs and workshops provided inspiration.

Exhibits of flowers and plants have been an important part of our history since the very beginning. The first exhibit displaying chrysanthemums took place in November 1921 at the Miller Automobile Showroom, which was "transformed into a veritable fairyland of flowers" according to the *Chico Enterprise*. Shows were held at local businesses for roses, daffodils, camellias, iris and local wildflowers. In 1932, the first judged show was held; in 1983 the first Standard Flower Show took place. For over 85 years, Flower Shows have been held free for the enjoyment and education of the public.

Girl Scouts, 4-H Club and school gardens have been a part of our youth program as well as Junior Garden Clubs, and the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest.

With all of the other programs, horticulture has been a vital ingredient in all phases of the Chico Horticultural Society, and will continue to play an important part through meetings and a Study Group just being formed, as well in all the other facets of gardening. Flower arranging continues in workshops and programs open to members and the public; beautification and planting of seasonal flowers in spring and fall at the Chico Museum; Penny Pines and Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl will continue to play an important role in years to come. We are now offering monetary grants to local schools for the purpose of planting school gardens. We hope that the Chico Horticultural Society and California Garden Clubs, Inc. will enrich our city and state for many more anniversaries to come.

Emilie White
Chico Horticultural Society

REDLANDS HORTICULTURAL & IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

San Bernardino County
1889 – 2007
President: Walter Mook

From its beginning, Redlands has been known as a "Garden Spot." Redlands co-founders, Edward G. Judson and Frank E. Brown, started their "Redlands Colony" in 1881 to develop the new area they named "Redlands." A few years later, Brown built the Bear Valley dam and reservoir to provide what every garden needs - water. In 1887, the railroad rolled into town and, in 1888, the City of Redlands was incorporated. In 1889, Redlands Horticultural & Improvement Society was founded, and "The Patron Saints" of Redlands - the Smiley Brothers - arrived and set the tone for Redlands with the building of "Smiley Heights," their renowned 200-acre botanical garden - the Disneyland of its day. When their garden was completed in 1896, people from everywhere - including three United States Presidents - came to enjoy and experience this horticultural wonder. Today, Redlands continues to enjoy the fruits of the Smiley Brothers horticultural labors, and the Redlands Horticultural and Improvement Society is still hard at work enhancing the beauty and attractiveness of the greater Redlands area.

The Society continues to encourage the love and practice of horticulture among both adults and children with its many community projects including its annual flower shows. Since its founding, Redlands Horticultural and Improvement Society - the oldest garden club in California and one of the largest garden clubs in the West - has held more than 118 Flower Shows in Redlands. The Society began presenting annual spring flower shows in 1913 and, in November 2007, for the first time since 1941, the Society once again held a fall flower show.

The annual standard flower show not only awards National Garden Club Top National Awards, it also has brought back to life the "FACTS CUP" - a wonderful piece of Redlands history that has returned after more than 80 years. Once more it graces the RHIS Flower Show as the Sweepstakes Award. 'THE FACTS CUP' is now a perpetual award that is displayed each year and provides a historic record of each year's winner - like the original historic 'THE FACTS CUP.' The new sweepstakes

winner receives a miniature of the revitalized historic award to take home. In the early years, Silver Awards were presented. Some of the Society's collection of the remaining historic silver awards was recently featured at the flower show for the first time since the 1950s. Redlands' historian, Larry Burgess, says "One of Redlands' most precious assets, the Redlands Bowl Prosellis, was a gift to the people of Redlands from Mr. and Mrs. Clarence G. White."

RHIS SPECIAL PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Founded in 1889, Redlands Horticultural and Improvement Society has continued to work to increase and enhance the horticultural beauty and attractiveness of the area. The Society, a nonprofit corporation, pursues a number of special projects that reflect the pride and interest of the Society. Endeavors, in addition to the flower show, include:

- EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS
- SOCIETY GENERAL MEETINGS - each month. September to June.
- RHIS FLORAL DESIGN GROUP MEETINGS. This group presents design programs and participates (by invitation) in floral displays at community events, senior facilities, churches and hospitals.
- RHIS PLANT PROPAGATION PROGRAMS - year round on Wednesday mornings at the RHIS Plant Yard in Prospect Park. Develops special plants for the Society Plant Sales.
- EDUCATIONAL TREE WALKS are held periodically throughout the greater Redlands Area.
- FRONT YARD OF THE MONTH - RHIS has revived the Smiley Brothers 1896 Program of recognizing outstanding front yard landscapes in the Redlands area. From May through October, the selected front yard is recognized by the RHIS FRONT YARD OF THE MONTH sign at Society Meetings and in local publications.
- TREE OF THE MONTH - Award-Winning Program introducing the community to some of the more than 65,000 trees that call Redlands home.
- THE DEAN FUND - More than 20 schools - both public and private - in the Redlands area have participated in this program and almost \$30,000 in GRANTS have been

awarded for garden-based, hands-on projects, and many school gardens have been part of the annual RHIS Garden Tour for the past three years.

- BEAUTIFYING REDLANDS - Planting of parkway trees throughout Redland, including the selection of types of trees and making arrangements for plantings.
- FIELD TRIPS - Group sojourns to explore a wide variety of horticultural and gardening locations.
- COMMUNITY GARDENS AND PUBLIC FACILITIES
A few include: Prospect Park; Corrine Bromberger Botanical Garden; Jenny Davis Park – Heritage Rose Garden; Caroline Park; San Bernardino County Museum; A. K. Smiley Library; and Lincoln Shrine. Other endeavors include the fountain at Safety Wall (1963), the walls at the entrance to Prospect Park and the establishment of the City Street Tree Committee.

Redlands Horticultural and Improvement Society takes pride in being an active member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. (Pacific Region) and a Charter Member of the California Garden Clubs, Inc. (Palms to Pines District).

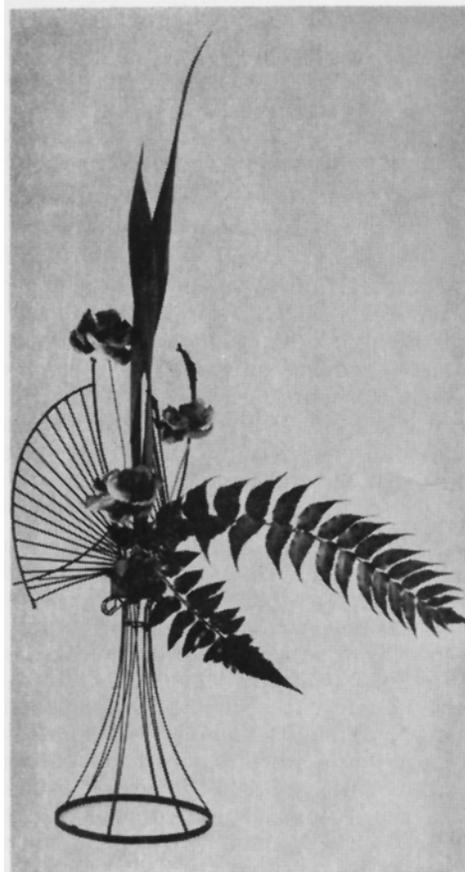
Joyce Dean
RHIS Publicity Chairman

DIVISION III – PUBLICATIONS

Publications

Golden Gardens

Editors of *Golden Gardens*



***Designed by Mrs. Robert L. Tucky
for Golden Gardens issue of July-
August, 1976 featuring ferns.***

PUBLICATIONS

California Garden Clubs' foremost publication for the past fifty years has been *Golden Gardens* magazine, operating today on an annual budget of \$22,340. When compared with the \$16,719 allocated the same year for the total of the other activities and expenses of the state organization, the proportionate position of its bimonthly magazine becomes even more evident.

Another regular state garden club publication is the annual *Yearbook, Manual and Roster*, which has been printed for general distribution to state board members and garden club presidents since 1957. The first yearbook was assembled by Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson in 1932 at a total cost of \$87.25. No further yearbooks as such were issued, however, and the distribution of the list of member clubs which was prepared every year was limited to the Board of Directors.

As the affairs of the state garden club organization became more intricate and as new chairmanships and programs were accepted, it also became apparent that supplemental material was required. Traditionally, it has been the obligation of the state presidents to provide this information to the State Board members. In 1953, incoming president Mrs. Weston Walker went one step further. She accumulated all the material available and, supplementing it with her own research and observations, produced the first true handbook for the Board of Directors. This handbook was to serve as the prototype for the state yearbook later authorized.

As a result of the handbook for board members, a special chairman was appointed in the 1956-1957 term to compile a state yearbook, which was to include the national and state officers, procedures, duties of officers and chairmen, roster, bylaws, speakers and library lists and suggestions for club procedure. Later, complete descriptions of all national and state awards were added, with award rules and general awards instructions. At the first quarterly Board meeting in 1957, Mrs. R. O. Young, yearbook chairman, was able to report that 750 copies of the new yearbook had been printed and distributed, as well as a supplement with corrections, at a cost of \$618.00, not including mailing expense. Yearbook orders have been increased to 800 for the last several years, with the publisher's cost standing at \$5,500 for the current issue of 1981-1982.

Early in the history of California Garden Clubs, Inc. there were numerous special printings of horticultural leaflets and booklets of information on a variety of subjects. These items, identified as official California Garden Club Federation publications, were offered for sale at minimal cost to the garden clubs, with prices ranging from 10 cents for leaflets on shade material, perennials and bulbs to 35 cents for the *Flower Show and Garden Judging* booklet written by Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson, Founding President.

In 1956, the *California Flower Arrangement Book*, the first of its kind for California, appeared under the endorsement of California Garden

Clubs, Inc., with all profits from book sales designated to be donated by the publishers to the state organization specifically for garden therapy projects and conservation programs. The book was jointly financed by Mrs. John O. England, Past State President, and Mrs. Stanley D. Burton of San Francisco. It contained a large number of photographs of flower arrangements by California designers, with much of the text written by Iva Gard Shepard, a well-known columnist from Sacramento and founder of the Sacramento Arrangers Guild. Funds from the sale of this flower arrangement book were used by Mrs. England to establish the Advisory Council Award for Child Therapy (Award #T-1), although the cash offered the winners is now provided by members of the Advisory Council themselves, the original monies having been depleted some time ago.

Three histories of California Garden Clubs, Inc. have been published by the organization, including this book, beginning with "The First Thirty-Three Years of California Garden Clubs, Inc.," covering the years 1931 to 1964. This history was compiled by State Historian Mrs. Otto C. Hansen, and was published by Kruckeberg Press in March, 1964. Twelve years later, in March of 1976, a booklet of sixty pages on the history of the years from 1964 to 1976 was made possible through the generosity of Standard Oil Company of California. The twelve-year history was compiled by Mrs. Henry T. Read, Past State President, who especially acknowledged the valuable assistance of Mrs. Kern H. Copeland, State Board member, and Mrs. Mary Emrick, Public Affairs, Standard Oil Company.

The first two books presented the terms of each of the state presidents in chronological sequence, detailing the major accomplishments of each administration. When a suitable fiftieth anniversary history book was contemplated and an editor assigned to compile the record of accomplishments since the founding of the state garden club federation, it was decided to organize the fifty-year history to emphasize the many projects and programs undertaken over the thirty years. A sizable gift from Chevron U.S.A. was made to California Garden Clubs, Inc. for this purpose, and thus began the compilation of historical data under subject matter headings.

The generosity of Standard Oil Company of California, later to become Chevron U.S.A., has also enabled California Garden Clubs to publish a number of other books and brochures. In the first year of Mrs. Lawrence Winship's presidency, a junior garden club manual had been written by Mrs. Weston Walker, who was then serving as junior gardening chairman. This book was to form the basis for a new "Handbook for Youth Leaders," which was published in 1971 by Standard Oil Company of California from the manuscript prepared by Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Matthew Dunlap, Chairman of Junior and Intermediate Gardening, and Mrs. Philip G. Brueckner, High School Gardeners. Four years later the Youth Leaders Handbook was reprinted with additional current material, again published by Standard Oil Company and supervised by Mrs. Mary Emrick.



Valuable information is included in the Handbook for Youth Leaders, published by California Garden Clubs, Inc.

It was during the same year that a new membership folder for California Garden Clubs was authorized, incorporating the new state projects, updating statistics, etc. An attractive triple-fold style was developed, and "California Garden Clubs, Inc. Is..." was printed in large quantities by Standard Oil Company for distribution by the garden clubs in the state. The supply began to run low after five years, and a new issue of the membership pamphlet was accepted for a subsidy by Mary Emrick, whose public affairs office had been reassigned to the new Chevron U.S.A. arm of Standard Oil Company. Working again with Mrs. Robert A. Harmon, who had submitted the final draft of the 1971 leaflet, Mary Emrick oversaw the printing at Chevron's facilities and another generous supply of membership literature was made available for statewide distribution.

For many years, the complete list of the state and national award winners was carried in the July-August issue of *Golden Gardens*, but in 1974 it was concluded that the list had become of such length as to warrant a publication of its own. Once more Standard Oil Company of California made the necessary funds available, paying the cost of printing an awards booklet to be available following the Awards Banquet at the annual convention. Underwriting the printing cost of the awards book was assumed several years later by the Atlantic Richfield Company.

Also available to California garden club members is the *Policy Book*, printed in 1980. This booklet outlines the policy position of California

Garden Clubs, Inc. on its major programs, accumulating pertinent policy statements adopted by the Board of Directors and presenting them in their relationship to chairmanships and certain specific items regularly under consideration. General headings are presented alphabetically for easy reference, and the *Policy Book* is available from the state policy chairman at 50 cents per copy.

The exceptional quality of the publications authorized or endorsed by California Garden Clubs, Inc. has been recognized by National Council of State Garden Clubs, with a number of awards going to California for its yearbooks and for special booklets and brochures, as well as for *Golden Gardens*. These publications do, in fact, comprise an exceptional library of practical material and provide encouragement to the state garden club organization to continue to put into print those subjects that are of broad interest to its members.



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Thanks to the generosity of Chevron USA, Inc., a grant of \$2500 was provided to CGCI for printing of *The Golden Years*, commemorating our fifty-year history that was published in 1982. The last history book written was *60th Anniversary*, covering the years 1981-1982 through 1991-1992. Both history books were compiled and edited by Mrs. Robert (Virginia) Harmon with an emphasis on the many projects and programs undertaken by CGCI. *The Diamond Years* continues this same emphasis by subject matter.

Additional publications include the *Handbook for Youth Leaders* printed from the Gold Book Fund and *Wings over Our Gardens* by Juanita Heinemann printed from the Green Book Conservation Fund in 1984. Ideas from which people could customize club and district officer installation ceremonies was compiled into *Installation Ideas, Volume I* printed in 1989 by editor Mary Lou Goodwin. *Installation Ideas, Volume II* followed in 1995 by editor, Jackie Jackman. In the fall of 1994, the *Handbook for Youth Leadership* was revised and updated. In 2001, the *CGCI Youth Manual* was created by Dorothy Peterson and provided to each district.

How to be a Blue Ribbon President was compiled and written by Virginia Bennetts, 1995-1997 CGCI Membership Chairman, and printed in April 1997. The title refers to the Blue Ribbon Certificate of Achievement award which CGCI presents to a club which sets itself above and beyond an ordinary garden club. It is a prestigious designation that indicates the club participates in and fulfills the objectives of CGCI and NGC. In addition, the club

demonstrates that it is a well-rounded garden club with many diverse activities and projects – all for the good of the community. The booklet was updated and revised in May 2003. A complimentary copy was typically given to any new club that joined CGCI as part of its “welcome packet” in addition to being for sale at the State Pins & Miscellaneous Sales table.

The *Policy Book*, originally printed in 1980, was updated and reprinted in 1991. Policies include the objectives of CGCI, excerpts from its bylaws and standing rules, motions adopted and accepted procedures and practices. In September 1995, the *Policy Book* was revised, and updated again in September 1999 when it was reprinted.

Color posters and brochures to promote garden club membership were made available to clubs at no charge from the Membership Chairman as a benefit of membership in CGCI. Recent examples include *Planting the Seeds for a New Century of Gardening*, *Do You Love Gardening*, *Grow with Us*, *Sharing the Pleasures of Gardening*, etc. In addition, a series of four posters with accompanying gardening pamphlets were produced in 2004 on subjects including *Beautiful but Deadly*, *Plants for Free*, *Garden Safety* and *Choose the Right Tree*.

Complimentary copies of the *Yearbook*, *Manual*, *Roster* continue to be provided to each member of the Board of Directors and to each member club, associate plant society and affiliate president. Additional copies are available for sale. While the information included in it has changed through the years, it remains one of CGCI’s most valuable resources for information.

GOLDEN GARDENS

The history of *Golden Gardens* magazine, official publication of California Garden Clubs, Inc., is a remarkable story of a major business venture undertaken by inexperienced, volunteer workers at a time of a grave, nationwide depression. Notwithstanding these obvious obstacles, California Garden Clubs Federation made the decision to publish a monthly magazine, depending largely on the promise of the proposed printer, Kruckeberg Press of Los Angeles, who had offered to secure enough paid advertising to defray the cost of printing. The decision to go to press was made in August, 1932, and the first issue of *Golden Gardens* was published in October, 1932, with Miss Charlotte M. Hoak serving as Editor-in-Chief.

The initial issue covered four pages, and the annual subscription price was set at fifty cents. Some twenty years later, a member of the publishing office at Toastmasters International was to remark: “That a

group of women for twenty years has been publishing a magazine once a month is not only amazing, it is phenomenal; because publishing a magazine is big business." It is also remarkable that from the start, *Golden Gardens* stood on its own feet. Its account, always in the black, was kept separate from that of the Federation, and a balance was always there to be turned over to the succeeding management.

It should be said that *Golden Gardens* has probably received more attention than any of the other projects or activities undertaken by the California Garden Club Federation for the past fifty years. Never an executive committee or board meeting took place, nor a convention or semi-annual meeting held, that *Golden Gardens* was not discussed. Many decisions had to be made as the magazine grew to eight, then ten, and finally to thirty-two pages, as currently regularly printed. The physical appearance of *Golden Gardens* has also changed considerably since that first issue in 1932. The original page size was eight inches by eleven, and the text of the lead article was printed on page one, without benefit of a cover. In 1936 a cover picture was added, and in 1938 the size of the pages was reduced to roughly half the original size, as it now appears. Covers have varied, sometimes in black and white, sometimes in full color, and sometimes printed on a solid color or banded with golden yellow.

Kruckeberg Press, long established as a horticultural printing specialist, continued as the sole publisher of *Golden Gardens* until the Chancy-Citizen printing company in Beverly Hills was engaged, with the March 1942 issue carrying their address as publisher. Interestingly enough, there is no notice of authorization for this change of printer in the records of California Garden Clubs, although the following year the executive board agreed to continue the arrangement. Finally, however, in September of 1948 the price of services at Chancy-Citizen was considered too high and a bid by Kruckeberg Press to resume printing *Golden Gardens* was accepted.

During this same period, *Golden Gardens* was experiencing considerable difficulty in keeping a volunteer staff to manage the business affairs and subscription department, as well as to edit the magazine. It was finally necessary to offer some minimum financial inducements to obtain an editor and business manager, for instance, and in 1945 an agreement was made that the newly retired editor and business manager, Mrs. Ruth Argabrite, was to participate in the net profits, if any, at the end of the fiscal year, not to exceed an average of \$50.00 per issue of *Golden Gardens*. There is one payment to Mrs. Argabrite of \$250.00 for services rendered *Golden Gardens* from August, 1945 to May, 1946 in the records, but any subsequent payments were not noted separately, as *Golden Gardens* expenses were customarily listed as a lump sum payment in the treasurer's report. Mrs. Argabrite was succeeded by Mrs. Edna Betts Ketchum in February, 1948, who served strictly as a volunteer.

With the changeover from Chancey-Citizen Company to Kruckeberg Press in 1949, a new subscription manager was appointed with a token reimbursement of \$25.00 per month. This appointment was relatively

short lived, and by June of the following year Mrs. DeKruif had submitted her resignation. For some months, Kruckeberg Press then assumed the responsibility for mailing out all the magazines, while the *Golden Gardens* committee sought a new subscription manager.

Inquiries within the publishing field led to the consideration of professional services, particularly for the subscription department; and a bid for complete management of *Golden Gardens* was eventually tendered to the California Garden Clubs Board of Directors. Soliciting the business was Consolidated Printing Company, who offered "to make *Golden Gardens* a magazine with color and eye appeal, to be sold on newsstands." Their proposal included an agreement to divide the *Golden Gardens* net profit (or deficit) equally, fifty percent to California Garden Clubs, Inc. and fifty percent to Consolidated Printing Company.

The *Golden Gardens* committee was favorably impressed; and after consulting with several attorneys, the executive committee agreed to the contract. The first issue published under the new arrangement appeared in April, 1951. This was also the beginning of Mrs. J. E. Harton's term of office as president of California Garden Clubs, Inc. No reports of financial returns, as specified in the contract, were forthcoming and it soon became apparent that California Garden Clubs, and *Golden Gardens* were in trouble.

Several more months passed, and finally it was reported by the publisher that *Golden Gardens* was \$20,000 in the red as the result of the tremendous advertising campaign that had been mounted, and the fact that the size of the magazine had been increased and that a great deal of money had been spent "to bring the magazine to a very high standard." It became advisable to retain legal counsel, and from August, 1951 to January of the following year there were many anxious moments. In January, 1952, however, an agreement was reached absolving California Garden Clubs, Inc. of any financial obligation, and *Golden Gardens* was returned to the state organization.

The troubles were not over yet, however, as the subscription records and other files were not turned over by the publishing company until many months later. It is to be said to the credit of California Garden Clubs that *Golden Gardens* continued to be published on schedule, in spite of the problems involved. Meanwhile, an all-out effort was made to re-establish the subscription file, and countless hours were spent writing letters and sorting filing cards and addressograph plates in order to compile an accurate mailing list. For the first time, *Golden Gardens* was forced to use funds from California Garden Clubs' general account, but by the end of the following year the federation could see the possibility that *Golden Gardens* would once more be self-supporting.

During this difficult period of adjustment, the publishing of *Golden Gardens* was returned to Kruckeberg Press, and Mr. Kruckeberg was named to the interim committee of managing the affairs of *Golden Gardens* until such time as permanent arrangements could be made. In fact, the Kruckeberg Press office became the permanent headquarters for *Golden Gardens*, upon the invitation of Mr. Kruckeberg. Mrs. Weston Walker, State President, assumed the chairmanship of the

committee, and gradually the affairs of the magazine returned to an even keel. After much study, in 1954 the state bylaws were amended to assign the management of *Golden Gardens* to a newly established *Golden Gardens* Managing Board. The editor and two other members of the *Golden Gardens* Managing Board were henceforth to be elected at the annual meeting, and *Golden Gardens* funds were to be separated from the other corporation funds and placed in a separate account "near the place of publication." This marked the beginning of a new era in *Golden Gardens* history, relieving the state president of the added responsibility of managing, and sometimes editing, the magazine.

Concurrent with the reorganization of the *Golden Gardens* staff was the decision to file a claim for the trademark, "GOLDEN GARDENS." This was accomplished with Certificate #36243, dated March 18, 1954 from Frank M. Jordan, California Secretary of State, establishing the trademark claim. In researching the trademark claim, it was also interesting to note that beginning in November, 1935 and continuing for a number of years, *Golden Gardens* was published as copyrighted material with the copyright notice appearing periodically on the masthead. Here, again, as in the case of the change of printer in the early 1940's, there is no record in the corporation minutes of any action authorizing the filing for copyright privileges, nor were such rights ever granted.

Since the tumultuous times of the early 1950's, somehow the necessary volunteer *Golden Gardens* staff has always been secured. However, the job of mailing *Golden Gardens* has been done professionally since early in 1954, when addressing the magazines became an impossible chore. *Golden Gardens* arranged for the services of Casey the Mailer, across the street from Kruckeberg Press at that time, and has continued with West Coast Mailers, now in South Gate, who bought out Casey the Mailer a number of years later.

The status of the members of the *Golden Gardens* Managing Board has been changed several times since the creation of the board. For a number of years, all members were elected, also serving as members of the State Board of Directors. However, stipulated limitations on the number of terms of office allowed to elected members of the state board made it advisable to make all *Golden Gardens* positions appointive except that of editor, beginning in 1978. The editor of *Golden Gardens* has been a member of the executive committee since 1964.

Many schemes have been devised to increase *Golden Gardens* circulation, including the early institution of special reduced rates to clubs subscribing for 75% or 100% of their membership. For a number of years it was required that all new clubs joining California Garden Clubs must be 100% subscribers, and that the subscription money must be submitted annually with the dues. A number of bookkeeping problems made this system ponderous to manage, particularly the regular remittances of subscription monies by the state treasurer to *Golden Gardens* for deposit in the *Golden Gardens* account. It was also apparent that many newly formed clubs found the dues, together with

Golden Gardens making a total of \$2.00 per capita, to be beyond their means. The 100% requirement for new clubs was eventually dropped.



“Mr. Arthur Woodbury Kruckeberg (above) has been the salvation of many an editor and much credit is due him for the high quality of publication.” – Mrs. Weston Walker, Golden Gardens, May, 1955.

At one time it was even suggested that all clubs become 200% *Golden Gardens* subscribers. In fact, at the state board meeting in Sacramento in September, 1968, it was proposed that 100% clubs, by contributing a second subscription for each member, donating the extra magazines to libraries, hospitals, etc. would thus qualify to be identified as 200% clubs. Advertising and subscriptions continued to be the principal sources of income for *Golden Gardens* with the occasional addition of private donations, and a bequest from the estate of Mrs. Walter G. Brendel, Past State President. Today, a substantial block of subscriptions is paid annually by California Garden Clubs for subscriptions for Life Members and for the presidents of all the clubs and groups in the state federation. Since 1958, *Golden Gardens* has also received additional income from Christmas greetings submitted by garden club members at a nominal fee per line. It has been a number of years, however, since *Golden Gardens* has been self-supporting, with

\$2,000 of federation funds, the sum now set aside annually for the sole use of *Golden Gardens*.

Over the years *Golden Gardens* has been recognized nationally as the recipient of a number of prestigious awards. Even before National Council of State Garden Clubs instituted its Certificate of Merit for State Publications in 1954, a nationwide garden club publication award was offered by the Flower Grower Magazine of New York, making its presentation at first at the National Council annual conventions. The following is the list of national awards received by *Golden Gardens*.

- 1953 First prize, first annual Flower Grower Magazine Awards Contest. Editor: Arthur Woodbury (Kruckeberg). Fifty books donated to California Garden Clubs' lending library.
- 1955 National Council Certificate of Merit for State Publication. Editor: Mrs. Weston Walker.
- 1956 First prize, fourth annual Flower Grower Magazine Awards Contest. Editor: Mrs. Waldo E. Handy. Two books.
- 1958 First prize for Presentation, second prize for Content, sixth annual Flower Grower Magazine Awards Contest. Editor: Mrs. Waldo E. Handy. Two books.
- 1959 National Council Certificate of Merit for State Publication. Editor: Mrs. C. C. Henry.
- 1963 National Council Certificate of Merit for State Publication. Editor: Mrs. Roderick R. Black.
- 1972 National Council Certificate of Merit for State Publication. Editor: Mrs. E. A. Schoenbaum.
- 1975 National Council Certificate of Merit for State Publication. Editor: Mrs. Robert A. Harmon.
- 1977 National Council Certificate of Merit for State Publication. Editor: Mrs. Robert A. Harmon.

October, 1982 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first publication of *Golden Gardens*. Many illustrious writers have contributed articles, including some of the best known botanists and horticulturists in the nation. The total number of hours spent during these fifty years in preparation of the magazine and the amount of time required for clerical work to maintain subscription files, etc. could never be counted. Add to these contributions the countless donations of services rendered by Kruckeberg Press and other benefactors, and it begins to become clear why *Golden Gardens* has succeeded in the ultimate purpose – to provide an all-California magazine for amateur gardeners throughout the state, meanwhile keeping them informed of the objectives and advantages of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Congratulations, *Golden Gardens*!

EDITORS OF *GOLDEN GARDENS*

1932-1935	Miss Charlotte M. Hoak
1935-1940	Mrs. Lloyd Smith
1940-1944	Mrs. William Hillman
1944-1945	Mrs. Emmett Aikens
1945-1948	Mrs. Ruth Argabrite (Mrs. Howard Gilkey)
1948-1951	Mrs. Edna Betts Ketchum
1951-1952	Mrs. Arch McCallister
1952-1954	Arthur Woodbury (Kruckeberg)
1954-1955	Mrs. Weston Walker
1955-1958	Mrs. Waldo E. Handy
1958-1959	Mrs. Florence Henry
1959-1963	Mrs. Roderick R. Black
1963-1965	Mrs. Paul T. Silvius
1965-1969	Mrs. Roderick R. Black
1969-1973	Mrs. E. A. Schoenbaum
1973-1977	Mrs. Robert A. Harmon
1977-1981	Mrs. Kenneth Boldt
1981 -	Mrs. Donald R. George



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

1981-1985	Mazie Jeanne George
1985-1989	Ruth Koryta
1989-1993	Meg Holmberg
1993-1995	Ronnie Duffield
1995-1999	Robin Pokorski
1999-2001	Coleen Kela
2001	Mollie Apple
2001-2003	Maryanne Lucas
2003-2005	Nancy Lee Loesch
2005-2009	Diane Charbonneau



Continuing History of *Golden Gardens*

1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Over the years *Golden Gardens* has gone through many changes, both internally and externally. One has only to look at the covers of the magazine to see the many changes that have taken place. Various factors entered into the changes; sometimes editorial decisions were the determining factor and sometimes it was just plain money matters.

Throughout the 1980s the magazine was published bi-monthly. In the early 1980s, the subscription cost for 100% clubs was \$2. Individual subscriptions were \$2.50. In 1985 the subscription costs went up to \$3 for 100% clubs and \$3.50 for individual subscriptions. The title of the staff running the magazine changed from *Golden Gardens* Managing Board to *Golden Gardens* Staff. The position of *Golden Gardens* Secretary was discontinued. In 1982, ten districts were congratulated for having thirteen 100% clubs!

In 1983 at the Winter Board meeting it was decided that *Golden Gardens* could accept contributions donated for the purpose of establishing a special fund, the interest from which to be used for expenses of printing *Golden Gardens*, the special fund to be known as the *Golden Gardens* Patrons Fund. Donations to the Patrons Fund were managed as were all investment funds using only the interest and acting upon recommendations from the Board of Trustees.

The Copeland Fund was established in 1988 as the *Golden Gardens* Life Membership Subscription Fund; the interest earned was to be used to pay for subscriptions for new life members. A \$500 donation from Dorothy Copeland was earmarked for this purpose and became known as the Copeland Fund. Contributions were sent to the Chairman of the Green and Gold Honor books.

During the 1990s the subscription rate held steady, and it continued to be published six times a year. Some new features were added late in the decade. At the 1998 CGCI Winter Board Meeting in San Diego, Frances Frenzel moved to establish a *Golden Gardens* Angel Fund. The motion passed. A fee of \$25 was charged to honor or memorialize friends or family. It became a popular feature in the magazine. Many other features were added, such as the listings for Penny Pines, the Honor Books, Copeland Honor Book, Green Conservation Honor Book and the Gold Honor Book. Covers became colorful with pinks, greens and gold forming borders on various issues.

At Winter Board 1999, a generous gift of \$4,000 was accepted from Dorothy Copeland. It was used for complimentary copies of *Golden Gardens* to members in clubs which do not subscribe 100%. Letters were sent to these club presidents requesting names and address of members to receive their complimentary issues. To comply with Dorothy's wishes, any funds remaining after the mailing of two complimentary issues were considered a gift to the *Golden Gardens* account.

The year 2000 brought more changes as we entered a new decade. The rate for *Golden Gardens* still continued despite rising costs for publication. Some new ideas were proposed, among them printing the entire magazine in green with accents in orange (our green and gold state!). We continued to send complimentary copies of the magazine to District Directors, Associated Plant Society Presidents, Affiliate Presidents, 284 Club Presidents, Pacific Region State Presidents and 331 Life Members.

Some of the popular yearly features such as our Season's Greetings kept increasing in popularity. Everyone from the President to the Board of CGCI joined in and paid for ads in the November/December issues. The reporting of Blue Star Memorial markers was included in each issue.

In 2003, the format was dramatically changed from the standard 5.5" x 8" 32-page, two color portrait style to a full color, glossy paper stock 8.5" x 11" portrait style presentation for a two-year trial. The eight-page layout was folded in half and tabbed closed for mailing. To offset the expense of the full color publication, the number of issues was reduced from six to four quarterly issues in 2004.

When the current Editor took over in 2005, it was decided to print five issues of *Golden Gardens* instead of four. The new Editor, with the help of the Assistant Editor, produced the magazine on home computers and then handed it to a liaison with a printer who printed the magazine and sent it to a mailer in Palm Desert.

In 2006 the subscription rate was increased to \$5 a year for 100% clubs and \$6 a year for individual subscriptions. The increase affected the circulation of the magazine because some of the small clubs did not want to pay the increased cost. But the magazine continued to be a communication link to over 4,700 subscribers.

In 2006 *Golden Gardens* was awarded 3rd place in Pacific Region for Large Membership State Newsletter – Black & White. In 2007 *Golden Gardens* won first place in the same category in the Pacific Region.

Diane Charbonneau
Golden Gardens Editor, 2005-2009
and
Robin Pokorski
Golden Gardens Editor, 1995-1999,
CGCI President, 2007-2009

DIVISION IV – AWARDS

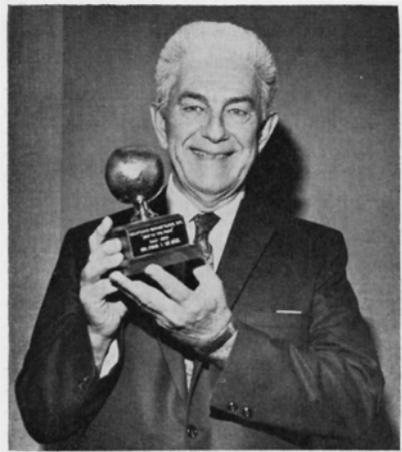
Awards

California Garden Club, Inc. Special Awards

Man of the Year and Woman of the Year



Mrs. Anton Dolenz with "Woman of the Year" trophy awarded her in 1975.



Mr. Paul Silvius with "Man of the Year" trophy awarded him in 1969.



CGCI Lifetime Achievement Award (New)

AWARDS

Early in the history of California Garden Clubs, Inc., in 1937 when the organization was not six years old, the concept of an annual award for superior club achievement was adopted. Several months later an awards chairman was appointed and the requirements for an achievement award were outlined. However, it was another five years before the State Garden Club Perpetual Trophy contest was actually launched, with Visalia Garden Club and Piedmont Garden Club the first winning names to go on the silver trophy in 1943. The trophy was retired in 1950 and replaced by two cups, plus ribbons, for clubs in the two membership classes established. The trophies and ribbons were awarded for the last time at the convention in 1957, and the following year winners of the Award of Achievement for Senior Clubs were recognized with rosettes in each membership class. The club achievement award, modified over the years to suit the times, remains today one of the traditional prizes in the California system of awards.

Meanwhile, another contest was taking shape, beginning with a motion by the Board of Directors in October, 1939 to authorize a committee to explore the ideas of prizes for the best club yearbook, to be displayed at the annual meeting the following May. Notice was duly published in *Golden Gardens*, and thus began the club yearbook awards program, which today brings over 100 entries for judging, still using basically the same criteria as were established in 1940 – attractiveness, neatness and quality of program planned.

The yearbook contest proved so popular that it was supplemented after the first year with the addition of awards for the best project of roadside development and beautification and for the most outstanding exhibit at convention. There is no longer a contest for convention exhibits, and the responsibility for the roadside development award has been assumed by the California Roadside Council, but the club yearbook and program award continues under the sponsorship of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

The first privately sponsored California Garden Clubs award was offered for the 1951-1952 awards year and was donated by Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson, who was just concluding her term as president of National Council. The Elvenia J. Slosson Award was also the first horticulture award being given to promote the use of bulbs or bulbous-type plants in flower shows. Judging was the responsibility of The Bulb Society, with headquarters in Arcadia, and prizes were awarded on a club membership percentage basis. Another bulb award was announced in 1956, thereby establishing the Founder's Gold Certificate Award for California Bulb Culture. Promotion of the use of a particular horticulture species is still encouraged today by three such awards offered for the display of certain specific plant material. Other current horticulture awards are more general in nature.

By the summer of 1952 there were twelve junior garden clubs affiliated with California Garden Clubs, Inc., and the first statewide junior

garden club award was established. This \$25.00 cash award, donated by the California Association of Nurserymen, was offered for the best civic beautification project accomplished by a junior garden club. Entries in the first contest were judged by the president of the California Association of Nurserymen and Mrs. William D. Shearer, Past State President, with the Santa Ana Junior Gardeners declared the winner. The following year merchandise prizes were added in various amounts totaling another \$75.00. The award has been available every year since its initiation, and now carries a cash prize of \$40.00, plus merchandise orders totaling an additional \$60.00. The popular Smokey Bear Coloring Contest was first offered in 1960, from which has developed the present day Smokey Bear-Woodsy Owl Poster Contest, with close to 400 entries judged in 1982. A number of other junior awards have been added during the last thirty years, and sponsors have included interested garden club members, with several large cash awards also donated by Standard Oil Company of California, now Chevron U.S.A.

Club and district scrapbooks were first recommended in 1942, with President Scatena suggesting that "dignified publicity and scrapbooks be planned," and prizes were subsequently awarded for this new contest, which was held in addition to the club achievement award. In 1953 a special membership drive contest was proposed, with \$50.00 from the general funds of California Garden Clubs, Inc. to go to the district showing the greatest increase in the number of affiliated clubs. Again in 1954-1955, a membership drive was promoted through another district membership contest, this time with a trophy prize, the winner to be announced at the annual convention. Although there is no record of the winner of the first membership contest, the trophy for the second contest was awarded to District 2-A, now known as Greater Los Angeles District.

The Ethel Gallagher Conservation Award was announced for the 1955-1956 award year, under the sponsorship of District 4-B (Bay Ocean District), marking the first award in the field of conservation. That same award is continued today, still under the sponsorship of the Bay Ocean District, and is the first of a list of eleven conservation awards now available. Efforts in garden therapy programs received their first award recognition in 1957 with the Florence Henry Therapy Cash Award, and Certificates of Achievement were made available to the districts, to be used to recognize merit at the district level.

In 1958, under its conservation program, Richfield Oil Company initiated an award of a native tree to the club making the most improvement in its area during the year. This award, with various prizes, has continued to be offered for civic beautification achievement. For the past eighteen years, the Arco (Atlantic Richfield Company) Conservation of Civic Beauty Award has been a gift of \$50.00 to one club in each district, at first listed as "\$50.00 Shrubs" and later simply earmarked "for civic beautification."

After some twenty years of depending on notices in *Golden Gardens* and on correspondence by the chairmen responsible for judging award entries, for the first time a *State Awards Handbook* was mailed out to all

club presidents and state board members, to be used for the 1957-1958 award year. General rules for the awards were clarified and a description of all the awards offered was included, listing seventeen senior club awards and four for junior gardeners. A separate *Awards Handbook* was also prepared in 1958-1959, but all awards material was included in the state yearbook the following year and has been so presented ever since. It was also in 1959 that a complete list of all national and state award winners was first published in *Golden Gardens*. This practice was continued annually until 1974, when the list of winners was included in an awards book distributed at the annual convention.

Sears, Roebuck and Company entered the awards picture in 1963 with an \$8,500 grant to California for a statewide Civic Improvement Contest, the money to be divided equally among the districts applying. Five years later the grant was reduced to \$2,600.00, again to be divided equally among the districts. The format was changed in 1970 and the Sears, Roebuck and Company sponsorship was in conjunction with the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. under the title of Environmental Improvement Program, with awards on the district, state and national levels. Sears participation was finally discontinued in 1981.

Beginning with the first yearbook contest in 1940, California Garden Clubs, Inc. now offers a total of sixty-four awards to adult clubs and districts, plus twenty-one awards to junior, intermediate and high school gardeners. Interest in the award program continues unabated, and award presentations at various functions during the state convention are eagerly awaited as one of the highlights of the annual meeting.



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Until 1998 there were no changes of note to either the administration of the Awards Program or to the distribution of awards. However at this time the first effects of the computer age were being felt in CGCI. The then Awards Chairman, Virginia Bennetts, had all evaluation and application forms scanned into the computer enabling copies to be printed immediately upon request and instant updating. In 2000 CGCI's website was born and just two years later all awards forms were available on the website for members to download.

In 2002 the CGCI Strategic Planning Committee surveyed various aspects of the organization including Awards, the results pertaining to which were not encouraging; over a three-year period it was determined that less than one-third of CGCI's clubs participated in the Awards Program and many of those entered

only the yearbook and newsletter competitions. In the hopes of generating more interest, the Awards Committee proposed a number of changes: clarification of the rules; simplification of the requirements for many awards; discontinuation of awards with habitually few entries; new awards to offer only cash prizes; sponsors to be sought to fund the older awards; an *Awards Manual* - containing a detailed listing of all available awards, CGCI, NGC, Pacific Region and the rules pertaining to each program – to be printed annually and distributed at the Convention; and discontinuation of the *Award Winners* booklet.

The matter of award presentations was also addressed at this time, now they would all be made at the Convention Awards Banquet, in numerical order with only the first place winner recognized. This was the genesis of what has now become the Convention's favorite event, with *PowerPoint* technology providing visual interest and entertainment.

Since 1958 *Man of the Year* and 1962 *Woman of the Year* have been CGCI's two most prestigious awards. In 2006 a third was added – the *CGCI Lifetime Achievement Award*. With the new introduction the specifics for *Man of the Year* and *Woman of the Year* were changed, both are now awarded for exceptional achievement during a twelve-month period while the new award honors the achievements of many years. Another, and seemingly very suitable, award was introduced in 2007, *Gardener of the Year*.

During the next few years the Awards Committee will be challenged to find an alternative to the Books of Evidence, which have been used as an award entry vehicle since 1942; to initiate interesting new awards which will appeal to the increasingly techno-savvy membership; and to “prune” the Awards Program into a more manageable and streamlined entity. With the continuing support and generosity of the Award Sponsors, the lifeblood of the program, Awards is moving into the fourth quarter of CGCI's first century with confidence.

Elisabeth Tufo
CGCI Awards Chairman, 2001-2004
CGCI President, 2005-2007

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC. SPECIAL AWARDS

MAN OF THE YEAR

Dr. William S. Stewart	1958
Jack Daniels	1959
J. J. Littlefield	1960
William Penn Mott, Jr.	1961
Dr. Charles Mathias Goethe	1962
Theodore Payne (posthumously)	1963
Dr. Henry M. Weber	1964
Charles P. Scott	1965
Arthur W. Kruckeberg	1966
Norvell Gillespie	1967
Col. Frank M. Gillette	1968
Paul T. Silvius	1969
Harry M. Butterfield (posthumously)	1970
Glenn Hiatt	1971
Kim Roberts	1972
J. Howard Asper	1973
Robert C. Simmons	1974
Dr. Samuel Ayers, Jr.	1975
W. Robert Powell	1976
Warner L. Marsh	1977
Wayne Roderick	1978
Harland Hand	1979
Claude A. Look	1980
Thomas A. Brown	1981



Dr. Thomas M. Whitaker	1982
Donald Bielefield	1983
Andrew G. Lipkis	1984
Edward Stuhl (posthumously)	1985
Dr. Kenneth Stocking	1986
Robert L. Gordon	1987
Ralph Moore	1988
Carl Stephens	1989
Charles W. Purcell	1990
R. Nelson Nicholson	1991
William T. Bode	1992
Al Seubert	1993
	1994
Steve McNeil	1995
V. P. Holmberg	1996
Lee Duffield (posthumously)	1997
Robert H. Schuler	1998

Glenn R. Haugh	1999
Perry Aminian	2000
Sid Scotten	2001
LTC W. E. Angevine, USA (Ret.)	2002
	2003
Gregory Pokorski	2004
George Perko	2005
Ed Dempsey	2006
Bart O'Brien	2007

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Roderick R. Black	1962
Mrs. Herbert Stevens	1963
Mrs. J. J. Gallagher	1964
Mrs. Weston Walker	1965
Mrs. V. T. Gilchrist	1966
Mrs. Milton R. Bell	1967
Mrs. Harry F. Hunter	1968
Mrs. Henry Dolezal	1969
Mrs. Lawrence Winship & Mrs. Henry T. Read, jointly	1970
Mrs. J. Edney Harton	1971
Mrs. Paul Barton	1972
Mrs. Philip G. Brueckner	1973
Mrs. Dale Bauer	1974
Mrs. Anton Dolenz	1975
Mrs. Maria Wilkes	1976
Mrs. John N. Fehrer	1977
Mrs. Cyril Anderson	1978
Mrs. William Laskey	1979
Mrs. Kenneth Boldt	1980
Mrs. Christine Kemp	1981



Mrs. Wallace F. Hirsch	1982
Mrs. E. A. Schoenbaum	1983
Mrs. William J. Harris	1984
Mrs. Robert A. Harmon	1985
Mrs. Donald R. George	1986
Mrs. Georg W. Daiber	1987
Mrs. Robert E. Busher	1988
Mrs. Wil Tebo	1989
Mrs. Jack S. Gates	1990
Mrs. R. Nelson Nicholson	1991
Mrs. Kern H. Copeland	1992
Mrs. Richard Carlson	1993
Mrs. Roy F. Hedtke	1994
Mrs. Allan Nielsen	1995
Mrs. V. P. Holmberg	1996

Mrs. Gerard B. Heilman & Mrs. Edmond Pate, jointly	1997
Hoberley Schuler	1998
Jo Ann Gould	1999
Mrs. Samuel A. Hughes Clark	2000
Elizabeth F. Jandt	2001
Frances Frenzel	2002
Peggy Northon	2003
Beverly Brune	2004
Harriet Behrens & Angela Michaels, jointly	2005
Ruth Angevine	2006
Joelle Holford	2007



CGCI LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Adrienne Green	2006
Marjorie Johnson	2007

DIVISION V – HORTICULTURE

Roadside Development and Beautification

Plant Collecting

Charlotte M. Hoak, California Native Flora Chairman Emeritus

Theodore Payne, Propagator of California Native Flora

Mrs. Allen Hilton, Horticulture Chairman Emeritus



***Maria L. P. Wilkes, Woman of the Year, 1976;
Consulting Horticulturist, charter member of
California Garden Clubs, Inc.***



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Ralph Moore, Plant Breeder-Hybridizer &
CGCI Man of the Year 1988

ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION

Roadside beautification has always been one of the principal objectives of garden clubs across the nation, and a chairman of Billboards and Roadsides was one of the first appointments of the new California Garden Club Federation upon its founding in 1931. Primarily, the main concern was to protect and improve the visual quality of the environs, particularly along the network of roadways crisscrossing the state. Actually, roadside beautification is a self-explanatory concept, and any legislative measure or any activity that lessens visual pollution and increases the beauty of the landscape can be considered an example of successful roadside development.

This awareness of the need to protect and enhance roadside appearances has led to a like interest in the aesthetics of urban development, and a great number of related programs have evolved from the broad purpose of roadside beautification and billboard control. In fact, it is extremely difficult to tell where roadside development ends and civic development, for instance, begins. The ramifications seem endless.

Roadside beautification involves participation in the legislative process to establish adequate restraints in the use of signs and billboards for outdoor advertising. It can be instrumental in providing guidelines for the construction of wayside small business structures, and it can insist upon adequate storage facilities for the mountains of wastepaper and empty cans and bottles that accumulate at a sidewalk or beach front food vendor's shop. Roadside beautification is a combination of litter control, protection of historic and scenic spots, and street and roadside tree planting. It is concerned with pollution control and wildflower preservation and roadside rests. It encourages intelligent highway development that takes advantage of breath-taking views and makes use of native plant material to landscape access areas and plant cut slopes to minimize the possibility of heavy erosion. In fact, one could go on to speak at considerable length in generalities, about the objectives of roadside beautification, piling definition upon definition, but the most effective description is probably to be found in the accomplishments of some of California's garden club members themselves who went out and did something.

Consider Kate Sessions, for example, one of the most beloved horticulturists of our era. Always dedicated to horticulture, Miss Sessions traveled the world, collecting and studying plants; and San Diego's Balboa Park has been greatly enriched by her contributions. It is said that Theodore Roosevelt also added to her plant stock by giving her four unusual seeds he had brought back from the Orient. These seeds, carefully propagated, have provided the well known and well loved *Podocarpus elongates*, now grown so extensively. Miss Sessions planned and planted landscape areas that have become world famous;

and her nursery, which began as a small cottage garden in Coronado, became the leading nursery in the San Diego area.

Kate Sessions was also very kind and friendly on those occasions when a high school girl, who at that time had not the faintest notion who this hard working woman was, persuaded the streetcar motorman to make unscheduled stops in an arid and barren area of Balboa Park. The girl would scramble along the tracks to a desolate plot where Kate, large straw hat firmly tied down, was setting out a batch of strange, lumpy plants.

Those plants, more grey and red than green, were succulents Miss Sessions had brought back from Africa and Australia. The strange ways these unusual plants reproduced themselves was patiently explained. The nearly sixty years since then have dimmed the mental picture of this inveterate gardener, but one thing remains clear. Kate Sessions was willing to share her knowledge with the inquisitive young. She was an outstanding garden club member whose creative activities spanned many years.

Any list of people who have become legends in their own time must include Mrs. Thomas R. Knudsen, a charter member of Chevy Chase Estates Garden Club in Glendale. Valley Knudsen challenged the entire outdoor advertising industry and held it at bay as the Los Angeles freeway system was developed. She had, of course, organizations besides garden clubs, as well as other individuals with foresight and influence on her side, but she was the leader of the battle.

Valley Knudsen was also dedicated to beautifying the streets of downtown Los Angeles, eventually founding Los Angeles Beautiful as the agency to oversee and commend the continuing program of streetside beautification. She recognized the problems of birds nesting above the sidewalks, of smog and of leaf drop, so she consulted extensively with the university department heads of such related disciplines as botany and forestry. "Find me a tree," she said, "that won't split the sidewalk with its roots, birds won't nest in it, its falling leaves will not be a problem, and it can survive the smog."

The researchers began to quote figures for the price of such an urban tree planting program, but Mrs. Knudsen was not interested in the cost. Her concern was to find a tree that would meet the qualifications for successful street use, and the researchers found it for her. Then Valley Knudsen followed her own often repeated advice. She went directly to the top man in one of the largest business organizations in the city and offered him the opportunity "to be the first." That she was successful is evidenced by the hundreds of trees that grace the inner streets of Los Angeles today.

Since the size of one's adversary may well be a measure of one's effectiveness as well as one's determination, Miss Pearl Chase, an early state chairman of the state roadside beautification committee, comes to mind. She was a longtime resident of Santa Barbara, where she actively supported adequate controls on outdoor advertising, intrusive and objectionable business signs, and other forms of visual pollution.

Then, plans for a freeway to be built through the city of Santa Barbara were made public. These plans included a complex of ramps leading to the mountains, to the beaches, to the existing business district, and to some additional business sectors still only on the drawing boards. The hub of this gigantic traffic interchange was to be approximately where a magnificent, ancient ficus tree grew. The so-called "outfall areas" where traffic using the ramps to leave the freeway would be directed were also considered by many to be worthy of preservation.

It is entirely possible that the highway department personnel at that time had never heard of the Santa Barbara Community Arts Association, Plans and Planting Committee and its chairman, Miss Pearl Chase. They might also not yet have heard of California Garden Clubs, Inc. either, but Miss Chase soon called both these organizations to their attention. Pearl Chase, like Valley Knudsen, knew how to reach the people in charge, and she also knew how to marshal the strength of many small voices. The success of her efforts is there for all to see today. The ficus tree continues to thrive and is a landmark for travelers and the citizens of Santa Barbara alike. Some of the impacted business districts projected when the freeway was under consideration have failed to materialize, and some of the scenic areas doomed to destruction to accommodate off ramp traffic have not been disturbed. Pearl Chase has left us a legacy - the realization that aesthetic values **can** be protected from what seem to be overpowering odds.

Age and experience are not necessarily criteria for successful venture in roadside beautification. Take the case of The TreePeople, an organization of young people headquartered in the San Fernando Valley. One of the main purposes of this enthusiastic group is to propagate and plant trees, both in burned out and eroded forest areas and in urban settings. Part of their ambitious program is also to provide volunteer instructors to educate inner city children in the appreciation of all living plant life.

In addition, in times of disaster, The TreePeople staff members have been able to organize their contemporaries into effective action units capable of coping with a variety of emergencies. In the aftermath of floods and fires, TreePeople volunteers have assisted homeowners in replanting for erosion control and to beautify their homes once again, providing a measure of climate control for their houses with trees and shrubs and assuring the return of the birds and other small animals to the area. The imaginative leader of this group is Andy Lipkis, a garden club member, and the TreePeople California Conservation Project group itself is a member of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

As one travels throughout the beautiful State of California, there is ample evidence of the concerned activity of garden club members, who have enlisted the assistance of anyone who could help. Business districts and construction sites provide containers for rubbish and trash, secured against being scattered by the wind or overturned by neighborhood dogs. Litter containers are provided at fast food outlets, sometimes by the garden clubs themselves, who may also accept the

responsibility of servicing the receptacles. Roadside rests have been established and wildflowers planted along the way, and entrances to cities have been attractively landscaped.

The program that started primarily as a cry of outrage against the thousands of billboards defacing the landscape has been enlarged over the years to include many other aspects of visual pollution control and public safety, and the pattern of the success of concerted effort in the past will undoubtedly continue far into the future.

Mrs. Kern H. Copeland, Chairman
Civic Development, Litter and Pollution Control

PLANT COLLECTING EXPEDITIONS

Touring China and Tibet and exploring the Andes were exciting armchair trips enjoyed by many of the California Garden Club members who joined the federation in the early 1930's. With the lines of communication established between the University of California at Berkeley and the fledgling garden club organization through such persons as Prof. Butterfield, opportunities were available for participating in the exciting field of plant exploration, and all this without ever leaving home!

The first proposal for enjoying such a "world tour" concerned the rare and exotic seed collected by the University of California Botanical Garden expedition to Western China and Tibet in 1932. Two years after the expedition, the Curator of the University Botanical Garden contacted the state garden club president and offered the federation the seeds from the China expedition that had not yet been propagated at the Berkeley garden. Funds were not available for the university to pursue its studies, and Dr. Goodspeed, who was in charge of the vast seed supply, needed help in gathering data on the growing habits and the suitability of these finds for possible use in the gardens of California.

Garden club members were quick to recognize the opportunity and agreed to keep records on the growth of these new and little known species from a region very difficult to access to most travelers. Although the seeds were free to the garden club members, they were encouraged by the state federation to make whatever contributions they might wish to the Regents of the University of California for the continuation of the experiments at the Botanical Garden. More than 400 requests for seed were received from all over California and from other states as far away as the Atlantic seaboard, and 10,000 packets were sent out for test growing. Contributions to the university totaled better than \$500.00

Then in 1935 came the announcement that Dr. Goodspeed had sailed for South America on an Andean plant hunting expedition to explore the Bolivian, Peruvian and Argentine Andes and their foothills for new specimens to be brought back for scientific study. This marked

the first Andean expedition from California and hopes were high for the discovery of areas where many new plants could be gathered. The expedition traveled some 15,000 miles along the West Coast of South America and sent back the seeds of many species and varieties of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. The expedition leaders were also able to determine the most promising areas for further plant hunting trips in the future.

In December of 1937 it was disclosed that Dr. Goodspeed was planning his second plant hunting trip to South America, and that a generous donation had been made to the Botanical Garden for this purpose, on the condition that an equivalent sum be secured from other sources. California Garden Clubs immediately voted to sponsor the horticultural section of the expedition, and the word went out to the Pacific Coast garden clubs, who would benefit the most from this intensive search for new ornamentals that were so well suited to California and the Pacific Northwest. A vigorous campaign was mounted, and by September, 1938, California Garden Clubs had forwarded \$5,438.50 to the University of California Regents, which together with the amount raised by the university alumni made the trip possible. In fact, by the time these results were made public, Dr. Goodspeed was already in South America again.

It was projected that the expedition would be away for about a year, and that it would probably require another year to take care of the collection brought home and to test the garden value of the ornamentals that had been gathered. When those tests were completed, the Botanical Garden had offered to turn over its surplus of selected South American seeds, bulbs and plants to California Garden Clubs, Inc. for distribution to the contributors to the expedition fund. There was also the anticipated bonus of finding the wild relatives of some of the old garden favorites, of special value because of their superiority in certain plant characteristics, and eventually crossing them with known varieties to create new and improved garden plants. The 1938-1939 expedition traveled about 50,000 miles in all and collected thousands of cases of dried specimens and many thousand bulbs. The results from the two journeys have proved to be of permanent benefit to Pacific Coast gardeners.

Almost thirty-two years later, another treasure of previously unknown plants from Costa Rica was to be brought to California because of the financial support of California's garden clubs. This time there was a particular urgency to the expedition, as the active volcano Irazu in the central valley of Costa Rica was devastating the countryside with a continuous rain of volcanic ash. Forests buried three feet deep were dying of suffocation and the proportions of the seventeen-month-old disaster threatened the extinction of all plant life in the area. Word of the widespread destruction reached the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanical Gardens through the plant collector who had been the guide for a 1960 collecting trip made by Glenn H. Hiatt, Assistant Director at the Arboretum. The decision was

made to authorize another plant hunting expedition to Columbia, with a stopover in Costa Rica, leaving late in April, 1964.

As in the past, adequate financing for the expedition had to be found particularly the Costa Rica arm of the journey, the balance being sponsored by the Arboretum Foundation. Word of the proposed special project was circulated at the regular monthly meeting of California Garden Clubs' Arboretum District, and a \$50.00 donation was made to start the Costa Rica Collection Fund. A letter writing campaign followed, going to garden clubs throughout the state and to a number of national horticultural groups. Over \$2,000.00 was received in response to the request.

It was later reported that some of the plants arriving at the Arboretum as the result of the careful selections made during the expedition still had particles of volcanic grit clinging to their leaves. The area explored was for many centuries one of the richest plant areas in the world; and the seeds and plants of the ornamental trees and shrubs, the orchids, the bromeliads and the other tropicals brought back to California for propagation and test growing have proved to be well worth the endeavor.

CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

California Native Flora Chairman Emeritus

Charlotte M. Hoak, "The Great Lady of Horticulture," was one of the most esteemed members of California Garden Clubs, Inc., receiving many honors during her remarkable lifetime, which spanned ninety-three years.

She was born October 24, 1874 in Comptche, Mendocino County, California, on a ranch that was formerly the property of Indian Chief Comptche. Here she lived until old enough to go to college.

On the day she was born, her father planted seven redwood trees, to which she always fondly referred as her Birthday Grove. Her trees can be seen at her birthplace today, which is now known as the Grimes Ranch.

Charlotte Hoak was proud of her heritage and claimed she was born with two green thumbs. Her father, Newman Elvin Hoak, was born in Waldo Borough, Maine and spent a lifetime in horticulture. Her mother, Elizabeth Hilton Hatch of the Magna Charta Hiltons, also had a way with growing plants. Charlotte's interest in flowers began when she was five years of age.

She always loved the ranch and visited there whenever in Mendocino County. For many years she sent back trees to be planted on the old homestead, thus keeping alive a link between yesterday and tomorrow.

All the family enjoyed the wilderness; and early in life, Charlotte knew much about the unusual plant life of California. She was to spend

a lifetime lecturing and writing articles on California horticulture, conservation and native flora. Her writings became known internationally. She was a columnist for the *Pasadena Star-News* and often served as consultant when expert gardeners failed to solve the problem. She strived to keep up-to-date in her thinking and techniques by attending as many garden group meetings as she could. She loved working with the youth and was an early promoter of Junior Gardening.

In 1896, at the age of twenty-two, Charlotte enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley. There, she majored in English, with botany as her minor. In 1900 she received a Bachelor's degree. After teaching for two years, she returned to do graduate work and won her Master's degree, which gave her the opportunity to study under the direction of Dr. William Setchell, head of the University's botany department. True, some of her education came from books, but most of it was acquired through "The University of Experience." She botanized all over the West, from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast and from Alaska to Baja California. She discovered a new lily in the mountains of Southern California which was named for her.

During her college days, the Mendocino Coast and an area close to the ranch, the Pygmy Forest, a portion of which was later to be named in her honor, were her favorite grounds for study.

In 1906, Charlotte moved to Southern California and purchased a home in South Pasadena. She became active in the lily, begonia and geranium societies and many other clubs and groups. She was founder of the Garden Club of South Pasadena, was a mainstay of the Nature Club of Southern California, and was an honorary member of the Pasadena Horticulture Society (all men members). She was also a member of the Royal Horticulture Society of London and of the California Arboretum Foundation in Arcadia.

Two of her best friends were John Muir and John Burroughs, who were among those who inspired her studies and writings. She valued her close friendships with Dr. Willis Linn Jepson, Professor of Botany at the University of California, Berkeley, and with many other horticulturists and botanists, notably Theodore Payne, Carl Purdy and Norman Brooks, one of her former students.

Begonias were among her favorites, but she loved all plants and found it difficult to decide which was closest to her heart. In 1956, she was honored by the American Begonia Society with the "Award of the Year." The same year, she received the Kenworthy Gray Plaque in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the study of begonias.

She was proud of the award and beautiful plaque given her by the International Geranium Society in 1958 for her expert study of geraniums. She was also accorded one of the few life memberships of that organization.

On her eightieth birthday, California Garden Clubs, Inc. presented her with a handsome scroll on a radio program broadcast from Pasadena, and celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in Horticulture by giving her a Silver Dollar Tree.

At an annual decorator's show, which included a gardening section, at the age of eighty-four Charlotte was named "Miss Horticulture 1958," honoring her years as a contributor to horticulture. She was runner-up for "Woman Gardener of the United States," just missing the trip to Europe.

This much honored lady taught agriculture and/or horticulture for twenty-five years in the elementary schools of Los Angeles. In the Pasadena schools, she was supervisor of elementary agriculture for four years. She taught the same subjects in University of California extension courses in Los Angeles and Pasadena, and in wartimes she taught civilians about Victory Gardening.

Members of California Garden Clubs, Inc. remember her as one of the founders of their organization. They probably remember her best as the first Editor of *Golden Gardens*. She served as Horticulture Editor, and for twenty-five years she was a regular contributor to this official publication. She continued to share her knowledge as California Native Flora Chairman for California Garden Clubs, Inc. at ninety years of age. She then was honored as California Native Flora Chairman Emeritus until her passing September 2, 1967.

"Our Great Lady of Horticulture" was to receive one more accolade. Upon completion of the purchase of a portion of the Pygmy Forest, a project of California Gardens Clubs, Inc., the five-acre plot was dedicated in September, 1969 in her honor and named in memory of her lifelong loyalty to California Garden Clubs, Inc.; National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.; and the many organizations dealing with horticulture, conservation and beautification to which she belonged. The Charlotte M. Hoak Memorial Pygmy Forest was then presented to the California Parks and Recreation Department, to become part of the Van Damme State Park. Since, it has been designated as a Registered National Landmark, thus ensuring its preservation for all time.

Mrs. Roland Graf, Past Director
Mendo-Lake District

THEODORE PAYNE

Propagator of California Native Flora
"As a child I was passionately fond of flowers."
Theodore Payne

Theodore Payne was born in Northhamptonshire, England on June 19, 1872. There he grew to know all the haunts of the wildflowers in the area. His mother, a student of botany, taught him the names of the flowers in the garden and encouraged his collecting and packaging seeds for his friends. With this beginning, it became generally understood, while he was still quite young, that he would be a horticulturist.

Shortly after his mother died, when he was eleven, he was sent to a Quaker boarding school in Ackworth, Yorkshire where his father and older brothers had gone before him. It was at Ackworth that he had his first lesson in conservation.

Upon leaving the school, he was apprenticed for three years to the John Cheal & Sons Nurseries to learn the nursery and seed business, a training that was to prove most valuable to him in later life. When he was twenty-one, he decided to come to California, and before long he went to work as a gardener for Madame Helena Modjeska at her country estate, "Forest of Arden," Santiago Canyon, Orange County. It was here where he first took an interest in the wildflowers of California.

In 1903 he resigned to go into business for himself. First he took a trip to England and the continent, calling on many horticulture establishments in Belgium, Holland, Germany and France. He made business connections which continued until the time of World War II.

Returning to Los Angeles, he brought the nursery of Hugh Evans, formerly the Lyon and Cobbe Nursery, founded in 1890. A 64-page general catalog was published each season and a bulb catalog in the fall. He made a special study of the *Eucalyptus*, and collected seed of most of the species grown in California. When the *Eucalyptus* boom came along in 1907, he was prepared to send seed to Brazil, Germany, France, Mexico and South America.

What impressed Theodore Payne more than anything else was the wonderful native California flora. It was with deep regret that he saw the wildflowers disappearing from the landscape. To help awaken a great interest in the native flora, he collected seed from a few varieties, grew them and then offered the seed for sale. All the plots that were sowed with wildflower seeds were greatly admired, and this was really the beginning of wildflower planting. Mixing several kinds of seeds, sowing them and recording the results, produced the wildflower mixtures which have become so popular. Over the years Mr. Payne brought between 400 and 500 native species into cultivation, and seed was shipped all over the world. If it had not been for Mr. Payne's interest and diligence, many of our natives would have been lost to us.

In 1919 a partnership was entered into with Ralph Cornell. This team developed many interesting projects. In 1926 Mr. Payne was requested to select the original site for the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, where he served on the advisory council for twenty years. Approximately 1,000 plants donated by him were placed in the Descanso Gardens Native Plant Section. In 1961, 320 acres were dedicated at the Theodore Payne Wildlife Sanctuary near Llano, California.

Theodore Payne received many awards and much recognition for his work. The last was the Man of the Year Award, presented posthumously by California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Mrs. David Martin, Chairman
California Native Flora



Theodore Payne, world renowned propagator of California wildflowers for home cultivation.

MRS. ALLEN HILTON

Horticulture Chairman Emeritus

Alice Clark Hilton was born in Lisbon, Ohio in 1895 of Scottish-Irish ancestry, and passed from this life in September, 1975. Her early days of schooling, begun in Ohio, were completed in San Diego, and she graduated from college in Los Angeles. She married Allen Hilton and had one son, Jerry.

Alice never ceased loving and investigating the culture of shrubs and flowers. Her first love was the dahlia, and she raised hundreds of them each year, as well as many other varieties.

She wrote articles regularly for *Golden Gardens* for many years, each item pertaining to new plants and their culture, and when and how to plant different bulbs, shrubs and flowers. These contributions to *Golden Gardens* began soon after her appointment as State Horticulture chairman, and one of her first articles printed in October, 1957 was titled "Why Grow Dahlias?"

Alice served for many years as California Horticulture Chairman, also serving her own Porterville Garden Club and Sequoia Foothills District as their chairman of horticulture at the same time. In fact, she was known as "Mrs. Horticulture" throughout the state.

She was a nationally accredited Flower Show Judge and a senior judge for the American Dahlia Society; traveling all over the state to judge shows, even by bus when no other transportation was available. She also was a nationally accredited Landscape Design Critic, and with this honor made many contributions to club and district programs in California.

Alice also served on the National Horticulture Committee and wrote articles for *The National Gardener*, entitled "Central California."

At numerous state conventions Alice received Presidential Citations and Awards of Merit for meritorious achievement, creative vision, outstanding ability in the field of horticulture and service to her club, district and state. The earliest recorded award was given by Mrs. Charles P. Scott for 1959-1960. In 1971, California Garden Clubs, Inc. donated a chair for the Permanent Home in St. Louis in her honor, and the Sequoia Foothills District perpetuated the name of Mrs. Allen Hilton on the Roll of Honor at National Headquarters. Alice was exceedingly proud of these honors.

Alice's husband was so proud of her work and achievements that he established and donated the "Woman of the Year" award in her name. Mr. Hilton maintained this award until he was physically unable to carry on, renaming it the Alice Hilton Memorial Award following her death. The Porterville Garden Club then voted to continue sponsoring the award in honor of our beloved Alice, whom we all cherished and admired.

A quotation from "The Hilton Story," written by Allen Hilton, describes the infinite delight that Alice took in exploring the world around her. "As a little girl, Alice was an ardent nature lover, running off to the woods looking for nature's realm in all its exotic strangeness. A childlike complex emotion aroused by that which is inexplicable, and still the wonder grew. Absorbed with ecstatic attention, as she was lost in rapt admiration. Always inquisitive, wondering at the phenomenon – Alice in Wonderland."

During the last days of Alice's final illness, she would manage to sit up for an hour or two at a time so she could continue her writing as Horticulture Chairman Emeritus for California Garden Clubs, Inc. Horticulture was her first and last love, and her dedication to this was a joy to behold!

Flowers are God's thoughts of beauty, taking form to mortal gaze – bright gems of the earth in which perchance, we see what Eden was – what Paradise may be.

Alice in flowerland – we salute you!

Stella M. Collier, Past Director
Sequoia Foothills District

"God Almighty first Planted a Garden. And indeed, it is the Purest of Humane pleasures. It is the Greatest Refreshment to the Spirits of Man; Without which, Buildings and Palaces are but Grosse Handyworks."

From an Essay by Francis Bacon, 1597



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

RALPH MOORE

Plant Breeder-Hybridizer
CGCI Man of the Year 1988

Ralph Moore, Internationally known miniature rose hybridizer and CGCI's 1988 "Man of the Year" recipient was born on January 14, 1907. He started growing rose seedlings while still in high school during the 1920s. Ralph has been in the forefront of the development and popularization of Miniature Roses since February 28, 1937 when he purchased Sequoia Nursery in Visalia.

He is considered to be the patron saint of miniature roses, having bred and introduced well over three hundred varieties of miniature and other types of roses throughout his extensive career. His peers often say that he has almost single handedly created the miniature rose industry. Ralph Moore's pioneering work with miniature roses has been instrumental in paving the way for other breeders to participate in creating one of the most important classes of modern roses! Most of the miniatures on the market today are either Ralph Moore's work over the past seventy years or are descended from his hybrids. He has developed many different forms of miniature blooms, from open semi-double blooms, perfect singles, to very full doubles and classic Hybrid Tea forms. He also has more plant patents than anyone else in the United States. His office walls reflect the appreciation given him by rose fanciers around the world, i.e., New Zealand, Australia, France, Monaco, California, Nevada, Hawaii and numerous others.

Ralph Moore has been an inspiration to garden clubs. Although he has commitments worldwide, he generously gives of his time. He has presented programs to almost every garden club in the Sequoia Foothills District. He graciously guides interested people around his greenhouses and gardens, and is most helpful to garden club members.

Ralph set up plant "pedigree displays" at garden club activities, showing the line of descent from early ancestors of a flower to the modern descendant by having specimen flowers linked by ribbons from ancestor flower down the line. He gave talks and slide shows as part of Flower Shows for the public. In

addition, he published booklets and newsletters on the history and care of roses.

Emily "B" McCain, the 1988 Convention Chairman, approached Ralph with the idea of naming a new miniature rose, especially for the 1988 Convention of CGCI held in Visalia. In his breeding trials, he had a lovely yellow variety and considering that CGCI's publication is called *Golden Gardens*, they agreed that this would be an appropriate name for his new yellow rose.

But the story behind the creation of the "Golden Gardens" miniature rose goes back several years before 1988. Tracing the family history of this unique rose reveals several names of roses which might be included in a "Who's Who" of the rose world.

On the pollen (father) side are included such illustrious yellow roses as Gold Badge (Floribunda) which in turn is a descendant from Allgold (Floribunda), a famous British variety from the noted breeder, Edward LeGrice.

On the mother (seed) side is an unnamed yellow miniature climber used extensively in present rose breeding. This unusual variety, known by the code number 1-72-1, is a sister seedling to their world famous "Rise 'N Shine." So the unique "Golden Gardens" came from good roots!

In 1991, Ralph Moore named another beautiful yellow rose, "Hall of Flowers" to give impetus to the California Hall of Flowers fund raising efforts to construct a 50,000 square foot floriculture-horticulture building at the California Exposition and State Fair grounds in Sacramento. Exclusive sales rights were given for two years to the Hall of Flowers Board of Directors. It was hoped that promotion and sales of the "Hall of Flowers" rose would be on a statewide basis for CGCI, florists and nurseries. The goal was to raise in excess of \$100,000 on the project. 2500 plants in production were available by mid-March 1991 for sale.

Friends and admirers of Ralph Moore constructed a rose garden in Veteran's Memorial Park on Main Street in his hometown of Visalia. The charming garden includes hedges of roses, a meandering path, a gazebo, benches, and many examples of Mr. Moore's roses. The city of Visalia dedicated the Ralph S. Moore Rose Garden at Memorial Park on May 29, 2004.

Ralph Moore celebrated his 100th birthday and closed his 71-year-old Sequoia Nursery in Visalia. He donated all of his breeding stock to Texas A&M University's horticultural sciences department to assure continued research in miniature roses. Texas A&M already operates a rose breeding program and

maintains the Robert E. Bayse Endowed Chair in rose breeding. In addition to all plants and breeding stock, Ralph Moore's gift includes 80 rose patents, a book collection and an unspecified cash contribution for program operation. Today, Ralph Moore collaborates with Dr. David Byrne, rose breeder and Bayse chairholder, as a consultant.



Ralph Moore with one of his famous miniature roses at his Sequoia Nursery in Visalia

DIVISION VI – CONSERVATION

Conservation of California's Redwood Trees

Penny Pines

Charlotte M. Hoak Memorial Pygmy Forest

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

California Poppy Reserve

Land Trust

Stagecoach Hill Azalea Project

Theodore Payne Foundation Project



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

The Nature Conservancy Joint Projects

Cooperative Projects & Activities

Short-Term Projects

CONSERVATION OF CALIFORNIA'S REDWOOD TREES

From the beginning, a bright thread of Conservation has run through the history of California Garden Clubs, Inc. One of the precepts upon which the organization was founded was the protection and conservation of our natural resources, and among the important resources were the virgin stands of redwoods and big trees which were then being destroyed by commercial interests.

Working through the years with Save-the-Redwoods League and Sempervirens Fund, the garden clubs have purchased acres of redwoods and transferred the ownership to the State Parks Department in order to preserve them forever in the public domain for the enjoyment of all, and have made innumerable contributions for honor and memorial trees.

In 1937, the State Legislature designated the California "Redwood" as the official State Tree. The ancient forests of redwoods, which once flourished over most of the Northern Hemisphere, have reached their last stand on the Pacific Coast. *Sequoia sempervirens*, or redwoods, are straight, towering trees found along the northern coastal plane, while *Sequoia gigantea*, or big trees, which have tremendous girth, are found in the central Sierra Nevadas.

The decade of the 1940's made conservation history in California Garden Clubs, Inc. In 1942 the president reported that "conservation efforts were rewarded by a contribution of \$35,000 by a Life Member from Sacramento to Save-the-Redwoods League." Then, at a special state board meeting called in June, 1945, California Garden Clubs, Inc. endorsed Save-the-Redwoods League's "National Tribute Grove" to honor the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces of World War II. This is a primeval forest in the Mill Creek-Smith River region on the Redwood Highway five miles northeast of Crescent City.

In the fall of 1947, it was unanimously voted to sponsor the purchase of a 40-acre redwood grove in the name of California Garden Clubs, Inc. The sum of \$5,130 was raised, and that amount was matched by the State of California.

Due to the state president's enthusiasm for the project, in the fall of 1948, National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. adopted a project to buy an adjoining 40-acre grove to further its efforts to preserve some of our national heritage, and to mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of National Council. That goal was not only reached, but oversubscribed by enough to purchase additional acreage.

Immediately following the annual meeting in May, 1949, where a resolution was passed in support of the preservation of the Calaveras Sequoia Grove, many of the delegates traveled to Humboldt County where the National President, Mrs. Lewis M. Hull, dedicated the grove given by National Council, and Mrs. William D. Shearer, the immediate past state president, dedicated the grove given by California Garden

Clubs. These groves are living and fitting monuments to the conservation objectives of our organization.

In the decade of the 1950's, California Garden Clubs, Inc. was actively opposing the unnecessary cutting of redwoods to widen Highway 101, and supporting many projects to save the redwoods.

In 1955, Mrs. J. J. Gallagher announced a Special Achievement Award to California Spring Blossom and Wildflower Association for the purchase of a redwood grove honoring Alice Eastwood. In her 1956 report, the president stated that "California Garden Clubs helped in saving several parks, one the Butano Forest, which is the last stand of redwoods as far south as San Mateo County, and saved several hundred trees through the groves which were threatened by the proposed widening of Highway 101." Through the influence of conservationists, the state government had been influenced to build a high-speed highway to bypass the groves.

In the president's message in the February, 1959 issue of *Golden Gardens*, Mrs. Harry F. Hunter stated that "California Garden Clubs, Inc. had a large part in the purchase of The Garden Club of America Grove located in Humboldt Redwoods State Park."

The year 1959 also found our garden clubs focusing on the purchase of a grove as a memorial to Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson, who died October 22, 1958. The "Elvenia Slosson Redwood Grove" was completed and dedicated on November 17, 1961 in Prairie Creek State Park, adjoining the groves of National Council and California Garden Clubs, as was fitting for our founder-president and a former president of National Council.

Previous to Mrs. Slosson's death, an enormous area of redwoods, "Jackson Forest," was given to the State of California by her family as a memorial to her beloved grandfather, Jacob Green Jackson.

The year 1964 found members and clubs again supporting the purchase of a grove in Prairie Creek State Park which had been designated the "Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Grove," honoring the esteemed Secretary-General of the United Nations who had given so freely of his talents in the interest of world peace; and Mrs. Henry T. Read, president, was urging concerned members to continue the fight in support of the Wilderness Bill, and to save the redwoods at Prairie Creek.

The decade of the 1970's saw a resurgence of activity to save the redwoods. It was in the fall of 1973 that Mrs. Anton Dolenz brought a redwood project, later to be named "California Garden Clubs Conservation Education Grove," to the attention of the president, Mrs. John N. Fehrer. Upon its acceptance as a state project, Mrs. Dolenz was named chairman; and through her perseverance and dedicated service, the ten-acre grove in Big Basin State Park was dedicated on April 25, 1977, as was the Evelyn Harris Living Memorial Grove. In addition, many mature trees were dedicated honoring or memorializing garden club members, their families and friends. A plant fund was also established for restoring the flowering plants and ferns that had been abundant in the grove previous to its use as a Girl Scout Camp.

Five acres of adjoining land soon became available, and the project was extended. In addition, it was voted to purchase a "Golden Circle of Trees," to be presented to National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. in honor of its fiftieth anniversary. These two projects were completed; and on November 8, 1979 a dedication ceremony was held which included the dedication of the Anton Dolenz Memorial Grove and the Frank W. Sexton Family Grove, both family gifts.



Seedling redwood grows in shelter of burned out tree trunk. Purchase of redwood forest acreage is a continuing garden club project.

A second addition to the Conservation Education Grove was soon accepted as a continuing state project, which upon completion will add ten acres to the now 15-acre grove.

Many people have the impression that the redwoods have all been saved. However, there are important virgin stands which are still unprotected. In the words of Aubrey Drury of Save-the-Redwoods League, "In this cause of conservation much remains to be done."

Mrs. John N. Fehrer, Past President
California Garden Clubs, Inc.



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Two additional groves were secured and dedicated during the administrations of Presidents Mrs. Eugene Woesner and Mrs. Robert E. Busher, bringing the total to four by 1982 at Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Thirty additional acres were dedicated during the term of President Mary Tebo, and payment was completed on the Slippery Rock Grove in 1988, applying the \$386 surplus from the purchase of Grove #4. As of Winter Board, 1992, \$4,277.50 (of \$10,000 needed) had been donated toward the purchase of Forest Meadow, a half-acre grove across the road from the forty acres acquired in 1947 and the adjoining acreage bought the following year by National Council of State Garden Clubs.

California Garden Clubs, Inc., working together with the Save-the-Redwoods League and the Sempervirens Fund, continued to support the preservation of California's redwood forests. Many acres of redwood trees were purchased over the years, with ownership transferred to the State Parks Department upon completion of the sale. It should be noted that money collected for these groves was matched dollar for dollar by the State of California. Donors sometimes chose to set aside a mature, standing tree in honor or in memory of someone, or donated a particular amount for the planting of a three to four foot tall redwood tree. This was accomplished under the direction of CGCI chairmen, Pansy Dolenz, Mrs. Robert E. Busher and Arleen Chasson.

By the end of 1999 CGCI members had completed the dedication of redwood Grove #7. In addition, with each decade, CGCI members honored its presidents of those years with a dedicated tree. Groves increased to \$15,000 and memorial trees to \$500.

Working through the Sempervirens Fund, which has been protecting and preserving redwood forests in California since 1900 at Big Basin Redwoods State Park, located in the heart of the Santa Cruz Mountains, CGCI efforts have been guided by the Forest Program Manager, Linda Yule, and the dedicated staff of the Sempervirens Fund.

As we approached the new millennium, we saw renewed efforts and continued support by our members to preserve these ancient redwoods. In January 2000, CGCI President Dorothy Roton and the Board of Directors began the year with the

dedication of Grove #8, a 10-acre site for \$10,000, which was completed by the end of 2003. In 2004, under CGCI President Robert Gordon and the Board of Directors, redwood Grove #9 was dedicated; a 10-acre site for \$15,000. And again, Grove #9 was completed by the end of 2006.

At the 2007 winter board meeting in Santa Maria, President Elisabeth Tufo and the Board of Directors approved the dedication of Grove #10; a 2.5-acre site for \$25,000. A fitting start to a year the organization spent celebrating its 75th Anniversary.

Currently the minimum donation for a grove of 2.5 acres is \$25,000. The nine existing groves reside in the first 4,000 acres of the original park, where a grove is now valued at over \$500,000! Today, trees in honor or memory of someone are \$500 and up.

The success that has been achieved thus far would not have been possible without the generous donations and continued support of CGCI members. For that we are humbled and proud, for it is through our combined efforts that these ancient and majestic redwood forests are preserved for future generations.

Rosa Radicchi
CGCI Sempervirens Fund Chairman
2005-2009

PENNY PINES

It would be difficult to find a California Garden Clubs member who has never had the opportunity to contribute to the Penny Pines program. The Penny Pines Cooperative Reforestation Program, however, was not instigated by the garden club organization, and credit for cosponsoring the project at the beginning goes to the San Francisco Sportswomen's Association and the U.S. Forest Service. The program was initiated in 1942 in the San Mateo County schools, and made only slow progress for the first fifteen or sixteen years. Then in 1957 came a series of disastrous forest fires throughout the state, leaving thousands of acres of blackened timber. Massive reforestation became an emergency with the necessity of replacing watersheds and providing protection from serious erosion, as well as recreating a forest environment for the animal life that depends on timbered lands for its food and shelter.

California Garden Clubs, Inc. was one of the organizations that recognized what the Penny Pines program could do to help repair the damage, and contributions from garden clubs all over the state began to arrive daily at the Forest Service offices. Enthusiasm for this

cooperative arrangement for supplementing regular forest planting funds has remained constant.

When the program first started, every penny contributed went to buy one more seedling tree, with 680 tiny trees planted over about one acre of forest land, thus creating a Penny Pines Plantation. Today, however, the seedlings are handled a little differently, taking into consideration the contour of the land and the need for protection from heavy winds and run-offs, and a "plantation" now contains between 100 and 300 trees per acre.

The seedlings are grown by the Forest Service itself, with nurseries located at Placerville and near Arcata in Humboldt County. Present nursery capacity is about 25 million seedlings per year, with some sixteen different species of conifer seed sown each season. By 1980, over 27,500 acres of National Forest land in California had been replanted with 13 million pine, fir, redwood, and giant sequoia seedlings. Donations to make this program possible totaled more than half a million dollars!

Penny Pines Plantations may be planted as memorials, in which event proper acknowledgement of the donation is made by the Forest Service. Plaques or other markers designate many plantings, giving credit to the contributing garden club or district; and certificates for each plantation are sent to the donors for their records.

The Forest Service also sponsors a Penny Pines Award, giving two plaques each year to the two garden clubs that have done the most to further public understanding of the needs for the reforestation of the National Forests and for the conservation and wise use of our natural resources. These awards are presented by a representative of the U.S. Forest Service at California Garden Clubs' annual meeting.



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

The Penny Pines Program has continued to flourish both in California and nationwide when National Garden Clubs, Inc. adopted it two years ago. To date, it has not become as popular in other states as it is in California but it is still "new" compared to the history and success of our program.

Schools, individuals and other organizations contribute from time to time, but California garden clubs have continued their support without fail. The January-February 2001 issue of *Golden Gardens* noted over the years a total of \$1,224,406 had been given since Penny Pines was started in 1941. Combined with National Forest planting funds, more than 27 million pine, fir, redwood and Giant Sequoia seedlings have been planted on 88,000 acres of National Forest land in California. Strong

support continues with over 500 plantations (\$34,600) donated in 2004.

Garden clubs and members in California have welcomed the idea of giving a plantation to a special person as a memorial, for celebrating a special occasion and numerous other reasons. With the devastating wildfires in California the last few years, these plantations have become really needed for reforestation of our beautiful state. Many plantations have been purchased either "in honor" or "in memory" of the firefighters who courageously fought these fires.

In 1985 after Winter Board, a field trip was organized to Placerville Nursery and Tree Improvement Center (Penny Pines Center). Individuals and clubs are encouraged as a field trip/outing to visit one of the Penny Pines Nurseries and attend a tour of the nursery to learn how the pinecones are brought from the different areas of California; seeds and trees are kept separate for each area; seeds are extracted; seedlings are grown from them; and trees are returned to the same area from where the pinecones were originally collected to reforest the burned-out areas. Although it is still called the "Penny Pines Program," more often we now say "Dollars for Pines" to encourage larger contributions.

Supplementing regular forest planting funds remains a significant part of CGCI's Environmental Concerns. Keeping this program strong can help us to attain our objective: "To promote, further and assist in movements of all kinds having as their object the conservation and enhancing of the natural beauty of the State of California."

Pat York
CGCI Penny Pines Chairman, 2007-2009

CHARLOTTE M. HOAK MEMORIAL PYGMY FOREST

It took almost eighteen years for California Garden Clubs, Inc. to raise the money to purchase a particular plot of five acres of forest land in Mendocino County, which is, in fact, a long time in the life of the California garden club organization. But for the stunted trees in the pygmy forest, this was just a moment in the 500,000 years that it had taken to create the almost sterile soil that produced this unique forest.

There was one member of California Garden Clubs who was familiar with the area, growing up as she did in the little town of Comptche,

located almost in the pygmy forest itself, and that was Miss Charlotte M. Hoak. Miss Hoak served for many years as the horticulture chairman for California Garden Clubs, and it was in this capacity that she reported at a board meeting late in 1950 that she believed that at least a portion of the pygmy forest should be preserved as a state park. It fell to the conservation chairman, Mrs. J. E. Harton, to investigate the possibilities, and a small acreage adjacent to Van Damme State Park was discovered that could be purchased for a reasonable price. The project was adopted the following year, and the drive to accumulate funds was under way.

Miss Hoak wrote in *Golden Gardens* about the trees that were so small that lumbermen had passed them by. Having no agricultural value, after a few futile attempts, even the pioneers passed on to more fertile holdings. A handful of botanists were intrigued, and collectors from Holland had gathered the seeds from the area to plant along the North Sea dikes. For a long time the pygmy forest was not even mapped and no geological surveys were made of the relatively narrow strip of land extending south from Ft. Bragg for almost thirty miles. Locally, the area was known by various names, among them the Mendocino White Plain, the Mendocino Barrens, and the "Prairie."

Although generally of little, or no, economic value, the "blacklock" soil produces dwarf cypress not more than nine or ten inches high, as well as the California Bishop Pine, or "Pitch Pine," that is characterized by its prodigious number of cones that hang on the tree sometimes for thirty or forty years, often even becoming imbedded in the trunk or limbs. There is also the Beach Pine that grows no taller than two to five feet, which has been of great importance in the natural reclamation of sand dunes on the coast of Oregon and Washington. Growing amongst the trees are huckleberry bushes, ferns, lilies, rhododendrons and a variety of evergreen shrubs. It is, in fact, largely an unexplored gene pool with as yet unknown scientific possibilities.

However, other projected exploitation of the unusual pygmy forest area gave added impetus to the effort to set aside the funds necessary to enable California Garden Clubs to buy the land and turn it over to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, to become a part of the state park system. Lying just a few miles inland and thus protected from the cold winds of the northern California coast, developers were beginning to look on the Mendocino Plains as a desirable place for home construction, especially since clearing the low-growing forest presented relatively few problems.

Dollar by dollar the Pygmy Forest Fund grew, with a final push for completion including the junior and intermediate garden clubs. In fact, completing the purchase became a state-wide youth conservation project, with a goal of \$300.00 from them by May 1, 1969. This last drive was a success, and in September of that same year, the Charlotte M. Hoak Memorial Pygmy Forest was dedicated. Miss Hoak did not live to see the completion of her dream, but it was her inspiration that had sparked the ambitious project; and she had worked along with the other

garden club members to promote the preservation of this valuable and threatened marvel of nature.

Following the dedication, further funds were set aside for the possible purchase of additional land adjacent to the Charlotte Hoak memorial, but it became evident that such a project could not be accomplished within reasonable time limits. Thus, at the annual meeting of California Garden Clubs, Inc. in April, 1980 it was voted that the balance in the Pygmy Forest Fund be donated to the California State Parks Foundation, to be used in printing a brochure describing the pygmy forest phenomenon, including the Charlotte M. Hoak memorial in Van Damme State Park. Two pamphlets have now been printed for distribution to the public, one of which is available at Van Damme State Park, and one at the Jug Handle State Reserve a few miles farther north.



*Dedication ceremony, Charlotte M. Hoak
Memorial Pygmy Forest.*

ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK

Prehistoric animals once inhabited a part of the present Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, which is considered to be one of the most important areas of the world for paleontological exploration, according to Dr. Richard Leakey, world renowned paleontologist, and Dr. Morris

Skinner, Paleontologist Emeritus of the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Much has happened during the millions of years since then. The land rose and fell, a lake covered a large area and then disappeared, leaving dried mud which was eventually eroded by wind and water, earthquakes caused slippage and upthrusts, and it is not always quiescent even today.

Indians eventually arrived; remains of their campgrounds and trails still are found, but the white man has long since pushed them out. Next came the Spaniards looking for a route between Mexico and San Francisco; then the Mormon Battalion arrived on the same quest; the Butterfield Stage, forty-niners, prospectors and ranchers all passed through, but few settled in this unique region that rises from sea level to about 6,000 feet with its great variety of flora and fauna.

This uniqueness was finally recognized as a heritage that should be preserved and so in 1933 the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park was dedicated. Because early settlers had already staked claims on the Bureau of Land Management property or purchased land from the Southern Pacific Company, there were parcels (inholdings) left within the park boundary. It is because of these inholdings that the Anza-Borrego Committee has been raising money for their acquisition to help complete the park.

By the way, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the largest state park in California and also the Nation, almost half a million acres that reach from Riverside County to near the Mexican border.

When Dr. Henry M. Weber was California Garden Club conservation chairman, a resolution was adopted in 1969 approving the aim of the Anza-Borrego Committee. The first club to contribute a desert garden was the Twenty-nine Palms Garden Club, the first group was Orange County Memorial Garden Center, and the Santa Ana Junior Garden Club was the first junior club.

A representative desert garden was dedicated March 28, 1971 at the mouth of Coyote Canyon with actor Gale Gordon, honorary mayor of Borrego Springs, as Master of Ceremonies. Boy Scout Explorer Unit 613 led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, with William Penn Mott, Jr., Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, as the principal speaker. It was a balmy day with the ocotillo forest ablaze with its beautiful red blossoms. Garden club members came to the dedication from as far away as the Bay Area. This was the start of the Walk for Desert Gardens program, which is an annual affair.

The Anza-Borrego Committee was formed at the suggestion of Commissioner Margaret Owings, with the Park and Recreation Commission concurring with her idea. (The committee reports to them annually.) There have never been enough State funds to acquire the 68,000 acres of small and large inholdings, so on April 1, 1967 a small group of desert lovers met at the Museum of Natural History in Balboa Park, San Diego to decide how to set up a non-profit group. The Desert Protective Council, Inc. offered to give shelter and has since formed the

Anza-Borrego Foundation of the Desert Protective Council, with twelve trustees.



Mrs. Henry T. Read and Harry M. Daniel receive Golden Bear Awards, highest award of California State Parks and Recreation Commission, presented for outstanding contributions of Anza-Borrego Committee of the Desert Protective Council and the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association.

Since 1967 when the committee started with nothing but hope, by July, 1981 they had acquired, by purchase or land donations, almost nine square miles of inholdings with an appraised value of over a half million dollars. There is still a long way to go, but with your help they will make it.

Mrs. Henry T. Read, Chairman
Anza-Borrego Committee



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Through the efforts of Josephine (Jo) Read, the region's garden clubs became a primary source of funding in those early years as they purchased individual "Desert Gardens." The cost: \$55 each. To this day, several clubs continue their support.

Since 1993, donations received from various garden clubs, individuals, districts and CGCI totaled \$11,385. In the earlier days, \$55 would buy an acre of land, but in later years that price increased quite a bit – today it is \$225 per acre. Purchases through this chairmanship of approximately 150 acres have been reported by the Foundation (including the early years before 1993) and are valued at \$33,412.50.

In its first decade, the Anza Borrego Foundation transferred 4,000 acres of inholdings to the state. In the next decade, the acreage transferred to the state almost doubled. By the close of the third decade, the Foundation had transferred a total of 25,000 acres to the state. A campaign was initiated to acquire land adjacent – as well as within – the park including Lucky 5, Vallecito, Mason Valley, Tulloch and Las Arenas.

In 2003, the Foundation joined forces with State Parks and the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center to create the Anza-Borrego Institute. Today, the organization continues to acquire and deed over park land...so far a grand total of 43,000 acres.

While the program is no longer financially supported and sponsored by CGCI as approved by the Board of Directors in September 2006, many clubs continue their financial support. It is quite an accomplishment to be a significant factor in the protection of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park! Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is very appreciative of the work done by CGCI on its behalf.

Velma (Jo) Bucheger
Former CGCI Chairman
Anza-Borrego Committee

CALIFORNIA POPPY RESERVE

On Saturday, April 17, 1982, the Jane S. Pinheiro Interpretive Center at the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve was dedicated. The completion of this building, which has won a national award for the

unique use of natural resources for its utilities, marks the culmination of an almost 12-year project – to have a special preserve or park in honor of our State Flower, the California Poppy.

The Poppy Reserve is located about 14 miles west of Lancaster in the Antelope Buttes. Originally all private land, parcels have been purchased equaling about 2,200 acres with donations from California Garden Clubs members, clubs and districts, other groups, and school children from all over the state. The federal government's Land and Water Conservation Fund matched all the donations received. Other wildflowers found at this site are lupine, cream cups, goldfields and redstem filaree.

Jane S. Pinheiro, in whose honor the Interpretive Center is named, was a local artist specializing in the painting of desert wildflowers. She had given 150 of her paintings to the Center and several of them were on display at the time of the Dedication Ceremony.

The Interpretive Center is open on weekends, with a \$2.00 day-use charge, as with all State Parks. Future plans include special exhibits in the Center, maps and brochures of the area, special trails and a drive. The best month to visit is April. Saddleback Butte State Park, east of Lancaster is available for campers. For information, contact the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce.

Marianne Kistler
Desert Empire District



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

In addition to the information in CGCI's 50 Year History, some changes have occurred. Inside the Jane S. Pinheiro Interpretive Center, the space has been enlarged, offering a short wildflower video. Other features include wildlife and plant displays of the valley and a gift shop. The center is open daily for the duration of the wildflower season each spring with free guided public tours offered during peak season. A kiosk has been added by the road for rangers to collect entrance fees for parking, maps of the area and its award-winning brochures. Five additional pieces of property have been purchased to enlarge the wildflower area and more trails have been paved (there are 7 miles of trails). Shaded picnic tables are available with an interpretive display and a serene view over the valley to the San Gabriel Mountains.

Milt Stark, resident of the Antelope Valley since 1923 and author of *A Flower-Watcher's Guide to Spring-Blooming Wildflowers of the Antelope Valley* (1991), among other books, was a prime mover in securing the land (mostly private property)

for the reserve. But it was Dorothy Bolt, chairperson of the Wildflower Preservation Committee of the Lancaster Women's Club in 1970, who got the ball rolling, so to speak. Dorothy suggested buying Jane S. Pinheiro's watercolor paintings to frame and display in the future Visitor's Center at the Reserve. It took twelve years to come to fruition; acquiring the land took most of the time. Deeds to the many properties are for sale in the gift shop.

The Poppy Reserve is located 15 miles west of Lancaster at 15101 Lancaster Road, Lancaster. For those traveling on Hwy. 14, take the Avenue I exit and head west 15 miles. Avenue I becomes Lancaster Road. For Park information, call (661) 942-0662 or visit their website: www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=627. The park is open year-round from sunrise to sunset.

Each spring, the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve comes alive with the seasonal surprises of the Mojave Desert Grassland habitat. The duration and intensity of colors and scents vary from year to year, affected by differences in winter's precipitation. From mid-March to mid-May, blossoms can carpet this 1,760-acre sliver of land on the Mojave Desert's west edge. Peak viewing period is usually mid-April.

If there are poppies, there can be millions! The amount of poppies in bloom varies depending upon the amount of rainfall received. For example, there were no poppies in 2007 due to the lack of rain. In good years, poppies, lupines, owl's clover, goldfields, coreopsis and creamcups spread color along the easy hiking trails. For wildflower bloom information, contact the Poppy Reserve Wildflower Hotline, (661) 724-1180. The Jane S. Pinheiro Interpretive Center is open only in spring.

Marianne Kistler
Desert Empire District

LAND TRUST/THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The current National Council Land Trust Project was born in 1976 at the beginning of the nation's bicentennial year of celebration, and at that time was appropriately named the American Land Trust. The lifetime of the American Land Trust was ordained to be for only two years, ending in March 1978. In a grand endeavor to commemorate the bicentennial by setting aside certain environmentally and ecologically unique areas, to be held in their natural state in perpetuity, the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. aligned itself with a prestigious group of thirty-

five ardent and influential conservationists from all parts of the nation. The ambitious goal of the American Land Trust was to acquire \$200 million in funds or in donations of land itself.

Contributions came from all parts of the country, to be accumulated and disbursed according to plan by The Nature Conservancy, probably one of the greatest private conservation movements in the United States. Prime natural areas with special ecological significance were named in each state, with the expressed goal of acquiring these properties during the specified two-year period. The two sites projected for California were Elkhorn Slough, consisting of some 1,500 to 2,000 acres of undisturbed coastal estuaries in Monterey County, and the chaparral-covered top of Mt. Wilson in Los Angeles County, including approximately 740 acres. The estimated value of the Mt. Wilson site was \$2 to \$3 million, and Elkhorn Slough was appraised at approximately \$1 million. Before the two years had elapsed, both of these California projects had been consummated.

A number of incentive programs were initiated by National Council to encourage garden clubs to participate in this nationwide program, including an American Land Trust Honorary Trustee Certificate for every \$10.00 contributed, plus a one-year membership in The Nature Conservancy. At the half-way point in the program, three districts in California, including all of their member clubs, and twenty-three additional clubs from other districts had donated \$1.00 per member; and one club was well on the way to a 100% Trustee Certificate to be awarded for club contributions of \$10.00 per member. As far as could be determined, California garden club members had, by that time, contributed more than \$4,500 in cash gifts. Cash prizes were also offered by National Council for state federation and club awards.

When the American Land Trust program ended in 1978, there were still many land acquisition projects receiving attention, and it was voted to continue the cooperative arrangement enjoyed by National Council and The Nature Conservancy, changing the program name to the National Council Land Trust Project and setting up a six-year plan of action. Working with other organizations in addition to The Nature Conservancy in a variety of diversified projects appears to have broadened considerably the scope of possibilities under consideration for the protection and enhancement of environmental resources.

As an example, California Garden Clubs members wholeheartedly supported the fund-raising drive launched by The Nature Conservancy in 1979 in an all-out effort to meet the deadline for the purchase of a major acreage on Santa Cruz Island, off the Santa Barbara coast. As for the Stagecoach Hill project undertaken in 1977, at last report only \$3,500 is still needed to reach the total necessary for the purchase of a two-mile long hillside of self-hybridizing azaleas on Stagecoach Hill adjacent to Dry Lagoon State Park in Humboldt County. And in Big Basin Redwood State Park in the Santa Cruz mountains, still another ten-acre grove of redwood trees has been selected for acquisition by California Garden Clubs, Inc., working with the Sempervirens Fund to buy the property, which will be turned over to the State Department of

Parks and Recreation, to become a part of the state parks system. Another endangered land area, located in eastern San Diego County within the boundaries of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, also receives assistance from California garden clubs and their members. There, private inholdings are being purchased as fast as available money and the inclination of the land owners allow. These funds are handled by the Anza-Borrego Foundation, an adjunct of the Desert Protective Council.

Conservation through the outright purchase of land housing endangered resources continues to be of primary concern to California Garden Clubs, Inc.



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY JOINT PROJECTS

Renewed interest in The Nature Conservancy, as the result of its association with the American Land Trust, led to a number of CGCI projects, which fell under the supervision of The Nature Conservancy. At Fall Board 2006, the Board of Directors approved to eliminate The Nature Conservancy as a CGCI sponsored project as recommended by the Advisory Council.

Big Bear Valley (Baldwin Lake) Preserve

In 1980, The Nature Conservancy purchased 97 acres with 29 species of rare plants. During the winter months, the largest wintering population of Bald Eagles in Southern California can be found there. On May 2, 1983, CGCI adopted this project with the purpose of protecting and preserving the bald eagle population in particular areas in the San Bernardino Mountains. In 1984, The Nature Conservancy purchased the last 400 acres.

Five thousand one hundred eighteen dollars was needed to refurbish a building with the help of CGCI members for a much needed Visitors Center. On April 21, 1990, about 300 people met at North Baldwin Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains to dedicate the Big Bear Valley Preserve's new visitor center. Officials from the U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and The Nature Conservancy joined the Friends of Big Bear Valley Preserve and guests to christen the newly completed building. San Bernardino Valley District member Myra Pace accepted special acknowledgement for California Garden Clubs, which was a major fundraiser for the project. The

Visitor Center was completely refurbished and open for general public visitation on weekends each summer.

CGCI began its "Save the Eagles" campaign in 1983 to raise monies for the protection of the many rare wildflower species and wintering bald eagles that are found there. Over the years, through stamps sales, District and individual member contributions, the garden clubs raised over \$10,000 for the Big Bear Valley Preserve. During the years since the adoption of the Baldwin Lake Preserve project, literally thousands of canceled commemorative and foreign stamps were collected by garden club members for resale to stamp dealers and collectors, providing funds for land acquisitions in this popular recreation area. The saving stamps portion was discontinued after Fall Board 2003. The project itself continued with monetary donations until the program was no longer financially supported by CGCI as approved by the Board of Directors at Convention in 2004, as the Bald Eagle was no longer considered an endangered species. The restricted fund balance of \$166 was forwarded to Save the Bald Eagles project, and the account was closed upon approval by the Board of Directors at Winter Board 2006.

Kaweah Oaks Preserve

At the 1983 annual Convention when it was voted to adopt the Baldwin Lake Preserve as a state project, the Kaweah Oaks Preserve, six miles East of Visalia on Highway 198, was also accepted. The resolution describing Kaweah Oaks noted that this almost primeval area contained one of the last stands of valley oak trees (*Quercus lobata*) that once covered the San Joaquin Valley. These oaks grow only in California in deep, rich valley soils.

The area was attractive to settlers from the eastern states that had come west with the gold rush, and the first permanent settlement in the San Joaquin Valley was along the delta of the Kaweah River near where Visalia stands today. Other native vegetation, animals and unique eco-systems in the area also added to the urgency for protective action.

The Nature Conservancy had already purchased 324 acres of valley oak woodland along the Kaweah River, thus protecting and preserving the property. The vote to accept the new project was a commitment to reimburse The Nature Conservancy for its investment, making it possible for The Conservancy to seek out and purchase still other endangered areas.

The Kaweah Oaks Preserve was funded in 1987, thus replacing the money invested by The Nature Conservancy, and enabling The Conservancy to purchase additional land threatened by encroaching urbanization and agricultural and industrial development.

Today it is maintained by the Sequoia Riverlands Trust. The Kaweah Oaks Preserve is home to more than 300 plant and animal species. Uses include research, education and public enjoyment. Amenities include parking, picnic tables, trail benches and restrooms. The preserve is open year-round.

King Creosote Clone

The following year, another Nature Conservancy participating project was adopted at the 1984 Annual Convention. It was named the King Creosote Clone project. The purpose stated in the enabling resolution was to join forces with The Nature Conservancy, the Desert Protective Council, the California Native Plant Society and the Desert Empire District of California Garden Clubs, Inc. to acquire the necessary land to preserve a creosote shrub that had existed since the last Ice Age.

The growing habits of creosote bushes (*Larrea tridentate*) perpetuate the original plant by sending out stem segments that take root and produce new creosote rings, each one an exact clone of the original bush. As the interior portions of the ring have died back, new stems have continued producing new rings, genetically identical with the seedling plant, forming an elliptical ring, seventy-five feet long and twenty-five feet wide.

Several other large clones in the same area were included in The Nature Conservancy acquisition. Creosote clones are the oldest living organisms known today, pre-dating the bristlecone pine and ancient redwoods by several thousands of years. It is estimated that King Clone is 11,700 years old.

Again, The Nature Conservancy was able to purchase a property (17 acres) and a priceless natural phenomenon before the threatened land was subdivided and developed by real estate interests. By 1985, escrow had closed on the property that included the King Clone, and the projected program was for the University of California at Riverside to administer the area for research and study. Since The Nature Conservancy had borrowed money in order to purchase the property (\$17,000), donations continued to be in order to replace these funds, with the Desert Empire District's enthusiastic promotion of the project.

Today you will find the Creosote Rings Preserve location in the California Mojave desert between Lucerne Valley and Johnson Valley on Highway 247. Head north on Bessimer Mine Road. Approximately .6 miles from the highway on the east side of the road you will find the beginning of a fenced area, triangle shaped, protecting the ancient creosote rings.

Coachella Valley Preserve

The Coachella Valley Preserve, a Nature Conservancy project, was adopted by CGCI in 1985-1986. The site of this preserve included the Thousand Palms Oasis that is fed by waters seeping continually along the San Andreas Fault. It is also noted for its ever-changing sand dunes, blown across the valley floor, a process that continually regenerates the desert system. These oases and sand dunes are the home of some 130 species of plants, and include at least 1,200 native California fan palms. The project was funded in 1987.

The preserve began in April 1984 with the purchase of 1,920 acres by the California Nature Conservancy. It was expanded by the support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Game and is now jointly owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. The preserve grew to encompass 17,000 acres, protecting three separate desert dune fields and six palm forests.

Today the Coachella Valley Preserve is 20,000 acres of pristine desert with 20 miles of established hiking trails, a rustic visitors center and picnic area. It is located between Palm Springs and Indio, approximately eight miles from the Ramon Exit off of Interstate 10 to the visitor's center parking area. The management is a cooperative effort by the federal, state and private agencies that together own the lands that make up the preserve. The Conservancy acts as the coordinating agency and hires a fulltime preserve director. The preserve is open sunrise to sunset.

Cosumnes River Preserve

The Cosumnes is the last remaining undammed river on the western slope of the Sierra Nevadas. The 80-mile river tumbles from the headwaters in the red firs of the El Dorado National Forest. As it descends the western slopes of the Sierra Nevadas, it nourishes and breeds not only riparian forests but wetlands, vernal pool-dotted grasslands and blue oak

woodlands, spilling at last into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The broad floodplain of the lower river harbors rare valley oak riparian forests and freshwater wetlands used by thousands of resident and migratory birds.

Always concerned about the preservation of California's natural resources and the proper usage of its assets, CGCI went on record in November 1989 to support The Nature Conservancy's purchase of 1,454 acres of land bordering the Cosumnes River between Highway 99 and Interstate 5 in Central California. The new preserve – Cosumnes River Riparian Vegetation Preserve – included the largest free-flowing river in California's Central Valley with valley oak, salmon and steelhead trout, black-tailed mule deer, mink and the Pacific tree frog which represent species endangered by encroaching land development.

Many of today's valley oaks were growing along the edge of the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta when John Sutter first explored the area. With the gold rush, however, and land clearance to make way for farms and orchards, many of the valley oaks were used for lumber and fuel.

The Nature Conservancy plan was to reforest some two hundred acres, using acorns gathered from the remaining standing oaks. The area was also once home to the California grizzly bear, which shared the acorn crop with the Cosumnes (Miwok) Indians.

Cosumnes River Preserve was designated the state president's project by CGCI President Gladys Nielsen, 1989-1991. At the 1990 Annual Convention, a gift of \$500 to the Cosumnes River project was authorized from the Green Book Fund. The project was retired at the end of the 1990-1991 term.

Today The Nature Conservancy and seven governmental and non-profit partners manage the Cosumnes River Preserve, which is approximately 40,000 acres in size. The Nature Conservancy has created more than 1,500 acres of new wetlands, participated in reforestation projects, removed levees along the river in order to restore natural flooding processes, and worked with local farmers in developing sustainable agricultural practices. In the next few years, The Nature Conservancy intends to acquire more strategically located properties, not just in the lower floodplain but also upstream, where the natural landscapes include grasslands, vernal pools and blue oak woodlands. The Cosumnes River Preserve is open year round, sunrise to sunset.

Kern River Preserve

The Kern River Preserve was purchased in 1979 by The Nature Conservancy. In 1986, the first of many large scale re-vegetation projects of native tree species on cleared agricultural fields began.

The Kern River Preserve, adopted as a CGCI participating project, was approved at Convention in 1988. Within six years (1986-1992), seven fields consisting of over 300 acres were planted with more than 44,000 cottonwood and willow trees by the Volunteer Habitat Restoration teams totaling over 17,695 hours. Members of the Oasis Garden Club of Indian Wells Valley planted 2,300 cottonwood and willow trees to benefit the endangered yellow-billed cuckoo bird and willow flycatcher. An overall increased population of birds was observed.

Three hundred dollars was donated by CGCI's Green Conservation Fund in 1992. The last site to be planted was the Colt site, behind the headquarters and visitors center, covering twelve acres with 2,200 new trees. It was planted in 1993. After the 1994 growing season, there were no more large-scale re-vegetation projects on the Kern River Preserve.

The Nature Conservancy began looking for an organization that could manage the Kern River Preserve as well or better than The Nature Conservancy. Eight organizations and agencies were interviewed, and the Audubon Society-California was selected. In February 1997, Audubon-California began managing the Kern River Preserve. The deed to the 1,127 acre preserve transferred ownership on November 25, 1998. At Convention in 1999, Kern River was discontinued as a State Project at the suggestion of the Advisory Council since the preserve had been adopted by the Audubon Society-California.

Today the preserve is 2,789 acres. It is located along the South Fork Kern River, 57 miles northeast of Bakersfield, along State Highway 178 near Weldon at the site of the historic Andrew Brown Ranch. More than 240 bird species have been observed, including the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo (still endangered in California) and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher; 129 species of butterflies (over half of the known species in the state), over 2,000 species of plants (almost one-third of the flora of California); and the highest diversity of mammals in the United State (at least 115 species). The preserve is open dawn to dusk each day.

Upper McCloud River Preserve

The McCloud River is one of California's aquatic jewels. It is located north of the Sierra Nevadas and at the southern end of the Cascade Range, winding its way down a scenic canyon beneath the rugged slopes of 14,000-foot Mount Shasta.

In October 1985, Top O' the State District submitted a resolution to support the permanent preservation of the Upper McCloud River by inclusion of this river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems. CGCI supported its resolution in principle. The Scenic Rivers Act was passed in 1968, specifying eight rivers which would be preserved in their free-flowing state, and new development would be prohibited in "wild river" areas.

The Upper McCloud River, at the base of Mt. Shasta, is highly prized for its fishing, bird watching and nature trails, and as a place of outstanding natural beauty. As a result of this resolution, state legislation placed the Upper McCloud River under the protection of the Wild and Scenic Rivers systems for a period of three years. The Scenic Rivers program was not renewed at the end of the three-year period.

Through the efforts of The Nature Conservancy, however, riverside property owned by the Champion International Lumber Company was traded for comparable acreage in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The McCloud River Preserve which was created guarantees the freedom of the river area from encroachment.

Today the McCloud River Preserve is 2,330 acres. It is open from sunrise to sunset, offers three miles of hiking trails and a self-guided nature walk. It is located about 20 miles east of the town of McCloud off of Highway 89.

STAGECOACH HILL AZALEA PROJECT

The only place in the world where the native western azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*) grows in great profusion and variety is on Stagecoach Hill. A magnificent panorama of Big Lagoon, Patrick's Point and the Pacific Ocean can be experienced from Stagecoach Hill as the azaleas are viewed.

Located near the National Council of State Garden Clubs' and the California Garden Clubs' redwood groves in Humboldt County in Northern California, this two-mile long hillside contains beautiful, fragrant and unique azaleas -- thousands of them. They are self-hybridizing wild azaleas, no two of which are alike; and they range in size from twelve feet high to dwarfs of only sixteen inches. The colors

vary from white, through pinks to red and yellow, and they occur in many combinations. The petal shapes differ, as do the number of blossoms per stem. Many of the petals are frilled.

Naturalists from all over the world come to Stagecoach Hill to study and marvel at this remarkable colony of self-hybridizing plants. *Rhododendron occidentale* is the only azalea with seventy-eight chromosomes (hexaploid). This large number of chromosomes contributes to the tremendous variation in flower, growth, and foliage seen on Stagecoach Hill.

The ever-changing flowers of Stagecoach Hill are truly a symphony of nature. Much wildlife abounds there. Cougar, deer and elk and signs of bear and porcupine are present. Birds are numerous; hawks, doves, bush-tits, grouse and hummingbirds add to the beautiful environment. Numerous other native plants are to be found: lilies, *Brodiaea*, *Darlingtonia*. The combination of mild temperatures, high humidity (fog, in addition to rain), and worn-out black soil encourages all forms of this native species deciduous azalea to live and reproduce. After hundreds of thousands of years in the evolutionary development, the azaleas have found a niche in Stagecoach Hill where every conceivable variation of flower size and form, flower color combination, and bud size, shape and color is found. Leaf size, form and color are also varied.

Land clearing for farming and housing has eliminated many concentrations of azaleas along the coast. There is no marketable timber on Stagecoach Hill and no residents on the important areas; this wilderness contains azaleas, *Ceanothus*, alder and small spruce. The spruce needs controlling so as not to take over the azaleas.

Since 1977, by resolution, California Garden Clubs, Inc. has been dedicated to raising money to support this natural beauty. Each contribution through California State Parks Foundation brings to the donor or honoree a colorful "deed," indicating that a portion of azaleas acreage on Stagecoach Hill has been set aside in that person's name.

Now the project is nearing completion, and the unique and colorful azaleas will be saved from encroaching development; and when completed, it will be deeded to the California Parks and Recreation Department and placed in its care.

A recent matching grant of \$7,500 has been given by the Humboldt Foundation. This matching grant serves as a challenge to California Garden Clubs to contribute as much as possible now in order to finish this project.

Adapted from writings of Dr. Mossman
Mrs. Milton R. Bell, Chairman
Stagecoach Hill Azalea Project



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

At Convention in 1982, \$500 was approved from the CGCI Green Conservation Fund to help bring this project to

completion. The goal of \$60,000 for the basic acquisition was met by October 1982 when it was decided to continue raising money for the project for two purposes: 1. To purchase land beyond the basic acquisition to protect the resource; and 2. To develop trails and an interpretive sign display. In 1983, the California State Parks Foundation, with help from California Garden Clubs, Inc. and the California Coastal Conservancy acquired the land on Stagecoach Hill and gave it to the California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks). Stagecoach Hill Azalea Project was dedicated June 4, 1984. In 1991 the Harry A. Merlo State Recreation Area began managing the area.

Through the years, Sitka spruce, cascara, Ceanothus, Baccharis, alders, huckleberries, scotch broom, pampas grass and wild blackberry continued to hamper the growth of the azaleas. Hand-cutting, cutting with mechanical devices, pile burning and broadcast burning have helped maintain the azaleas.

Suggestions for the future include:

- Contracting with a local native plant nursery to collect seeds and cuttings for propagation of azalea seedlings to be planted at the Reserve.
- Make sure trail maintenance work continues on a yearly basis.
- Install new signs at Highway 101 and Kane Road to help visitors find the Reserve.
- Improve and enlarge the visitor parking areas.

Mary Lou Goodwin, CGCI President, 1991-1993

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION PROJECT

The Theodore Payne Foundation is in reality a continuation of Theodore Payne's nursery, which began in 1903 when he went into business for himself. In 1922 he purchased ten acres on Los Feliz Boulevard, and there handled mostly native plants until his retirement in 1961 at the age of ninety. During these forty years, he brought over 400 species of native plants into cultivation.

The Payne Foundation was conceived around 1958 as a method of carrying on Theodore Payne's work, and early meetings were held at Payne's Los Feliz nursery. The Foundation was incorporated in 1960; and later that year, Mr. Payne turned over to it all of his plants, seed and equipment. Another early donation was a collection of one hundred

original watercolor paintings of desert wildflowers by the artist, Jane Pinheiro.

The Theodore Payne Foundation, under the direction of James Seaman, continued to run the nursery on Los Feliz Boulevard, but actually it was Mr. Seaman himself who, for ten years, raised plants at his own home and handled the many problems connected with establishing the Foundation.

Money had to be raised to move the nursery to a new site and to pay salaries. The big break came in 1966 when Edwin C. Merrill, who for many years had operated La Tuna Nursery, a small native plant and conifer nursery in Sun Valley, contacted the Foundation with a proposal. Mr. Merrill was willing to donate his nursery and all the land he owned around it, with the principal stipulation that he be able to live the rest of his life on the property. The site proved to be well-suited to the Foundation's needs, consisting of twenty-one acres of canyon bottom, hillsides and terraces. The topography and decomposed granite soil were ideal for the eventual display garden of natives, and the canyon bottom has proved large enough for today's production. Needless to say, an agreement was quickly reached and the Foundation had found a home.

In 1969 a significant sum of money was willed to the Payne Foundation by Elsie May, an ardent naturalist and long time friend of Erna Comby, a member of the Foundation Board of Directors. A few months later an adjacent house became available. Built on a two-acre site at the nursery's entrance, the house was well-suited for the Foundation's needs. Most of the funds from the Elsie May estate were used to acquire it.

Development of the Theodore Payne nursery facilities is still a top priority, and considerable progress has been made along these lines, such as Saran houses, mist systems and landscaping of some sections with a display of native plants and wildflowers.

The Theodore Payne Native Plant Guild is an auxiliary of the Theodore Payne Foundation. The purposes of the Guild are: to engage in activities which stimulate interest in California native plants, including participation in educational programs; to provide help in office and nursery; to raise funds for special projects; to perform other special functions as requested by the Foundation Board of Directors. All persons interested in preserving the natives are welcome at Guild meetings.

In November, 1979, the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Inc. was accepted by California Garden Clubs, Inc. as a new conservation project, with the purpose of providing certain capital improvements, needed in the propagation of native plants at the Foundation headquarters. The Theodore Payne nursery, an adjunct of the Foundation, stocks over 200 varieties of trees and shrubs and carries a large selection of seeds of native flowers. All gifts to the Theodore Payne Foundation are tax deductible and donors receive letters of acknowledgement of their donations. Checks payable to Theodore Payne Foundation, with the notation, "California Garden

Clubs Project – Propagation”, are received by the chairmen of the Theodore Payne Foundation Project.

Mrs. David Martin, Chairman
Theodore Payne Foundation Project



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Theodore Payne was a man of remarkable foresight and vision: In the early 1900s, he witnessed the accelerating destruction of California’s natural landscape and determined that, as a horticulturist, he could counteract the damage by propagating native plants and educating the public about the intrinsic beauty and the worth of California’s native flora. From then on, he worked tirelessly on behalf of California’s native plants, bringing over 400 species into cultivation through his nursery in Los Angeles, planting dozens of public and private native gardens throughout Southern California, and writing and lecturing about the need to preserve the State’s wildflowers and native plants. In 1960, the Theodore Payne Foundation was incorporated to continue his legacy; and in 1961, at the age of ninety, Mr. Payne bequeathed all of his plants, seed and equipment to the Foundation.

Today, as California’s only non-profit native plant nursery, seed source, education center and bookstore, the Foundation continues Mr. Payne’s pioneering work. With thirteen full- and part-time staff and an active seven-member board, the Foundation is one of California’s oldest environmental organizations and a vital resource for accurate and comprehensive information about California’s native flora. Located on twenty-two acres of chaparral and wildlife habitat in Sun Valley, California, the Foundation’s year-round nursery offers over five hundred species of native plants for sale. In recent years, the Foundation has added to its growing and propagation areas and refurbished its greenhouses with state-of-the-art irrigation systems and rolling benches. The plants in the nursery sales yard are organized by habitat; and each species is described by a sign detailing not only the plant’s water, space and soil requirements, but also its link to wildlife. The wildlife component is critical because California’s native fauna depends on native flora. Only 7% of insects can eat non-native plants, and without insects, higher forms of animal life will cease to exist.

Trails throughout the Foundation's twenty-two acres provide the public with a clear example of how, if every yard had just a corner of native plants, California's threatened and endangered birds and butterflies could make a strong comeback.

For its educational component, the Foundation offers classes for adults in botany, ecology, native plant-animal relationships, native plant horticulture and landscape design; and the Elementary Education Program offers field trips for third and fourth-grade students about plant adaptations, plant-animal connections and how the region's indigenous peoples adapted to the natural environment. Based on State of California science and social science education standards, the Program incorporates hands-on activities, science demonstrations and experiments, and it relates the material to the larger world.

The Foundation is also involved in county-wide efforts to preserve native landscapes. It supports efforts to restore portions of the Los Angeles River and establish an adjacent two and one half acre native plant children's garden in a new state park. The "Native Spirit Gardens" at the Rio de Los Angeles State Park will provide a respite for residents of the densely populated surrounding areas and an opportunity to learn about plant adaptations, plant-animal connections and the culture of the indigenous Tongva.

The Propagation Center was underwritten by CGCI through donations by member clubs and was dedicated June 1985. In September 1992, CGCI's Green Honor Book Fund gave \$300 to the Theodore Payne Foundation as one of five of its state projects. CGCI and the Foundation were committed to doing all that it could to help preserve the tremendous biodiversity of California. Home to nearly one-quarter of all the plants native to North America, California has about 6,000 species, more than any other state. CGCI eliminated as a CGCI sponsored project as approved at Fall Board 2006.

For more information about the Foundation, nursery stock, events, classes and seeds for sale through the e-store, please visit the Foundation's website at www.theodorepayne.org.

Lisa Novick, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator
Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native
Plants, Inc. and Mary Hugg, CGCI member



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

COOPERATIVE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Projects undertaken by CGCI have included cooperative ventures with the U.S. Forest Service, the California State Parks Foundation, the National Park Service, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. While the majority of state projects are no longer financially supported by CGCI as approved at the 2006 Fall Board, many clubs continue to contribute to the projects.

White Oak Farm

In February 1983, the CGCI Board of Directors adopted, in principle, a resolution regarding "A Day on the Farm" for presentation at the annual convention for consideration as a state project. The location of the proposed project was the 100 acre old Hope Ranch, situated in the Santa Monica Mountains, 3 miles from the Ventura Freeway and 6 miles from the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu Creek State Park, adjacent to the 750 acre White Oak Preserve. White Oak Farm was approved as a state project under the management of the California State Parks Foundation at the 1983 Annual Convention. The rich heritage of a California farm lifestyle was to be preserved for the present and future generations to observe and experience.

By October 1984, \$95,000 had been raised from club and corporate donations. After an enthusiastic beginning, activity at the White Oak Farm project began to slow down; and, by the end of 1989, it was disclosed that none of the money from the State Parks Foundation White Oak Farm Fund had yet been spent on the property's restoration. With the reassignment of personnel in the California State Parks Service in 1991-1992, a temporary halt was called on putting CGCI club donations to use. The State Park personnel stationed at White Oak Farm did everything in its power to protect and preserve the area, but plans for the future were not firm.

At Fall Board in 1992, Dorothy Copeland, CGCI White Oak Farm Chairman, reported that an investigation into the use of the funds contributed by Women's Clubs, Garden Clubs and nearby Chambers of Commerce had produced the information that all such monies had been used for other purposes by the

Foundation Management. The economy at the time did not warrant that the funds be regenerated or restored. The White Oak Farm Chairmanship in CGCI was eliminated at Winter Board 1993 and the balance in the White Oak Farm Special Fund was transferred by the Board of Directors to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park project at the 1993 Convention.

Mt. Diablo State Park Interpretive Center

A second California State Parks Foundation project was adopted by CGCI in January 1987, with a resolution to assist the Foundation in raising funds for constructing interpretative exhibits in the Summit Building of Mt. Diablo State Park. In 1951, Mt. Diablo was used as the starting point for establishing base meridian lines that are still used in official land surveys for real estate in California and parts of Nevada and Oregon. From the top of Mt. Diablo, one can see over 40,000 square miles in, at least, thirty-five of California's fifty-eight counties.

Upon inquiry of the State Parks Foundation in 1989, it was learned that the Summit Center Building project "had been put on hold" until late in 1989. This information led CGCI to establish an interest-earning Mt. Diablo Summit Building Fund in which donations from garden club members were deposited, including the donations already sent to the State Parks Foundation that were returned in full.

At the 1990 Convention, it was reported that renovation work had begun and that the State Parks Foundation had charged no fees when transferring CGCI's project monies to the interest-bearing CGCI Special Account. Renovation work was completed with State of California funds by Winter Board 1991. A botanical display in the Summit Building, partially funded by CGCI with \$300 from the Green Conservation Special Fund and over \$5,000 in donations from clubs and individuals, was completed the first week of June 1993. A beautiful diorama depicts mountain scenes including shrubs, trees, flora and fauna that inhabit Mt. Diablo.

The Mt. Diablo State Park Interpretive Center Open House was October 6, 1993, bringing this state project to completion. A plaque commemorates CGCI's contribution.

Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area

Visitation at Mono Lake has continued to increase since 1984, when it was designated as the Mono Basin National Forest

Scenic Area by the United States Congress. Mono Lake is at least 700,000 years old--the oldest lake on the North American continent, with the exception of Lake Tahoe. It is located at the base of the Sierra Nevadas on Highway 395 between Bishop and Bridgeport at Lee Vining and is considered both a biological and geological wonder.

With its gradual reduction in size, due to centuries of natural evaporation, Mono Lake became heavily saline and mineral-laden. Another serious factor that contributed to its distressed condition was the diversion of water from the lake into the Los Angeles basin. The drastic lowering of Mono Lake's water level created a land bridge between the two islands in the lake and the mainland which caused deep concern for the future of millions of migrating birds and for the plant and animal life that sustains them.

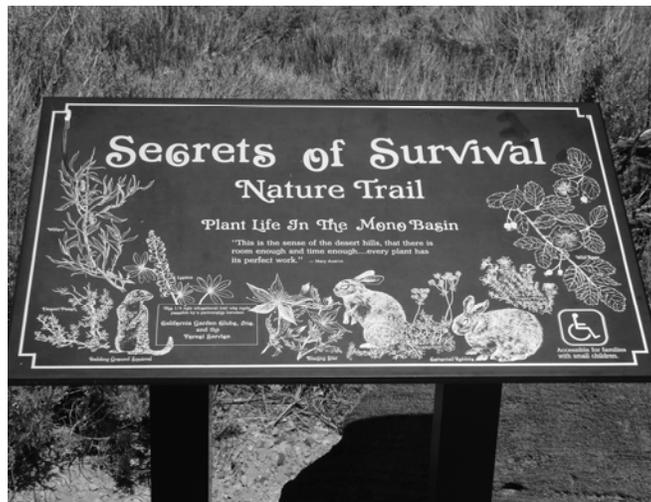
Working in conjunction with the U.S. National Forest Service, the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area project was adopted as an education and conservation project in 1987 at CGCI's Annual Convention. Under the supervision of the National Forest Service, the Mono Basin Environmental Education Fund was also established to receive donations for landscaping around the proposed Visitor Center, as well as for educational purposes. The collection agreement stipulated that donations be made in multiples of \$40 only, earmarked for the Mono Basin Education Fund.

Congress funded the construction of the new Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center, located north of Lee Vining which opened in 1992. CGCI requested that donations from its members be used for construction of a paved, handicapped-accessible nature trail, with interpretive signs--the trail to be called "Secrets of Survival – Plant Life in the Mono Basin."

In 1994, the courts ordered Los Angeles to restore the streams which had been diverted into the aqueduct. The waters of Mono Lake began to rise, and, with this rising, the land bridge to the island disappeared--returning to the nesting birds, security from predators, to raise their young.

A second interpretive nature trail at the Visitors Center was needed. This trail, "Water Conservation through Creative Landscaping," featured bird-friendly landscaping highlighting native plants. CGCI was again to be featured on the signage. Dedication was set for June 15, 2000 but was postponed indefinitely due to the CGCI President's busy travel schedule. The Mono Basin project was evaluated by the CGCI Advisory

Council and not renewed after the 1999-2001 term due to declining financial support from member clubs.



Through a partnership with the US Forest Service, CGCI helped develop an outdoor educational exhibit at Mono Lake Visitors Center

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

The resolution to adopt Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden's interpretive sign project was approved at the 1995 Convention. While it began as Peggy Northon's President's Project for the term 1995-1997, the Board of Directors continued it through 2006. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSABG) was founded in 1927 and is dedicated to research, education and conservation. It is one of the leading botanic gardens in the nation – the largest focusing on California flora. Through the years, funds were generated by CGCI member clubs to help finance the purchase of colorful, informative and enduring interpretive signs as well as plant identification signs. RSABG offers many courses, lectures and seminars. RSABG joined CGCI as an affiliate member in 1989, and CGCI's association has allowed its members the opportunity to take advantage of all that it offers. The project was discontinued at Fall Board 2006.

NGC Butterfly Garden at U.S. Botanic Garden

In 1997, NCSGC (now NGC) began planning to participate in the three-acre National Garden project adjacent to the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. The dream was to build a butterfly garden within the National Garden. State Presidents for the 1997-1999 administration went to Washington, D.C. following the 1997 National Convention in South Carolina where they toured the site, were immersed in the plans and left with an abundance of enthusiasm. They became instrumental in the success of the project.

To raise funds, a variety of items were produced for sale:

- Limited edition ornaments for the National Garden, one for each of the years of the project – 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000. Approximately 30,900 ornaments were sold. Additional ornaments were designed for 2001 and 2002 creating additional sales of 6,200 ornaments.
- 500 limited edition commemorative plates by Lenox were designed to benefit the National Garden celebrating National Garden Club's 70th anniversary in 1999.
- For an annual membership fee of \$40, one could become a Supporter of the National Garden and a credit of \$8 was given back to NGC for each membership sold. At Fall Board in 1997, the Board of Directors approved CGCI's purchase of a one-year membership that was renewed for three years.
- A 1997 U.S. Botanic Garden Silver Dollar, a product of the U.S. Mint, was available.
- A National Garden Butterfly Pin was produced and sold.
- Engraved 4" x 10" bluestone granite garden pavers were sold to be placed in the Butterfly Garden Terrace. For a gift of \$1,000, the name of an individual, club, state, etc. would be forever etched in stone. 356 total pavers were sold that bear the names of clubs and members from every state in the nation; CGCI purchased two pavers which were engraved "Youth Gardeners of California" and "Members – California Garden Clubs, Inc."



One of two bluestone granite pavers purchased by CGCI and placed in the Butterfly Garden Terrace at the U.S. Botanic Garden, Washington, D.C.

Donations to the project from individuals, states and clubs were encouraged, and, in April 1999, NCSGC presented a check for \$357,228.13 to the National Fund on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. The Butterfly Garden Project was overwhelmingly received by garden club members throughout California and the United States. Their response was unprecedented and produced a tremendous amount of revenue.

The ensuing years presented many delays and problems including the death of Bob Hansen, Executive Director of NFUSBG (National Fund for the U.S. Botanic Garden). Additional delays resulted as a consequence of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The grounds of the U.S. Botanic Gardens were designated as a part of the U.S. Capitol grounds, which brought added restrictions. The added security became a significant factor in the substantial increase in the cost of constructing the National Garden, as originally designed. A decision was made to construct the garden in phases.

April 2004 marked the start of Phase I, which included the Butterfly Garden, the pavers, Rose Garden, Lawn Terrace, Hornbeam Court, pergolas, contouring and ornamental fencing. The donor pavers were placed in an attractive pattern in the Butterfly Garden Terrace, adjacent to the trellis. As of December 31, 2004, NGC received credit for \$525,057.96 for the National Garden. From May 1997 through August 5, 2001, \$33,419.46 was donated by CGCI members. At the end of 2005, there was over \$89,000 in the National Garden Project to educate the public on butterfly gardening.

With the challenges overcome, the dedication of the Butterfly Garden in the U.S. Botanic Garden was celebrated September 29, 2006 by three hundred people from all over the country attending the dedication ceremony, including 25 members of CGCI. The Butterfly Garden includes plants that attract butterflies, a bronze sundial and four benches featuring butterflies and roses. The Butterfly Garden Project is a tremendous success because of the enthusiastic response, overwhelming support and extraordinary efforts of our members.



SHORT TERM PROJECTS

The National Peace Garden Project

Congress authorized the National Peace Garden in 1987. The waterfront site, approved in 1988, embraced 10-acres at Hains Point in Washington, D.C., about two miles south of the Jefferson Memorial. A resolution to adopt the proposal as a California Garden Clubs project was accepted at the 1988 Annual Convention.

The concept of the garden by the landscape architecture firm of Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey was approved, July 1993. Authorization for this memorial was extended for three years to June 30, 1997. While CGCI, Regional and National Garden Clubs were generous in their contributions to the National Peace Garden dream, there was never enough money to satisfy President Reagan's stipulation in 1987 that money to complete the garden be on hand before ground was broken. At the 1996 Convention, CGCI recommended no more money be donated until success had occurred. The National Peace Garden Foundation in Washington, D.C. hoped to raise \$13 million dollars in sizeable grants rather than individual donations. The memorial was reauthorized for another five years in July 1998 and, to date, has not been built.

California Hall of Flowers

The California Hall of Flowers was adopted as a CGCI project at the 1989 Annual Convention in Rancho Cordova. The estimated cost of the 50,000 square-foot proposed building to be constructed at the California Exposition and State Fairgrounds in Sacramento was projected to be \$7 million.

The proposed building was planned to serve as the Hall of Flowers during the annual State Fair, and to be used for floriculture and specialized garden and horticultural exhibitions during the balance of the year. Plans also included meeting places for simultaneous large meetings, seminars, etc.

All funds donated by CGCI members were to be deposited by California Hall of Flowers, Inc., a non-profit corporation, in a savings account for CGCI. A number of promotional items were offered for sale, as well as charter memberships, which carried a ten percent discount on California Hall of Flowers merchandise.

After almost two years without a firm plan for the location of the new Hall of Flowers building, nor a consensus of opinion on the structure of the Hall itself, CGCI took action. At the 1991 Fall Board meeting, it was voted that the money donated to the California Hall of Flowers by CGCI members be returned to CGCI and be held in a special fund, together with any additional donations, for a period of two years, at which time disposition of the fund would be determined. At the 1992 Winter Board meeting, the sum of \$13,595.69 previously donated to the Hall of Flowers had been returned and deposited into the CGCI account. At the 1994 Annual Convention, it was approved to transfer the balance of the Hall of Flowers Fund to the Scholarship Fund, thereby closing the account.

Adopt-a-Highway Program

In 1990, following a presentation by a new Caltrans participating project to help keep California's highways clean and to encourage roadside plantings, CGCI accepted the new Adopt-a-Highway program as a state project. There were three ways to participate: Litter Removal, Wildflower Planting and Seedling Tree Establishment. Clubs and districts not joining the program were also able to participate by making contributions for roadside beautification throughout the state.

CGCI's involvement with the program was short-lived upon learning that Adopt-a-Highway could seriously jeopardize its insurance program. At Winter Board in 1991, the Board of Directors authorized that the program be dropped.

In 1996, CGCI received approval from the insurer to plant wildflowers along Caltrans highways. A new Caltrans program, California WILD, was introduced as a new approach to roadside beautification. A collaborative partnership among The Nature Conservancy, California Native Plant Society, CGCI, the Federal

Highway Administration and Caltrans indicated a changing attitude toward roadside wildflower planting.

National Friendship Garden

Developing a Friendship Garden, to be established on 1.5 acres at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., was selected by National President Mrs. C. Manning Smith as the two-year president's project, to be completed by the end of her term of office in 1991. The National Council Board of Directors approved \$5,000 to get the project underway, with contributions from members and clubs solicited. CGCI adopted the resolution at the 1990 Winter Board. The Friendship Garden, designed by landscape architects Wolfgang Oehme and James Van Sweden, created a true-to-life landscape scenario typical of a suburban home. Planting beds were full of low-maintenance and year-round interest plants – desirable characteristics for today's busy homeowner. \$1,572 was contributed by CGCI districts, clubs and members. The opening celebration of The Friendship Garden was held April 24, 1991.



Photo taken of Friendship Garden at U.S. National Arboretum, September 30, 2006 when CGCI sponsored a Theater and Garden Tour to Washington, D.C.

East Bay Firestorm Reforestation Project

The East Bay Firestorm Reforestation project to restore the Lake Temescal Wilderness area was authorized at the 1992 Winter Board meeting to be concluded by December 31, 1995. This vital habitat, located north of Oakland along Highway 13, lies in the rift valley of the Hayward Fault and was destroyed in the October 1989 firestorm that swept the Oakland hills. Many other state organizations and local nurserymen's groups helped finance a mass planting of coast redwoods, oaks and native shrubs around the 13-acre lake, and the wilderness is again alive and growing. \$1,500 was contributed by CGCI districts, clubs and members and forwarded to the East Bay Regional Parks Foundation on its behalf.



CGCI PRESIDENTS' PROJECTS

Many CGCI Presidents have found a project dear to their hearts in which they sought financial support from districts, clubs and members. These projects are in addition to the various State sponsored projects adopted throughout the years. Examples of such projects have included:

- Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Fort Bragg
- Conejo Valley Botanic Garden, Thousand Oaks
- California Living Museum (C.A.L.M.), Bakersfield
- The Gardens at Heather Farm, Walnut Creek
- Garden Restoration at Hearst Castle, San Simeon



***Garden Tour of Hearst Castle at CGCI San Simeon
"Selebration" held May 5-7, 2005***

DIVISION VII – EDUCATION

Scholarships

Flower Show Schools

State Standard Flower Shows

Landscape Design Study Courses

Landscape Design Critics Council

Garden Centers

Environmental Education

Gardening Study Courses

Alice Hilton Memorial Library

Permanent Files

“Flower in the crannied wall
I pluck you out of the crannies.
I hold you here, root and all, in my hand
Little flower, - but if I could understand
What you are, root and all, and all in all,
I should know what God and man is.”

- Alfred, Lord Tennyson



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Environmental Studies School

Gardening Consultants Council

NGC Four Star Members

Wildflower Conference

SCHOLARSHIPS

With the first life membership fees deposited in an endowment fund in the early 1940's, the establishment of a California Garden Clubs scholarship program was initiated. By 1964 the Life Membership Fund had reached the goal of \$5,000 agreed upon some years before, and the surplus over this base figure was available for scholarships. Principal requirements for interested seniors graduating from high school were scholastic aptitude, financial needs, and a state objective of a college major in a field directly related to the objectives of California Garden Clubs, Inc. The Board of Trustees, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Harry F. Hunter, served as the scholarship committee, being charged with administering the invested funds of California Garden Clubs. The first two scholarship recipients received \$500.00 each, with the announcement appearing in *Golden Gardens* in May, 1965.

The following year Mrs. Hunter was appointed scholarships chairman and the Board of Trustees continued to serve as the scholarship committee for the purpose of choosing the annual winners and of recommending the amount of the scholarships. A subsequent bylaws amendment has made this arrangement permanent. Checks are sent directly to the California colleges where the recipients are enrolled, and are credited to their accounts for college expenses. The number of scholarships awarded each year is determined by the amount of money received during the year for new life memberships, and by earned interest on the Life Membership Endowment Trust Fund. In 1980, upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, the state scholarships were increased from \$500.00 to \$750.00

A bequest of \$4,602.36 to the scholarship fund was received in 1969 from the estate of Past State President, Mrs. Walter G. Brendel, and this sum was deposited in the Life Membership Endowment Fund. In 1980, the Board of Trustees recommended that a scholarship in the name of May Belle Brendel be given annually to the qualified applicant with the highest scholastic standing, and the first such winner was announced the following year. In naming the May Belle Brendel Scholarship winner for 1982, it was voted to increase the amount of this scholarship by \$250.00, making the award \$1,000.



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

CGCI has continued to support educating California youth by providing financial assistance in the form of scholarships funded by CGCI life memberships and donations to the Scholarship Fund. Both the number of scholarships and amounts awarded has varied these past twenty-five years. In 1981, four \$750 scholarships were awarded to high school students interested in botany, forestry, landscape architecture or design and other

related subjects. For many years, an additional \$250 was awarded to the scholarship winner with the highest scholastic achievement known as the May Belle Brendel Scholarship.

Subjects compatible with CGCI objectives were expanded to include conservation, entomology, floriculture, horticulture, plant biology, urban planning or research in allied fields in addition to the subjects listed previously. The amount of CGCI scholarships increased to \$1,000 each and expanded to include students who have completed one year of college. Additional scholarships for limited times have included the Mercedes T. Murner Horticulture Scholarship of \$1,000; the Lee Duffield Scholarship of \$1,000 and the Wil J. Tebo Scholarship of \$1,500.

Today, two one-year scholarships are offered in the amount of \$2,000 each. The requirements are the same as both NGC and Pacific Region Scholarships in that applicants must be a college junior, senior or graduate student; have a minimum grade point average of 3.25 and career plans must be related to Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Botany, Forestry, Agronomy, Conservation, Plant Pathology, Environmental Concerns, City Planning and/or allied subjects.

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS

We have journeyed fifty years with California Garden Clubs, Inc., through struggles of forming on our own and then regrouping to conform with National Council, but through the flaps and furor, our goals have remained the same as in the beginning. We are still trying to assure knowledgeable, ethical and constructive judging. Essentially, the ways of obtaining these goals have remained the same.

In order to understand California's place in the history of the Flower Show Schools, we first need to view the chronological progression. In 1931, The Federated Garden Clubs of New York offered the first course in "the gentle art of judging." In December of that same year at the first Board of Directors meeting of the new California Garden Club Federation, a special committee of three was appointed. Headed by Mr. H. M. Butterfield, the team was to research and set up a Judges Course. In 1939 National Council appointed a committee to outline standards for judging, although National Council Judging Schools were not started until 1943.

One must applaud the insight and depth of understanding of the structure of flower shows shown in Mr. Butterfield's report on the progress of the Flower Show and Judging Committee. Fifty years later we recognize that little has changed. Consideration was given to small and large shows, differing conditions over the state and the appointment of flower show committees. There was the recognition of how important

the schedule was. "We are offering terms used in the schedule, in the hopes that serious confusion can be avoided when there is a difference of opinion regarding definitions," e.g., amateur, professional, substance, cultural perfection. Every facet seems to have been remembered, even to the "Proper Treatment of Judges." The subjects of junior gardeners, approval of schedules, accepting judges' score cards and awards for flower shows were noted for future consideration.

The years between 1932, when the states were allowed to set up their own schools and issue credentials, and 1943, when National Council assumed responsibility, were times of development. Schools were held in the North and in the South. The North held the first in April 1933, and in November Los Angeles followed.

Almost immediately the Board of Directors realized the importance of a uniform system for operating schools within the state. Mr. Butterfield's "Protective Outline for the Judging and Flower Show Appreciation Courses" was adopted for use. The outline was published and sold for 25 cents per lecture or \$1.25 for the set. Now, all schools must be arranged or approved by the State Chairman.

When National Council came out with its requirements for judging, those judges previously accredited by the State were allowed to transfer earned credits and then take the examination for accreditation. This was allowed until 1945, after which the same standard was used for all the states.

After National Council set the standards for holding Flower Show Schools, California was faced with the problem of no accredited instructors. Oakland solved the problem by using credentialed teachers already on the Adult Education staff. In 1951, with National Council's approval, a school, led by Mr. Louis LeValley and with Harry Butterfield and Web Allen as instructors, was held. There was a deviation from the accepted three-day basis to three two-hour classes twice a week or two classes a week for three weeks.

In 1952-1953, the South conducted a school under the direction of Dr. Etta Gray and the eminent Philip Chandler. The two ten-week courses of three-hour classes one day a week were held during two semesters at Hollywood High School. In 1952 we welcomed our first accredited judge, Mrs. Harold Wilcox from St. Louis.

In 1954 we had the first eight members of California Garden Clubs, Inc. to hold cards as Nationally Accredited Amateur Judges after passing the five schools, reading examination and completing all the requirements. Those so honored were Mrs. F. F. Canham, Mrs. Charles T. Ebert, Mrs. W. L. Deverel, Mrs. Noel Gaubert, Mrs. J. H. Henderson, Mrs. Naida Hayes (Palmer), Mrs. George Politis and Mrs. Elmer Schaefer.

These were followed in the fall by Mrs. Arthur Mann, Mrs. Everett Brown, Mrs. Walter Brendel, Mrs. Dale Wigle, Mrs. R. E. Tiernan, Mrs. Bill Jackson, Mrs. Harold Parkinson, Mrs. Henry Koch, Mrs. V. H. Pinckney, Mrs. Donald Nicholson, Mrs. Stanley Burton and Mrs. Paul Frenzel, who transferred from Texas as a judge and instructor.

Interestingly, the first Judges Council, known as the Judges Council of Northern California, was organized in 1952 as an advanced study group. The Council urged that all judges realize the need for such a group and either join one or organize one. In 1955 the Judges Council in Oakland (now Founders), sprouted a branch, the Judges Council of Southern California. Today we have four more councils, bringing the total to six with the addition of Southwestern Judges Council, Valley Judges Council, Judges Council of Orange County and the Cascade Judges Council.

Reaching back into the 1932 State Yearbook, we realize the dilemma of who were to be the instructors in the Judges Courses offered, as a recommendation was made for a system of apprentice judges to train those who wanted to be qualified judges. The foundations for National Council's system were being worked out in the field.

By 1955 we had fourteen accredited Flower Show Instructors. Our hats are off to H. M. Butterfield, Burton Edwards, Louis LeValley, H. W. Shepherd, Ned S. Rucker, Jack Daniels, and Mmes. M. E. Hamilton, Paul Frenzel, J. H. Henderson, George Politis, F. F. Canham, Warren Deverel, Charles Evert and Everett Brown.

Now we had both judges and instructors and the realization of the need for expanded study in flower arranging and horticulture. The year was 1959 and we were ready to hold our first symposium. The sponsor was the Founders Group of the Judges Council and the place, Berkeley. Planned by Mrs. Herbert Stevens and Mrs. Milton R. Bell, the symposium was an acclaimed success, with 150 in attendance. Mrs. W. H. Barton, National Flower Show Schools Chairman lectured on "Distinction and Originality" in design, and Mr. Louis LeValley of Fresno State College lectured on chrysanthemums. The third instructor was Dr. Williard Resenquist of the University of California, with slides illustrating "the effect of light." In retrospect we remember how closely we worked and depended on the men to help us with our beginning.

We have inherited a history of dedication and initiative. The world is another place from that of fifty years ago. We cannot rest on our laurels, but must look to the future. In this golden year let us assess our position and direction to assure another fifty years of pleasure and progress for those who will follow us.

Mrs. T. D. Roberts
Master Flower Show Judge



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

During the past 25 years, CGCI has had 15 Flower Show Schools throughout the state from Eureka to San Diego. As of 2007, we had 133 accredited Judges, 63 masters, 17 life, 48

accredited and 7 student judges. We began with 9 accredited instructors in California in 1983, and the last accredited instructor, Arleen Chasson, went Emeritus in 2005. Presently there are no accredited instructors in California.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. requested that the Flower Show Committee duties be divided. The Flower Show Committee now consists of The Flower Show Schools, Chairman of the Committee, and Credentials, Symposia, Flower Show Awards and Schedule Chairmen.

Local judges councils have formed and dissolved through the years. The 2006-2007 *Yearbook, Manual and Roster* lists the following:

- Cascade Judges Council
- Feather River Judges Council
- Founders Council of Judges
- Judges Council of Southern California
- Southwestern Judges Council
- Valley Judges Council

At Winter Board 2007, Capital Judges Council was approved in the Sacramento area.

CGCI is honored to have had the following people serve as Flower Show Schools Chairmen: Helen Gates, Pansy Dolezal, Netta Hafler, Edie Pate, Glenn Haugh and Dolores Moffat. The following is a listing of the majority of NGC Flower Show Schools held in California from 1951 to present:

DATE	LOCATION	LOCAL CHAIRMAN
1951-52	San Francisco	Mrs. Alfred Smith
1952-53	Oakland	Mrs. George A. Politis
1951-54	Visalia	Helen B. Moore
1952-53	Hollywood	Etta Gray, M. D.
1952-54	Oakland	Mrs. Charles Ebert
1954-56	Oakland	Mr. Herbert Stevens
1954-56	San Mateo	Mrs. Robert L. Kahn
1955-59	North Hollywood	Mr. Paul T. Silvius
1955-58	San Diego	Mrs. Sheldon Thacher
1955-57	Stockton	Mrs. J. A. Raynor
1956-58	San Jose	Mrs. D. R. George
1956-58	Sacramento	Mrs. Vernon Bogle
1957-58	Visalia	Mrs. Stuart Watson

1958-60	Ukiah	Mrs. Shirley Brown
1958-60	Santa Rosa	Mrs. Lee Shiedenberger
1959-61	Walnut Creek	Mrs. George Call
1960-62	Arcadia	Mrs. Keith T. Williams
1960-62	Escondido/San Diego	Mr. Clarence W. Benson
1961-63	Santa Clara	Mrs. Carl Arend, Jr.
1961-63	Fortuna	Mrs. Georgia Damon
1962-64	Sacramento	Mrs. Vernon Bogle
1964-66	Anaheim	Mrs. D. R. George
1965-67	Redding	Mrs. Charles Hogan
1968-70	San Diego	Mrs. Ralph Rosenberg
1968-72	Los Angeles	Mrs. Wilton Halverson
1969-71	San Luis Obispo	Mrs. Louise Updegraff
1971-73	Visalia	Mrs. Myrtle Bradford
1972-74	Walnut Creek	Mrs. Melvin L. Jory, Jr.
1972-74	Palos Verdes	Helen Gates
1975-78	Thousand Oaks	Mrs. E. R. Moore
1974-76	Auburn	Mrs. Albert Canet
1976-78	San Diego	Mrs. Patrick Kennedy
1985-87	Merced	Earleen Henderson
1986-88	Eureka	Christine Kemp
1986-88	Santa Ana	Kay Chamberlain
1988-90	Auburn	Shirley Anderson
1989-91	Los Angeles	Jeannette Maxwell
1989-91	San Diego	Glenn Haugh
1991-93	San Luis Obispo	Marge Bigelow
1991-93	San Jose	Edie Pate
1994-96	Corning	Mildred Callaway
1996-98	Encino	Robin Pokorski
1997-99	San Mateo	Arleen Chasson
2001-03	Cottonwood/Redding	Mazie Jeanne George & Kathy Bramhall
2003-05	Rocklin/Auburn	Eltha Hannum & Myrtle Findley
2004-05	Rohnert Park/Petaluma	Liz Warren
2005-07	Riverside/Redlands	Patricia Claves

Symposia have been sponsored by CGCI every year. The Chairmen of Symposia include: Betty Odom, Helen Gates, Arleen Chasson, Mazie Jeanne George, Netta Hafler, Edie Pate, Perry Aminian and Sandi Lord.

SUMMARY OF SYMPOSIA

DATE	LOCATION	CHAIRMAN
1981	Visalia	Betty Odom
1982	Santa Rosa	Betty Odom
1983	San Jose	Betty Odom
1984	Newport	Betty Odom
1984	Sacramento	Helen Gates
1985	Fresno	Arleen Chasson
1986	San Diego	Arleen Chasson
1987	San Jose	Mazie Jeanne George
1988	Thousand Oaks	Mazie Jeanne George
1989	Sunnyvale	Netta Hafler
1990	Ontario	Netta Hafler
1991	Santa Rosa	Netta Hafler
1991	Long Beach	Netta Hafler
1992	Sacramento	Netta Hafler
1993	Visalia	Netta Hafler
1994	Ontario	Edie Pate
1995	Sunnyvale	Edie Pate
1996	San Diego	Edie Pate
1997	Sacramento	Edie Pate
1998	Visalia	Edie Pate
1999	Santa Clara	Edie Pate
2000	Bakersfield	Perry Aminian
2001	Bakersfield	Perry Aminian
2002	Burbank	Perry Aminian
2003	Bakersfield	Perry Aminian
2004	Bakersfield	Perry Aminian
2005	Carlsbad	Sandi Lord
2006	San Mateo	Sandi Lord
2007	Palm Springs	Sandi Lord

Dolores Moffat, CGCI Flower Show Schools
Chairman, 2003-2009

STATE STANDARD FLOWER SHOWS

Although many hundreds of flower shows have been staged by California garden clubs and districts throughout the history of the state federation, there have been only three statewide Standard Flower Shows in this period of time.

The first state Standard Show was an all-junior show, limited to members of junior garden clubs affiliated with California Garden Clubs, and was staged in 1961 in conjunction with the state convention held at the Claremont Hotel in Oakland. Invitational classes were also open to children of members, and the final tally showed 347 entries in the three required divisions, with the greatest participation being in horticulture. In the Garden Therapy class of the Educational Division, children ranging from four to twelve years old exhibited framed seed pictures; miniature arrangements in pill bottles, eucalyptus pods and snail shells; and miniature landscapes of succulents. They used fruits and vegetables to create animals and figures, and they made corsages and tray favors, completing over 100 entries in the Artistic Division alone.

Ten years later, in 1971, California Garden Clubs produced its first Standard State flower show, a one-day exhibit at California State Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Institute of Floral Designers. Arrangements were made for those unable to attend this afternoon and evening event to mail in their entries, to be set up on the University campus, and an elaborate cocktail buffet preceded the dinner dance that culminated the AIFD convention and the flower show.

The second statewide Standard Flower Show was held in San Luis Obispo on the campus of California State Polytechnic University, this one in March, 1976 having a bicentennial theme and remaining open to the public for three days. Special divisions were scheduled for landscaped gardens, garden art and crafts and door decorations, in addition to the regularly required Horticultural, Artistic and Educational Divisions. Special classes were set up for student judges, judges, teachers, lecturers, etc.; and the High School Division was open to any high school student in the State of California. Opening event of the show was a gala Bicentennial Flower Show Banquet where tables were set among the floral exhibits, with a ribbon cutting ceremony to start the festivities.



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

The third CGCI Standard Flower Show was held March 15-17, 1985 in San Luis Obispo. \$1,000 was received from Chevron USA to aid in assistance with expenses. "From the

Dons....to Space....and Beyond” was chaired by Eunice Antosik, with Bob Gordon as co-chairman.

The fourth CGCI Standard Flower Show was March 20-22, 1998 at the Performing Arts Building at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo. Over 3,000 people attended “Celebrating the Arts,” chaired by Bob Gordon with Edie Pate as co-chairman. There were 442 entries, judged by 25 out-of-state judges with eight Horticulture Top Exhibitor Awards; six Design Top Exhibitor Awards; three Youth Awards and one Educational Award which were given to the top winners.

The fifth CGCI Standard Flower Show was held in the Cow Palace near San Francisco in conjunction with the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show (SFF&G Show), March 16-19, 2000. The theme was “California Magic.” The co-chairmen were Dolores Moffat and Carmine Hoye.

The sixth CGCI Standard Flower Show was also held at the Cow Palace in conjunction with the SFF&G Show, March 20-24, 2002. The theme was “Mardi Gras.” The Co-Chairmen were Carmine Hoye and Gwen Nansen. There were approximately 500 exhibits including Horticulture, Design, Special Exhibits, Youth and Invitational. Twenty-one out-of-state judges judged the show. The book of evidence was an NGC first place winner.

In 2003 and 2004, CGCI participated in the SFF&G Show with a floral design exhibit. Kathy Bramhall was chairman. The theme of the exhibit in 2003 was “ABC of Flower Shows.” There were examples of all designs as described in *The Handbook for Flower Shows*. The theme of the exhibit in 2004 was “Flowers Around the World.”

Shane Looper and Dolores Moffat were co-chairmen in 2005, 2006 and 2007 of the floral design exhibits at the SFF&G Show via *Flowers at Show Time* (F.A.S.T.). CGCI members exhibited approximately 75 floral designs at the SFF&G Show each year.

Dolores Moffat
CGCI Flower Show Schools Chairman
2003-2009

In addition to the above, an Exhibition Flower Show sponsored by CGCI was held May 5-7, 2005 at the “San Simeon ‘Selebration’.” Floral designs were placed inside Hearst Castle and guesthouses by garden club designers from all over California, including CGCI President, Robert Gordon, as well as

NGC President, June Wood. Over 200 CGCI members, family and friends attended, representing districts throughout California.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN STUDY COURSES

The Landscape Design Study Course program in California began in April, 1959 on the University of California campus in Berkeley under the state chairmanship of Mrs. Milton R. Bell. California won top special citations, including the Spillars Award in 1967, from National Council of State Garden Clubs for this first Landscape Design Series held in the West.

The four courses of Series I, sponsored by California Garden Clubs, Inc., were presented under the auspices of the Department of Landscape Architecture, headed by Prof. Leland Vaughn; and among the instructors were nationally and internationally known landscape architects. The several hundred attendees (many of the Park Department and Forestry Service personnel, as well as garden club members) were privileged to hear such lecturers as Douglas Baylis, Thomas Church, Garrett Eckbo, Lawrence Halprin, Robert Royston, and Robert Tetlow. The series was completed in 1961, with nineteen Landscape Design Critics "graduated."

Series II, begun in June, 1964, was available to more members in the southern part of the state, being held in cooperation with the Landscape Architecture Department of California Polytechnic College at Pomona. Among the outstanding lecturers was Prof. Jere French, (author of "History of Landscape Architecture"), who later assisted in Series V in San Diego and, recently, at Series VIII.

An outstanding Landscape Design Conference on Civic Development, "Patterns for Progress," was held in September, 1966 at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Bell. Robert Rucker, National Council Chairman for the Landscape Design Courses, attended, as did several National Council officers. The conference included a day's meeting with S.P.U.R. (San Francisco Planning for Urban Renewal).

Series III moved north to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District Building, and among the lecturers was Ralph Jones, Landscape Architect, who designed the outstanding grounds of the utility. Mr. Jones, nationally known for his design of parks and playgrounds, also assisted in Series IV. These professionals, landscape architects and urban planners, have been most generous toward the Landscape Design Study Courses with their talents and time, and the state Landscape Design chairmen have found them to be a concerned group, dedicated to educating the public to proper land use.

Mrs. John C. Mathews, III became state Landscape Design chairman with Course III when Mrs. Bell assumed her duties as President of California Garden Clubs, Inc. Another lecturer in Sacramento was

Michael Laurie, Landscape Architect, whose later book, "An Introduction to Landscape Architecture," is now required reading for the Landscape Design Courses.

Series IV began in May, 1971 in San Mateo. Lecturers, who participated in this series, and again in a later series in Modesto, were Thomas A. Brown, Ronald Herman, and Richard Splenda. With Course III, Mrs. R. Nelson Nicholson became state chairman. Allan Reid, Landscape Architect, assisted Mrs. Nicholson in setting up the tour for Course IV (October, 1971) and now, in Series VII, is again an instructor, with his daughter Jennifer.

Again in Series V in San Diego, begun in the fall of 1973, instructors from the Landscape Architecture Department of California State Polytechnic University at Pomona assisted. An advisor and lecturer for the entire series was Roy H. Seifert, Landscape Architect and Land Planner.

Series VI was begun in October, 1975 on the Modesto Junior College campus. D. Dwight Wait, chairman of the Ornamental Horticulture Department, was general advisor and also a lecturer. Courses III and IV were conducted under the state chairmanship of Mrs. Thomas Pettigrew.

In October of 1980, one of the first Landscape Design Conferences on Historical Preservation was held in Old Town, San Diego, under the state chairmanship of Mrs. Leon Chasson, again with Thomas Brown on hand for the "history" lecture. California Garden Clubs received the Robert Rucker traveling plaque Pacific Regional Award for this conference, which was highlighted by walking tours of Old Town gardens and "Victorian Park" homes. A bus tour to Tijuana and Ensenada, with evaluation stops, followed the conference.

During 1981 and 1982, Series VII (September, 1981) at De Anza College, Cupertino, and Series VIII (October, 1981) at the UCLA campus are being given "back to back" under the enthusiastic chairmanship of Mrs. Chasson.

Mrs. R. Nelson Nicholson
Senior Active Landscape Design Critic



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

NGC now considers this program to be the **Landscape Design Study Program**. Landscape Design Critic changed to Landscape Design Consultant in 2000. Beverly Schmidt (when she was CGCI's LDSP Chairman) was instrumental in suggesting to NCSGC that the Landscape Design Critics be called something other than "Critics" because of the negative reaction Beverly had encountered in the community to the term Landscape Design "Critic." CGCI's Landscape Design Council

provided the suggestion that the Council members be called Landscape Design Consultants, an equivalent title to the Gardening Study and Environmental Studies Consultants. This change, driven by California, was approved at the May 2000 NCSGC Convention in San Diego.

At this same Convention, 136 Landscape Design Consultants and/or spouses participated in the Pre-Convention Landscape Design Refresher Tour, 'California Public Landscapes.' The capacity crowd from all over the country included 75 Consultants who refreshed their credentials. Sixteen Californians participated, 12 of whom received refresher credit. As CGCI's Landscape Design Council Chairman, at the time, I was given the first printed Landscape Design Consultant Cards, and I issued the first (in the nation) Landscape Design Consultant Refresher Cards to all those who participated in the tour.

Greg Pokorski
CGCI Landscape Design Council Chairman, 1998-2001

NGC welcomes all students, both members and non-member, to its educational program in landscape design under the guidance of California Garden Clubs, Inc. The objectives of the program are: 1) Develop a greater sense of appreciation, pride and knowledge about our private and public gardens; 2) Become better educated to make changes in our surroundings so that they will be more beautiful, useful, convenient, ecologically sound and easily maintained; 3) Stimulate interest in all phases of landscape design, including community planning, that will affect all of our lives; and 4) Develop a contingent of qualified Landscape Design Consultants to serve in such decision-making areas of public life as providing leadership, educational programs, scholarships, awards and promoting better landscape design. Besides gaining greater enjoyment in their gardens through this knowledge, members have found the program inspirational, leading to the development of important civic and private projects.

The Landscape Design Study Program is a series of four courses, educational/optional programs and tours. NGC members who complete a series (of four courses), passing the examinations with grades of 70 or above, are eligible to receive the Consultants Certification Card, an NGC credential.

The study material remains constant with chapters from the textbook, *Stewards of the Land*, but CGCI is breaking away from the suggested NGC special interest topics. Topics such as "Fire-

Wise Landscaping Practices,” “Landscaping with California Native Plants,” etc. have been approved by NGC as special interest topics in California’s landscape design study programs.

During the Diamond Jubilee, CGCI boasted 19 Provisional Consultants, 80 Active Consultants, 17 Master Consultants and 5 Consultants Emeriti.

Study Programs:

Series I, Berkeley, April 1959
Series II, Pomona, June 1964
Series III, Sacramento, May 1967
Series IV, San Mateo, May 1971
Series V, San Diego, October 1973
Series VI, Modesto, October 1975
Series VII, Cupertino, September 1981
Series VIII, Los Angeles, October 1981
Series IX, San Francisco, September 1984
Series X, Sacramento, September 1986
Series XI, Ridgecrest, October 1989
Series XII, Rohnert Park, November 1990
Series XIII, San Clemente, June 1991
Series XIV, Rocklin, March 1993
Series XV, Claremont, February 1997
Series XVI, Visalia, September 1999
Series XVII, Riverside, June 2001
Series XVIII, Modesto, June 2002
Series XIX, Walnut Creek, September 2002
Series XX, Riverside, July 2003
Series XXI, Riverside, February 2006
Series XXII, San Andreas, October 2007

Majority of Conferences and Refreshers:

- San Francisco, September 1966
- San Diego, October 1980
- Oakland, March 1987
- Fresno, March 1989
- Pomona, October, 1990 (California State Polytechnic University)
- Van Nuys, January 1993
- Santa Rosa, June 1994, (Rohnert Park Conference)
- Claremont, May 1996 (CGCI Convention)
- Bakersfield, April 1997 (Wildflower Conference)
- Auburn, April 1998

- San Diego, May 2000 (NCSGC Pre-Convention Landscape Design Tour – California Public Landscapes)
- San Francisco, September 2000 (Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies I)
- Arcadia, September-October 2000 (Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies II - Pacific Horticulture Symposium)
- Bass Lake, May 2001 (Wildflower Conference)
- Loomis, August 2006 (Bi-Refresher)

CGCI Landscape Design Study Program Chairmen:

Evalyn Bell, 1957-1969

Mrs. John C. Matthews, III 1969-1971

Elsie Mae Nicholson, 1972-1976

Mrs. Thomas Pettigrew, 1976-1978

Mary Hall, 1978-1980

Arleen Chasson, 1980-1984

Mrs. John A. Doremus, 1985-1987

Mrs. Walter Gnesa, 1987-1989

Alice Hirsch, 1989 -1991

Beverly Schmidt, 1991-1993

Kathleen Pratt, 1993-1995

Lee Duffield, 1995-1996

Beverly Schmidt, 1996-1999

Marcha Grant, 1999-2001

Liz Weeth, 2001

Maryanne Lucas, 2002-2003

Buck Hemenway, 2003-2007

Patricia Claves

CGCI Landscape Design Study Program

Chairman, 2007-2009

LANDSCAPE DESIGN CRITICS COUNCIL

The California Landscape Design Critics Council, authorized during the presidency of Mrs. Lawrence Winship, held its organizational meeting in November, 1966, with two main objectives stated: (1) to call attention statewide to worthwhile projects showing good land use and to acknowledge them through certificates of recognition and appreciation; (2) to sponsor tours, workshops, and/or programs for districts and clubs. The procedures were outlined by Mrs. John C. Mathews, III, Chairman of the Council, 1967-1970.

Since 1948, forty-six Awards of Merit have been presented to Landscape Architects for excellence in design. They have been awarded for a wide range of projects, including private gardens; large, small and mini-parks; college campuses; municipal utility grounds; civic centers; old town restorations; commercial and professional building grounds; Oriental gardens; an airport and one nuclear power plant, (information center landscaping).

Originally, the Awards of Merit were given at the annual conference of the California Association of Landscape Architects. In 1972, under the chairmanship of Mrs. R. Nelson Nicholson, (1970-1972), these awards were placed in the State Yearbook awards section, and have since been presented at the annual awards banquet. In addition, other Awards of Merit have also been presented at district and state board meetings.

A program of Commendations to sponsors of good land use was also started in 1972 under the chairmanship of Mrs. Nicholson. Forty Commendations have been presented since then, some in districts, some at garden club meetings, some at Landscape Design Courses, and some annually at the Landscape Design breakfast during Convention. This has followed the policy to educate at every level of garden club activity about good land use through good design. Commendations have recognized garden club members, landscape design critics, landscape designers, park departments, cities, corporations, port directors, architects, and a director of an arboretum, among others.

Landscape design critics have conducted and participated in many tours throughout the state, often in connection with Council meetings and state board meetings, visiting such diverse areas as the Palm Springs environs, Industrial Park in Oakland, "Church in the Rocks" in Redding, the Sunset House in Menlo Park, the Torrance refinery, Old Sacramento, the Japanese Friendship Garden in San Jose, and the Oakland Garden-Museum.

The largest tour was co-sponsored by the Council and (then) Standard Oil Company of California for the Pacific Regional meeting in 1969 in San Francisco. Five busloads, each guided by a landscape architect and hosted by a landscape design critic, were conducted on an evaluation tour of downtown San Francisco, the Golden Gateway Development, and Diamond Heights Condominiums. Several urban parks were included. Mary Emrick, now of Chevron, was the very capable co-chairman with Corinne Mathews. The other two committee members were Evalyn Bell and Elsie Mae Nicholson.

Several critics participated in the October, 1980 tour to Tijuana and Ensenada, (with critic Mrs. Donald A. Innis as tour chairman), following the Landscape Design Historical Preservation Conference in San Diego.

The landscape design critics have been honored at breakfast meetings at the state annual conventions since 1973. Speakers on some phase of good land use have been featured, and recently chairmen have presented short resumes and slides of current award projects.

Present Council chairman, Mrs. Lloyd Olson, is expanding the information file on individual critics' activities and experience. Many critics serve their districts and clubs as Landscape Design chairmen, help with fair exhibits, act as consultants for their fellow garden club members, present workshops, and set up recognition awards for their clubs to present in the local area. Some critics serve on civic committees for beautification, and one is a member of a Planning Commission. Most are available for programs in their local areas.

Eighty-one critics have been on the roster of California Landscape Design Critics Council since 1967, and more than half of them have refreshed and are still members. In addition to Mmes. Mathews, Nicholson and Olson, the Council was headed by Mrs. William V. Hughes for six years (1972-1978) and by Mrs. Milton R. Bell (1978-1980). Each chairman has kept the Council well informed with many newsletters and directives for keeping the award program active.

The Council sponsored, financed, executed, and hosted an exhibit at the California State Fair, August 21-September 7, 1981. The twelve-inch high, raised circular platform, fourteen feet in diameter, contained a drought resistant garden and a gazebo, as well as promotional material for California Garden Clubs "Fifty Golden Years."

Mrs. R. Nelson Nicholson
Senior Active Landscape Design Critic



Landscape Design Study Courses provide instruction by prominent landscape architects.

1981-82 to 2006-07

The Council has been renamed to **Landscape Design Council**, and the members are now known as consultants as

approved in May 2000. Special honors continue to be given to Landscape Architects and to those who create special projects such as shopping malls, public parks, arboretums and wineries. At least 20 certificates are given each year.

A Landscape Design Consultant of the Year is chosen from our members for the consultant's dedication to the council and is honored at CGCI's annual Convention.

Communications have been improved by using e-mail service, which is free as opposed to the costly U.S. Postal Service. Quarterly newsletters, minutes, agendas and continuing education information are sent to 125 consultants, including 45 members of the council.

Mary Lou Goodwin
CGCI Landscape Design Council Chairman
2007-2009

Landscape Design Council Chairmen:

Evalyn Bell, 1963-1970
Elsie Mae Nicholson, 1970-1971
Meredith (Hughes) Clark, 1972-1978
Evalyn Bell, 1978-1980
Mrs. Lloyd J. Olson, 1980-1984
Mrs. Henley Miller, 1985-1987
Mary Hall, 1987-1989
Virginia Innis, 1989-1991
Dorothy Roton, 1991-1993
Harriet Behrens, 1993-1995
Beverly Schmidt, 1995-1996
Mary Hall, 1996-1997
Harriet Behrens, 1997-1998
Gregory Pokorski, 1998-2001
Molly Apple, 2001
Rowena Goodner, 2002-2003
Dorothy Roton, 2003-2005
Jill Coleman, 2005-2007

Compiled by Patricia Clayes
CGCI Landscape Design Study Program
Chairman, 2007-2009

GARDEN CENTERS

As in so many instances, the original concept of a new service or area of interest in garden club work was the inspiration of someone who saw a need and sought to fulfill it. So it was with garden centers, which were projected to offer a general information source on landscaping and gardening, available to anyone, regardless of garden club membership. The first garden center, as such, was started by Mrs. Frederick T. Fisher in New Jersey in 1929. National Council included a garden centers chairman on its Board of Directors in 1933, and California Garden Clubs followed suit that same year.

No standards have ever been set for garden centers as to either location or size, and consequently many different kinds have been established over the years, but all having the same purpose of providing information and encouraging good gardening practices in the community. There are, however, two general types of garden centers that are now listed in the "Garden Centers Manual and Directory," published by National Council. One is known as a Garden Club Activity Center, which may be located in any meeting place or public garden facility where there is a staff in attendance, either paid or volunteer. The other type is called a Mini-Garden Information Center, and usually consists of a collection of appropriate books and magazines located in a library or public building, or circulated from place to place.

Much emphasis was placed on garden centers in the early 1930's, both as a means of disseminating information to the public and as a way to publicize the new garden club organization and its opportunities. California Garden Clubs, at that time, maintained a Printing and Publications chairmanship, which was the source of the first general publicity in the state on the new garden centers. Periodically, horticultural leaflets and various pamphlets were made available to the garden clubs; and several months after the appointment of the first garden centers chairman in April 1933, one such leaflet was requested to include a section describing the garden centers idea and encouraging garden clubs to consider their establishment in communities throughout the state. It was even suggested that the garden centers might themselves solicit memberships and receive dues, part of which would revert to the state federation, but no positive action was ever taken on this proposal.

To quote from the National Council *Garden Centers Manual*, "Garden centers are fundamentally educational and . . . answer a definite civic need." General advice for a successful garden center emphasizes the establishment of a genuine need for such a center, a need which is not being met by other agencies, and that the location be central and easily accessible. A second important consideration is that the center be supported actively and enthusiastically by the sponsoring organization, and that it provide authoritative advice through knowledgeable volunteers or a paid staff.

A library is essential at a garden center, and displays in addition to specific flower shows are also of great interest to visitors. Programs on horticulture, landscape, civic beautification, etc. may be offered periodically, as well as programs especially for school age young people. Garden centers have often even served as gathering points where surplus plant material and home grown fruits and vegetables could be brought for distribution or sale.

The Marin Garden Center north of San Francisco, one of the first garden centers in California, was founded in 1932, with headquarters in the County Agricultural Commissioner's office in San Rafael. As a direct result of the interest developed by this center, the new Garden Society of Marin was soon organized. (This society is still active as a prominent member of the Luther Burbank District.) In 1944, following World War II when many proposed projects could be reactivated, the Marin Art and Garden Center was established, with the Garden Society of Marin serving as one of the founding organizations. In the original plans, an auditorium was planned for the center, to be made available for flower shows, to house a library, and to provide a meeting place for all the Marin County garden clubs. At a later date a hot house, a lath house and a trial planting ground were to be added.

However, the first garden center to be established in California under actual garden club auspices was located in McKinley Park in Sacramento. There, in January, 1935, a one-room garden center was completed in cooperation with the Sacramento City Parks Department, planned to serve as a meeting place for garden clubs and as a location for small shows. Unfortunately, this one-room center remained only "in rather half-hearted use" until a garden center organization was formed in 1941. To be effective in the community, the new garden center found that first it had to tell everyone what a garden center was and the good it could do, and then it had to reassure the groups meeting there that no one would interfere with the individual clubs' rights or privileges.

Other early garden centers were the Pasadena Garden Center, housed in Casita del Arroyo, and the South Pasadena Garden Center, located in Eddy Park, a house and surrounding grounds donated for that purpose. During 1937, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation was making plans to convert the three acres included in the Plummer Park property in the heart of Hollywood into a garden center, with the expressed intention of maintaining the heredity flavor of this old Spanish ranch land grant. As other agencies moved into the gardening field, providing arboreta and botanic gardens under local governmental departments, many of the original garden centers have been incorporated into the larger projects, as at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia, where the garden clubs' garden center eventually became a part of the arboretum itself, with permanent facilities and staff.

A National Council garden centers award is offered annually, with one medal going to the garden center performing the greatest community service, in proportion to the size of the center. The other medal is presented for a center's influence on the children in the

community. The award was initiated by Mrs. Fisher, the garden centers pioneer from New Jersey, and the prizes are known as the Fisher Medals.

In view of current trends, perhaps now it is becoming time for garden clubs to make clear to the public the purposes of a true garden center, as established by the founding garden clubs and sponsors, as compared with the so-called "garden center," used as a promotional name by many merchants selling a variety of garden-related products and services.



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

The 1982-1983 *Yearbook, Manual and Roster* listed the following Garden Club Activity Centers:

- Beverly Hills Garden Center, Beverly Hills
- Carmichael Park Garden Center, Carmichael
- Chico Horticulture Garden Center, Chico
- Heather Farm Garden Center, Walnut Creek
- Lakeside Park Garden Center, Oakland
- Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, Santa Rosa
- Marin Art & Garden Center, Ross
- Pacific Palisades Garden Club Center, Pacific Palisades
- Sacramento Garden & Art Center (today known as the Iva Gard Shepard Garden and Arts Center), Sacramento
- San Francisco Hall of Flowers, San Francisco
- San Mateo Garden Center, San Mateo
- Stockton Garden Club Center, Stockton

Goals were to promote new study courses on garden subjects to bring in new people; to encourage clubs to work together to establish Mini Garden Information Centers; to emphasize that a Mini Garden Information Center may be started by a single garden club by placing a few books on varied garden-related subjects on a shelf in a public library. It was suggested the Club name be posted by the garden books with the telephone number of the membership chairman for those wishing further information. A Mini Garden Information Center was considered to be a first step toward establishing a Garden Club Activity Center in the future. The goal was to have "A Garden Center – any size – in every town!"

Mini Garden Information Centers included the following:

- Boron Garden Club Center, Boron, Kern County Library
- Calaveras County Garden Club Center, Calaveras – in Library

- China Lake Garden Center, China Lake
- Concord Women's Garden Club Center, Concord Library
- Desert Holly Garden Center, in Library, San Bernardino County
- Desert Planters Garden Center, Ridgecrest, Public Library
- Escalon Garden Club Center, Escalon, Library
- Fortuna Garden Club Center, Fortuna, Fortuna City Library
- Le Grand Branch Library, Le Grand
- Linden Community Garden Center, Linden, Public Library
- Long Valley Garden Club Garden Center, Laytonville
- Manteca Garden Club Center, Manteca, County Library
- Modesto Garden Club Center, Modesto
- Mt. Shasta Garden Club Center, Mt. Shasta, in Library
- Newman Garden Club Center, Newman
- Oakdale Garden Club Center, Oakdale, Public Library
- Patterson Garden Club Center, Patterson, Library
- Porterville Library, Porterville
- San Carlos Garden Club Center, San Diego Public Library (San Carlos Branch)
- San Diego Floral Association, Inc., Balboa Park, San Diego
- Santa Clara Valley District Garden Center, San Jose
- Tuolumne County Garden Club Center, Tuolumne, in Library
- Tracy Garden Club Center, Tracy, in Wadsworth Library
- Tulare Garden Club Center, Tulare, in Library
- Walnut Creek Garden Club Center, Walnut Creek, Library
- Valley Lode Horticulture Garden Club Center, Patterson
- Wayside Garden Club Center, McArthur, Veterans Hall
- Weed Garden Club Center, Weed, Public Library
- Wonderland Garden Club Center, Shasta, Public Library
- Yreka Garden Club Center, Yreka

As of February 1984, the following Garden Centers were reported in CGCI records:

- Heather Farm Garden Center, Walnut Creek
- Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino
- San Mateo Garden Center, San Mateo

While garden centers are an important part of the community in promoting beautification, awareness and knowledge in our local areas, the Garden Center program struggled. Most of the records were stolen due to a car theft at the 1990 Convention in Victorville. The chairmanship did not continue beyond the 1989-1991 term.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

In the predominantly urban society of the United States, the majority of people are several generations removed from a close association with the natural environment. There is a need to re-establish, among all people, an understanding of the natural environment and its relationship with the urban community.

To aid in this understanding, the U.S. Forest Service created the Environmental Education Program in 1970. Its purpose is to assist the public in identifying and supporting wise resource management through understanding. Specifically, the program seeks to develop the people's skills and ability to understand the inter-relationships within the environment; to recognize and identify environmental problems and solutions; to understand how to become actively involved in land-use planning and resource management decision making; to develop action plans to assist in implementing environmental programs.

The process approach to learning is perfect for teaching environmental education because it involved one in the processes of environmental interaction and investigation. Most participants leave with more than new knowledge about water, soil, animals, trees or urban areas. They leave with the skills necessary to lead groups in investigating any environment they choose. An objective in learning is to help people develop thinking skills and processes that will allow them to interpret the data they collect.

During the presidency of Mrs. Vernon L. Conner, National Council President, 1975-1977, a new series of four Environmental Education Workshops was coordinated by Mrs. George Patterson, National Environmental Education and PATE Chairman, and Mrs. Virginia Benson, U.S. Forestry Services, promoting the purpose of these workshops to ignite effort and enthusiasm for a surge of environmental education throughout the nation. At the 1977 National convention, action was ratified that People and Their Environment (PATE) be discontinued at the conclusion of the 1975-1977 administration; that the Environmental Education Workshop Schools be approved and adopted by National Council; and that the Directive for the Environmental Education Workshop be reviewed prior to the end of the following administration.

In July, 1979, presidents from all the state federations attended an Environmental Education Workshop at Hawk's Nest State Park, West

Virginia, focusing on developing an awareness of environment and of environmental issues, as well as an understanding of modern forest management methods. It also provided them an opportunity to meet with each other on a first-name basis, to share ideas and to discuss mutual federation problems. This first-hand experience gave them the skills and information to utilize in supporting and encouraging Environmental Education chairmen to conduct Environmental Education Workshops within their states. Environmental education is growing through National Council's dedicated members, districts, states and regions and through their programs, projects and workshops.

An Environmental Workshop can be said to provide an invaluable learning experience, to increase awareness of current problems, to indicate ways to deal with the problems and to sharpen senses of observation. California Garden Clubs, Inc. has now sponsored three Standard Environmental Education Workshops, facilitated by the U.S. Forestry technicians.

The format for a Standard Environmental Education Workshop can be found in the *ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP SCHOOL DIRECTIVE*. This Directive can be obtained from the National Environmental Education Chairman. Guidelines for Environmental Education Workshops can be requested by ordering the brochure, "None of US – Is as Smart as All of Us," from the U.S. Forest Service, Office of Information, 1720 Peachtree Rd., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30309.

Mrs. Charles Buran, Chairman
Environmental Education



Assessment of potential value of natural resources is part of Environmental Education program.



1981-1982 TO 2006-2007

CGCI continued to support Environmental education through additional workshops on various topics. The following is a partial list of CGCI workshops held:

- February 9-12, 1983 Environmental Education Workshop held in conjunction with Winter Board, Asilomar, Pacific Grove. Subject: "Investigating your Environment."
- September 21-23, 1984 Environmental Education Camp for High School Gardeners held at SCICON, near Porterville, with funding provided by the Chevron Triple E Fund and CGCI Environmental Education Fund.
- October 1985 Off-Shore Oil Rig field trip for CGCI members sponsored by Chevron, USA, Ventura.
- April 10-11, 1985 Environmental Resource Management Education Workshop in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service at a Penny Pines Plantation, Mt. Shasta.
- June 21-22, 1986 Environmental Education Workshop in a Penny Pines Plantation, Sagehen Creek Field Station, Truckee. Co-sponsored with the U.S. Forest Service.
- October 16, 1986 Hazardous and Toxic Household Waste Awareness Conference "NO Where to Go", San Mateo. Hosted by Bay Ocean District.
- January 23, 1987 Household Toxic Waste Workshop. Hosted by Santa Clara Valley District.

A Groundwater Resolution was adopted at the National Council Fall Board meeting in St. Louis, MO on October 3, 1987. Pacific Region hosted an Energy Awareness Conference, "Groundwater Management" on March 30, 1988 following its Convention in Seattle, WA. The conference was underwritten by Shell Oil Company and several other companies concerned with the environment. Members of CGCI learned first-hand about California's groundwater problems and solutions when CGCI Energy Awareness Chairman, Peggy Northon, invited State Senator Rose Ann Vuich to speak at the 1988 Convention in Visalia. In short, if you don't want to drink it – don't put it in or on the ground!

Environmental Awareness Workshops continued with:

- September 17, 1990 Solid Waste Management Conference, North Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach. Hosted by Golden Foothills District.
- September 11-12, 1992 Environmental Workshop "Three E Conference – Energy, Economics and the Environment", Modesto. Underwritten by Shell Oil Company.
- August 15-24, 2004 NGC Water-Wise Tour along the California Coast with many CGCI members in attendance in various capacities.

On May 19, 1994, NCSGC (NGC) adopted the Conservation Pledge that reads:

"I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forests, land and wildlife."

Today, CGCI continues to support the environment via NGC's Environmental Studies School. See page 171 for details.

GARDENING STUDY COURSES

In the fifty years of the history of California Garden Clubs, the Gardening Study Courses are just a golden gleam, having been adopted only four years ago.

The excitement really started earlier, however, when *The National Gardener* began publishing tantalizing bits of information about something going on in Michigan, classes in gardening set up specifically for garden club members. When National Council declared the Gardening Study Courses ready to become a national project, California was ready and waiting.

State President Mrs. Robert E. Busher appointed a state chairman, and immediately Costa Verde District made plans for Course I, Series I. Dr. Steven Horn, President of California State University at Long Beach, was very interested in the projects, and his happy choice of Dr. Phil Baker of the Botany Department to be the college coordinator for Series I was much appreciated. A local chairman was appointed and the date to begin the first course was set for April 9, 1979.

Participants in Series I will always be grateful to the Costa Verde District for having the courage and foresight to originate this new series of gardening classes, and for helping us develop the tools and means for making it a success. The brave group who took the test will also

remember with pride that everyone passed the very difficult test on Plant Structure and Function!

By the time Dave Cox, Chairman of the Ornamental Horticulture Division, welcomed us to Series II at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, several changes had been made in the curriculum, making it of more practical value without losing the technical background.

The changes made by National Council in this period of time gave a somewhat different flavor to Series II, since some of the stress from the difficult tests was removed and more time was available for digging in the soil, preparing soil mixes, making cuttings and taking part in the creative, therapeutic aspects of gardening.

A highlight of Course 3 was a trip to an arboretum. The Long Beach class enjoyed a trip to the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, a botanical garden containing only California native plants. The Diablo Valley class visited the beautiful arboretum at the University of California at Davis.

At this time there are four Gardening Consultants in California. About fifteen will be graduated from Series II, indicating that membership interest in the courses is growing. As many persons from outside the garden club arena are enrolling in the classes, a service is being performed for the general public as well as for garden club members.

The goal of the Gardening Study Courses is to train our members in a better understanding of basic horticulture and to develop a core of trained people to serve our communities. The courses are also becoming a valuable tool for increasing membership in the garden clubs.

When there are more Gardening Consultants in the state, the hope is to be able to assist garden clubs in many new, exciting ways. Plans are to develop skits for presenting basic gardening techniques to garden clubs, to develop weekly radio programs in some areas, and to conduct workshops for small groups.

This small, golden gleam foretells a bright "Forty-Niner Gold Rush" future!

Mrs. Roy F. Hedtke, Chairman
Gardening Study Courses



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

CGCI and its member clubs continue to actively support the **Gardening Study Schools** (previously known as Gardening Study Courses) program. California is beginning its 20th series (a series is comprised of four courses) of this NGC educational program – more than many other states have held. Five of the twenty California school series have been sponsored by four clubs (Conejo Valley Garden Club, Southern California Garden Club [twice], Dos Valles Garden Club, and Year Around Garden

Club). Fifteen of the twenty series have been sponsored by ten districts (Humboldt – 3 times, Golden Foothills, Luther Burbank, and Palomar [2 each], and Costa Verde, Bay Bridges, Valley Lode, Cascade, Diablo Foothills, and Orange County). This leaves a challenge to the other sixteen districts to sponsor a school.

In looking at the history of the Gardening Study Schools (GSS) in California, it was interesting to note how many of our state presidents have served as local or state GSS chairman.

The following have served as CGCI Gardening Study Schools Chairmen:

1978-82	Betty Hedtke
1982-84	June McLain
1984-85	Gladys Nielsen
1985-89	Edna Herriott
1989-90	Gloria Jacobs
1990-93	Gayle Schilling
1993-95	Myrtle Findley
1995-2003	Barbara Nelson
2003-2009	Greg Pokorski

In addition, Betty Hedtke, Greg Pokorski, and Robin Pokorski have served on the NGC Board on the GSS Committee. Betty served for many years as an accrediting chairman. Robin served as Gardening Consultants Council Chairman and as an accrediting chairman. Greg is currently serving as an accrediting chairman. Robin and Greg were fortunate to be able to have extensive involvement and input to the 2005 revision of the NGC *GSS Handbook*.

The basics of this educational program have remained fairly constant over the years, but a number of changes have taken place to make GSS more consistent in its requirements and administration with the NGC Landscape Design and Environmental Studies Schools. The process to refresh has been simplified, allowing Consultants to become Masters or to be able to go Emeritus more quickly than in the past. The concept of Multiple Refreshers was developed by NGC to make it easier for states to sponsor and conduct refreshers and to permit Consultants to refresh concurrently in multiple school programs once they achieve Master Consultant status.

It is not clear how many Gardening Consultants CGCI has had since this program began because many have achieved Consultant status over the years and have since died or allowed their Consultant status to lapse. CGCI currently has 75

Gardening Consultants, including 11 Master Consultants and 5 Emeritus Consultants. Many of these Consultants belong to and participate in the Gardening Consultants Council, but that's another chapter.

Many additional garden club members and prospective members have attended these schools without becoming Consultants (because they did not attend all four courses or because they did not want to take the exams, etc.), and no doubt they too have benefited from the information provided. Anyone sponsoring a school should consider this outreach to the community – promoting the school to the community at large provides a service to the community in sharing knowledge of gardening and is a possible means of attracting new members to the sponsoring club or district. Anyone interested in sponsoring a school should contact the CGCI Gardening Study School Chairman for more information.

Greg Pokorski
CGCI Gardening Study Schools Chairman
2003-2009

ALICE HILTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

All books belonging to California Garden Clubs, Inc. are housed in the Plant Science Research Library at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia. All books in the Plant Science Library are for the specific use of the Arboretum staff, students and the general public doing research work. They are not circulated, but must be used on the premises. The California Garden Clubs books are circulated only to California Garden Clubs members upon proper identification and only through the appointed State Librarian.

The California Garden Club library was founded in 1932 by the Las Jardineras Garden Club. Bookplates honoring the founding club identify each book and still bear the word "Federation," a reminder that in 1932 the new state garden club organization was known as the California Garden Club Federation. The bookplates have never been changed.

In the beginning years, when only a small collection of books was involved, the library was shifted from one private home to another. Usually, it was the home of the current librarian. In 1957, the Arcadia Garden Center opened on the grounds of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum (newly opened), and the library knew its first permanent home! The Garden Center, housed in an old office building, was open to the public and offered little protection for open shelves of books, but continued to function for the next three years.

On completion of the new Arboretum Administration Building in 1960, California Garden Clubs was given the use of a private room, complete with lock, in the new building. This, of course, was ideal. However, this was short lived; the room was soon needed for the growing Arboretum staff. So, in 1961, we moved again, this time to a set of back shelves in the new Plant Science Research Library, still in the same building and still out-of-bounds to the public.

By this time books had accumulated to around 300 volumes and the list in the State Yearbook was becoming increasingly expensive to print each year. In 1963, an offer to the Arboretum to loan a selected number of books for staff use was accepted. The State Librarian and her committee pulled 177 books, which were put "on loan" to the Arboretum and placed on separate shelves nearby. Members still retained the same borrowing privileges, but these titles were deleted from the State Yearbook list. Excepted from this loan offer, however, were all books on the required reading list for Flower Show and Landscape Design Schools, birds, flower arrangements and any old, valuable books.

While this may seem a desirable arrangement, it was not. No California Garden Clubs books were listed in the library catalog, nor were they classified as to subject, so it made selection of a subject difficult. This simply meant the books were seldom used.

The Plant Science Librarian suggested it would be of great advantage if all California Garden Clubs books could be integrated into their system so that they would be more readily accessible to the reader by subject matter. This was submitted as a recommendation to the State Board and passed, and reclassification of the garden club library was begun.

Now, once again, space is at a premium. How long the California Garden Clubs books will remain on the shelves along with the Arboretum books is questionable. Even now they are gradually accumulating again on back shelves in the Plant Science Library, making room for new Arboretum acquisitions. Although they are not circulating freely, the books in the Alice Hilton Memorial Library represent one of the valuable tangible assets of California Garden Clubs, Inc. and are highly treasured.

Mrs. Harold W. McCoy
State Librarian, 1968-1973



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

The 1981-1982 *Yearbook, Manual and Roster* included the Alice Hilton Memorial Library Book List consisting of 156 books and three slide/film programs. It was a lending library of bird books, flower arrangement books, required reading books for

flower show schools and landscape design study courses, valuable old books and first editions. Books could be borrowed for a 30-day period without charge. The first request for the loan of a book was accompanied by a member's CGCI membership card or letter signed by a member's club president to establish identity. Books were returned by prepaid insured mail or United Parcel Service. While the library was housed at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia, all requests for book loans were routed through the CGCI Library Chairman.

Due to the expense involved in printing the *Yearbook, Manual and Roster*, the list of library books was removed beginning in 1983. However, it was reported at Winter Board in 1987 that the books in the Alice Hilton Memorial Library, all 474 volumes, were sitting on the shelves gathering dust and were once again listed in the *Yearbook, Manual and Roster*.

Beginning with the 1989 Convention, the process of reducing the number of volumes in the State Library began with a silent auction of "culled" books. Additional books were offered at the 1990 Convention in Victorville and 1991 Convention in Santa Rosa. Proceeds from the sale of books were added to the State Scholarship Fund.

At the 1992 Fall Board, film and slide programs were offered to District Directors to use for programs within their districts. They included "A Vegetable Garden for You"; and "Backyard Bugs in California" in addition to slides on California plants, animal life, plants used by Indians, flowers, soil, fertilizers, etc.

The Library chairmanship was not continued after the 1991-1993 term. No mention of the library could be found in any of the minutes thereafter.

In 2005, the Los Angeles County Arboretum Library began clearing books of little value to raise funds for new acquisitions. Many of those books were from the Alice Hilton Library. Several of the books sold were purchased by the Southern California Garden Club. In September 2005, the new librarian found a letter regarding the "loan" of these books to the Arboretum. The Arboretum now wanted to own these books or have them removed from its library.

The members of the Judges Council of Southern California (deemed responsible for the library) voted to move the books to Descanso Gardens Library where they held their Council meetings. The remaining books were removed from the

Arboretum and stored at the home of the Judges Council Chairman until such time Descanso could take possession. Unfortunately, Descanso was approached to have the Boddy House remodeled by the Pasadena Showcase Committee and that meant that there would no longer be any room for CGCI's library books.

Back to the Judges Council to vote again what to do with the remaining library books. After verifying the books held no significant monetary value, it was decided to sell the books first to our members and the balance to those who attended Guest Day held September 2007. Those who purchased these books were glad to add them to their personal libraries. There were a small number of books remaining that were donated to a few Los Angeles libraries. The Alice Hilton Library no longer exists.

Eileen Fiumara
Judges Council of Southern California Chairman
2005-2007

PERMANENT FILES

With the bustle of activities of the new California Garden Club Federation, correspondence was voluminous. Publicity about the busy organization was carefully gathered in scrapbooks, and financial records were kept of the conventions, *Golden Gardens* and the general management of the federation. With no official headquarters building, chairmen and officers accumulated the growing files in their homes, passing them on as new Board members were elected and appointed.

By the time the new Los Angeles State and County Arboretum offered to establish a repository for the garden clubs' documents and historical records in 1957, there were a number of cartons of material to be stored. With the opening of the Arcadia Garden Center on the Arboretum grounds, space was available, and the boxes were taken to their first home.

After some three years in the old converted office building assigned to the Garden Center, the Permanent Files were moved to the new Peacock Pavilion, where they were kept in a storeroom. Soon the storeroom was needed for Arboretum storage, and the Permanent Files were moved again, this time to the basement of the administration building. A file cabinet was purchased, and an inventory of the contents was compiled by Mr. and Mrs. Paul T. Silvius, who spent many hours arranging the files in reasonable order. The files contained minutes, history, achievement and convention books. There were no financial reports and very little correspondence.

In February, 1980, with twenty-six inches of rainfall, the basement of the Arboretum was flooded. The books on the bottom shelf of the file cabinet were furry with mold before being discovered. The Permanent Files Chairman spent weeks renovating the books, wiping mildew from each page and putting on new covers. Clippings were removed from ruined scrapbooks and were pasted into new ones. Only one book, with inferior paper, was completely lost.

As a result of the water damage disaster, an offer from the University of California at Long Beach was made to provide more suitable storage space for the Permanent Files, pending the purchase of file cabinets to house the many record books. This offer was gratefully accepted, and two files and a storage cabinet have been donated by Desert Empire District in the name of Mrs. Georg W. Daiber, State President, 1980-1982.

Mrs. John Connelly, Chairman
Library and Permanent Files



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Through the generosity of Mary & Wil Tebo of Valley Center, the permanent files found a long-time home in the barn of the Tebo estate. The contents grew to four (4) four-drawer metal file cabinets and two (2) six-foot metal 4-shelved cabinets primarily housing minutes, financial reports, *Golden Gardens* issues, presidential history books and volumes of award books, outdated procedure books, and lots of correspondence. A team of members periodically would sort through the files and purge unnecessary items but did not pare down very much. Finally a team of members purged all the unnecessary correspondence and miscellaneous items leaving a lean skeleton of minutes, financial reports, *Golden Gardens* and presidential history books.

When it was determined in 2007 that a new permanent home was needed, Rita Desilets from Van Nuys offered ample storage room. Executive Committee members spent two days removing all CGCI records from the Tebo barn. The CGCI Recording Secretary took all of the minutes to distill each administration's motions and actions onto compact disk. Likewise, the financial reports were taken by the CGCI Treasurer to create a spreadsheet of pertinent financial information from the records, as many years were still decipherable. The history books, which had become fragile and faded with age, were offered back to the districts from whence the President hailed. The Permanent Files'

contents was catalogued and in place at its new home in Van Nuys in August 2007.

Robin Pokorski
CGCI President
2007-2009



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOOL

In May 1991, NCSGC Inc. approved a motion to create a school of Environmental Studies. The development of the school was directed to the Environmental Education Committee at the National level. The Mission Statement of the Environmental Studies School is "To teach environmental literacy to cherish, protect and conserve the living earth."

The Environmental Literacy Definition is:

"Environmental literacy is a learning process concerned with the interrelationship within and between the various components of the natural and human-made world producing growth in the individual and leading to responsible stewardship of the earth."

And, so started the schools - history was made when the pilot course opened on April 1, 1993 in the State of Wisconsin. There were five courses to each completed series. The series was changed to four courses in 2003.

A handbook for Environmental Studies School was developed, and by 1998 fifteen states, including California, was ready to start a series of Schools. (The NGC Environmental Studies Committee recently updated the *Handbook for Environmental Studies School* in May 2007.)

After a rough start with only Course 1 of Series 1 held in Rohnert Park under Ronnie Duffield's chairmanship in the 1995-1997 term, California Garden Clubs has held three complete series of schools. Currently, a fourth series is underway in San Mateo.

- Series One - Soka University 1998-1999 - Maryanne Lucas, Chairman. Produced 13 Consultants upon completion of which 3 are now Master Consultants.
- Series Two - Mountain Lakes 2002-2004 - Carol Ford Benson and Susan Spoeneman, Co-Chairmen

- Series Three - Ukiah/Discovery 2003-2005 - Carol Ford Benson, Chairman
- Series Four - Riverside 2005 - Carol Ford Benson, Chairman
Only Course 1 completed.
- Series Five - San Mateo/ Bay O 2006 - Present - Shane Looper, Chairman, Courses 1 and 2 completed to date.

When no one had sponsored a second school by 2001, 8 of the 13 in that first graduating class of 1999 were instrumental in getting CGCI's 2001 Wildflower Conference in Bass Lake accredited as an Environmental Studies School Refresher. In fact, that event turned out to be NGC's first Tri-Refresher in the country.

CGCI currently has 8 Interns, 35 Consultants and 3 Masters. Formal formation of an active **Environmental Consultants Council** continues to be explored. While there has been a CGCI appointed Environmental Consultants Council Chairman each term, bylaws, council dues and elected officers are still pending at this time.

This is still a relatively young and growing school. What a perfect opportunity to study our environment with the world going green. Keep growing natural with Environmental Studies School.

Shane Looper
CGCI Environmental Studies School Chairman
2007-2009



GARDENING CONSULTANTS COUNCIL

In 1987, the CGCI Gardening Consultants Council was formed with Elsie Mae Nicholson as Chairman and 56 charter council members. Three study groups were formed:

Central Study Group	Wanda Slangerup, Chairman
Humboldt Study Group	Mrs. Coleen Hibser, Chairman
Palomar Study Group	Patrick Shields, Chairman

In 1989, the Golden Gate Consultants Group was formed with Sandra Sellinger as Chairman. In 1996, Palomar Study Group changed their name to Southern California Consultants Group.

The CGCI Gardening Consultants Chairman continued to meet with and hear reports from the four sub-groups until 1999-2000 when the groups disbanded. 1992-1993 found the largest total members of the Council with 92 Consultants. Today, there are 45 members of the Gardening Consultants Council.

In 1992, a Horticulture Excellence Award was created and presented by then Council Chairman, Gladys Nielsen. Today, the Council continues to sponsor these two CGCI awards with \$25 to a Club and \$25 to a District for worthy subjects of Horticulture Excellence as defined in the *Awards Manual* (HT-1).

In addition, the Council has posted a Beautiful Garden Certificate of Recognition on CGCI's website for clubs and districts to download and present in their local community. Another relatively new Certificate of Recognition is now available from the CGCI Gardening Consultants Council to be presented at State Board Meetings and Conventions. This newest certificate is in recognition of a beautiful private garden for which the application and instructions are available for downloading from CGCI's website.

CGCI Gardening Consultants Council Chairmen

1996-1991	Elsie Mae Nicholson
1991-1995	Gladys Nielsen
1995-1996	Edna Herriott
1996-1997	Kathleen Pratt
1997-2000	Eileen Fiumara
2000-2001	Robin Pokorski
2001-2002	Eleanore Mance
2002-2009	Myrtle B. Findley

Myrtle B. Findley
CGCI Gardening Consultants Chairman



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. FOUR STAR MEMBERS

National Garden Clubs, Inc. honors garden club members who have completed all four NGC Schools: Environmental Study, Flower Show, Gardening Study and Landscape Design

Study. The following members of CGCI are Four Star Members as listed in the 2006-2007 *Yearbook, Manual and Roster*:

Harriet Behrens, Orange County District
Beverly Brune, Channel Islands District
Edris Edgar, Costa Verde District
Maryanne Lucas, Channel Islands District
Robin Pokorski, San Fernando Valley District
Dorothy Roton, Desert Empire District
Beverly Schmidt, Arboretum District



WILDFLOWER CONFERENCE

“Operation Wildflower” is an NGC program dedicated to the beautification of roadsides and other approved sites, and to the education of the public in the appreciation, preservation and propagation of native wildflowers and grasses. Wildflower conferences are periodically held by CGCI for this purpose. The first wildflower conference was held during President Nicholson’s term. The following is a list of wildflower conferences held to date and respective CGCI Wildflower Chairman:

- April 19-20, 1986 Sonora, Mrs. William Burke
- April 22-24, 1988 Marin Headlands Institute
Ronnie Duffield-Dale
- June 8-10, 1990 Green Meadows at Fish Camp
Marlene Frutuozo
- April 23-25, 1993 Fort Bragg, Josephine Shaul
- March 28-30, 1995 Death Valley, Merrilee Ray
- April 17-19, 1997 Bakersfield, Helen Maas
- May 15-17, 2001 Bass Lake, Merrilee Ray
- May 8-10, 2007 Bishop, Merrilee Ray

At Convention in 1996, the recommendation from the Wildflower Fund Committee that a special award be made for a comprehensive wildflower project using funds from the Wildflower Fund was accepted. Prizes were \$300 for first place, \$200 for second and \$100 for third in the year a Wildflower Conference was held. In the years when there was no Wildflower Conference, a donation of \$300 was made to a

worthy wildflower organization. At Winter Board in 2004, the Awards Committee recommended making the award available each year with prize money to be \$200, \$100 and \$50 respectively. The donation portion of the award was eliminated. This award continues today as Operation Wildflower Award #C-7.



Bristlecone Pine in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest atop the White Mountains in the Eastern Sierra, Inyo National Forest, 2007 Wildflower Conference

DIVISION VIII – PUBLIC INTEREST

Visiting Gardens and Tours

Memorial Gardens

Blue Star Memorial Highways

Garden Therapy

World Gardening



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Habitat for Humanity

National Garden Week



***Blue Star Memorial markers honor members
of the military forces.***

VISITING GARDENS AND TOURS

One of the ten standing committees included in the original bylaws of the California Garden Club Federation was the Committee on Pilgrimages. For some thirty years, this continued to be the name of the committee in charge of garden tours to both public and private gardens, which was one of the most popular of garden club activities. In fact, garden club members traveled to other states and other countries and were encouraged to apply for National Council visitors cards, paying a \$1.00 fee for a card that entitled them to special visiting privileges for the lifetime of their membership. Many of the gardens open to them were privately owned, and in 1932 a comprehensive "Locator" was issued by National Council, listing the gardens that might be visited. Several years later the National fee was dropped, but California elected to continue charging its members \$1.00 for the visitors card, which was still required, the fee reverting to the state treasury.

Garden tours were also a source of income for the California federation, which was struggling to become established. Districts were urged to hold garden tours, following the lead of District 2 (Counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono), with the state Board of Directors approving a charge of 50 cents for non-members and 25 cents for members, a percentage of the net proceeds to be donated to the state federation.

A generally changing life style gradually eliminated many of the private gardens, which were expensive to maintain and which demanded so much attention. Large land holdings with elaborate landscaping were subdivided into smaller plots, and many of the estate plantings and larger gardens were destroyed or divided up among a number of new owners. Garden tours, or "pilgrimages" as they were called until 1954, were directed more often to established arboreta and botanical gardens and to blossom-time trips to fruit orchard areas or where wildflowers grew in profusion, for example.

In 1944 the new chairmanship of Arboreta and Botanical Gardens was created with Dr. Samuel B. Ayers, Jr. named as chairman, drawing new interest to botanic gardens which had become increasingly more important as study centers and information sources, as well as visiting gardens of tremendous scope. Another chairmanship was also added in 1973 which is closely related to visiting gardens and tours, and that was the historic preservation chairmanship. California Garden Clubs members responded by planning tours that included historic sites, and many times they became involved in restoring the gardens at these locations to a landscaping style suitable to the time of the historic building or area.

Garden clubs also have encouraged neighborhood walking tours to see how many homeowners have handled the problems of landscaping in difficult areas or in subdivision developments, as an example. Home and garden tours have remained a profitable source of income for the sponsoring groups, but the practice of sharing the proceeds with

California Garden Clubs itself has long since been discontinued. The garden pilgrimage of former days has changed some of its emphases, but visiting gardens and garden tours are still activities enjoyed for the new experiences they offer and the knowledge they can provide.



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

The California Garden Clubs of the last 25 years have focused on information, outreach and education. The Arboreta and Botanical Gardens Committee has supported these efforts by maintaining, updating and disseminating information about existing and newly established sites. The information is transmitted two ways, from members to Club Presidents to District Directors to the Chairman and from the Chairman to CGCI members. The current list now contains over 150 arboreta and botanical gardens, as well as historical, memorial and environmental demonstration gardens. The list is available on the CGCI website and includes website addresses for easily obtaining information for club visits, volunteering and programs. Many of these gardens have opportunities for clubs and individual members to become volunteers and sponsors, and provide educational programs and/or staff information tables at special events.

During this time, there have been many new sites of interest, such as: the South Coast Botanic Garden in the Palos Verdes Peninsula (built on a landfill); the San Luis Obispo Botanic Garden (with seacoast conditions); the Manhattan Beach Botanic Garden (with a focus on sustainability); and both the Children's and the Chinese Gardens at the Huntington Art Gallery, Library and Botanic Gardens.

The individual clubs and districts of CGCI continue to enjoy tours, to both public and private gardens, with a focus on an area of special interest, education or as a fundraiser. Clubs also schedule visits to member gardens to share the member's expertise, enjoy the gardens or learn about the options of garden design possibilities. As part of these activities, neighboring clubs are invited to participate, thereby enhancing the network of CGCI members.

Harriet Behrens & Alexis Slafer, Co-Chairmen
CGCI Arboreta & Botanic Gardens of California
2007-2009

MEMORIAL GARDENS

Memorial gardens, of themselves, have long been a favored means to honor a person or a place or an event, and over the years many persons have visited memorial gardens around the world, enjoying the landscape plantings and recalling the stories that were the inspiration for developing the gardens. For some ten years before California Garden Clubs, Inc. appointed its first Memorial Gardens Chairman, National Council was accumulating data on existing gardens and encouraging new memorials. In 1964, with the appointment of Mrs. Harold W. McCoy as Memorial Gardens Chairman, California Garden Clubs began in earnest to seek out memorial gardens and other plantings throughout the state.

A registry of memorial gardens and plantings is maintained at National Council Headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri, principally for the purpose of encouraging visitations and tours and as examples of good horticulture and good landscape design, as practiced and promoted by the garden clubs. The list of registered memorial gardens and plantings by California Garden Clubs member clubs is published regularly in the state yearbook and roster, and now contains twenty-nine continuing gardens and eight memorial plantings.

California Garden Clubs, Inc. also participated some twenty-five years ago in setting up a memorial garden in Springfield, Illinois, honoring Abraham Lincoln. This garden was envisioned in the early 1930's when Lake Springfield was being developed and sixty acres were allocated for a park. Under the auspices of the Garden Clubs of Illinois, participation was urged throughout the United States; and state garden club organizations sent cones, seeds, pods, acorns, etc. to be sold at Christmas shows in Chicago and Springfield, the proceeds going for the benefit of the Lincoln memorial.



Rustic bench donated by California Garden Clubs, Inc. to Lincoln Memorial Garden in Springfield, Illinois.

Following the lead of several other state federations, California Garden Clubs accumulated funds through donations from its members and in 1957 purchased a rustic bench for the park. Burned into the wood above the name of California Garden Clubs is the familiar quotation from Abraham Lincoln, "Let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

This continues to be an active chairmanship and a favored way to honor someone, a place or an event. Over the years, the public has visited Memorial Gardens around the world, enjoying the gardens and memorials and recalling the stories that were the inspiration for the gardens.

Memorial gardens may be sponsored by a club, a group of clubs or a district and they continue to be registered with NGC, primarily for the purpose of encouraging visitors, as well as providing examples of good horticultural practices and landscape design as promoted by garden clubs. The list of registered Memorial Gardens by California garden clubs and districts is published annually in the *CGCI Yearbook, Manual and Roster – Memorial Gardens, Groves and Plantings*. To date, 136 Memorial Gardens, 1096 Memorial Trees, 8 Memorials and 12 Memorial Groves are listed. Items may be added by completing the application form obtained from the Memorial Gardens Chairman to register a memorial garden or planting.

Janet Eyre
CGCI Memorial Gardens Chairman, 2007-2009

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAYS

The history of the State of California records that California women, late in the nineteenth century, began the planting of living memorials in the state, honoring those who had served in the armed forces of the United States. As long ago as 1897, the ladies of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) presented California with a number of saplings from many of the famous battlefields of the Civil War. Planting an area on a roadway or highway and designating it a living memorial to heroism is today still considered a most suitable tribute in honor of the men and women in military service.

The idea of the Blue Star Memorial Highway system, to be in honor of all those who served in the armed forces in World War II, was first suggested to the president of National Council of State Garden Clubs in 1945 by the New Jersey State Highway Commissioner. National Council adopted the new project officially in 1946 and at the annual state convention that same year, California Garden Clubs, Inc. voted to cooperate with National Council, endorsing the Blue Star Highway project. The state Living Memorials chairman was assigned the responsibility of promoting the newly established program throughout California. By the time of the annual state convention three years later, five Blue Star plaques had been dedicated, and the second week of May was designated as Blue Star Highway Week.

The choice of the name of Blue Star Memorial stems from World War II, when blue stars were the insignia appearing on banners, or service flags, in the windows of hundreds of homes in every state. These banners, often homemade, had a red border around a field of white, with blue stars stitched to the white background, one star for each member of that household who was "away at war." As the war progressed, some of the banners were changed, with a gold star taking the place of the blue. Thus, the blue star came to signify the "living" members of a family serving in the armed forces. When the tribute to the war heroes was visualized as a "living" memorial, the blue star seemed an especially appropriate symbol for the highway system across the nation, to be dedicated in honor of the military personnel.

In California, the Blue Star program presented a distinct program. With 900 miles of coastal highway and over 800 miles of inland highway through the San Joaquin and Sacramento River valleys, just as an example, there were tremendous differences in climate, terrain and density of population along both of these two routes. From snow covered mountains to a desert below sea level is an unusual challenge; and after much deliberation, California Garden Clubs chose to promote Highway 99 and Highway 40 as the first Blue Star Memorial Highways in the state, together totaling some 1200 miles of roadway.

Since the first markers were designed, a second, smaller marker has been authorized which may be erected on a Blue Star Highway, or at such local sites as parks, schools, hospitals or roadside planting areas. California Garden Clubs members have now purchased thirty Blue Star markers for placement along the designated Blue Star Highways, as well as twenty-five small markers which are located throughout the state. Although originally planned as a tribute to those who had served during World War II, the concept has now been broadened to include all men and women in all branches of military service, serving in peace as well as in war.

The exact site for the location of a marker on a Blue Star Highway is chosen by the state highway department, following the desires of the sponsoring garden club or district as closely as possible. Purchase of the marker itself is the responsibility of the sponsor, and the dedication ceremony includes the official donation of the marker to the State of California. Plantings and maintenance at the site are usually the duty of

the state highway department, although supplemental plantings or landscaping by the donors can often be arranged.

California Garden Clubs has established a Blue Star Memorial Fund and encourages donations which are being accumulated to finance the purchase of additional Blue Star markers, thus affording everyone the opportunity to participate. No specific Blue Star award is offered, but contributions to the Blue Star Memorial Fund are listed as one of the objectives in the Blue Ribbon Certificate of Achievement for California garden clubs.

The Blue Star Highway system, traversing the country from east to west and north to south, comprises almost 37,000 miles, beautified at intervals with memorial plantings. The program serves a double purpose, paying tribute to the members of the military forces, and at the same time stressing good highway development, conservation, and cooperation among state federations and with public officials and authorities.



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

There have been many changes during the past twenty-five years. From the original dedicated highways of 40 and 99, there are eighteen dedicated highways within the state. Each has been dedicated with a resolution by the state assembly. There are now approximately 50,000 miles of dedicated highways in California.

The original markers were highway markers with the words "A tribute to the Nation's Armed Forces who served in World War II." The second designated marker, small markers, only had a blue star and the club name. These small markers were phased out. Some of these markers have been lost and only thirteen are recorded. The by-way marker was introduced with the words "Blue Star Memorial By-Way" and the sponsor's name. The wording was later changed to read "A tribute to the Armed Forces that have defended the United States of America" with the sponsor's name. The markers now include "members who are presently serving and those who will serve in the future." When the small marker was first introduced, the cost was only \$25. From the original price there have been increases due to inflation and the by-way marker now costs \$360. There are eighty-two by-way markers in our state. In 1987 a by-way marker was dedicated at historic Santa Maria Inn, the site of the first board meeting of CGCI.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) gradually phased out the planting of native plants on highways but still installs the markers and participates in the dedications as the

markers become the property of Caltrans. Some of these original highway markers have suffered from damages of the elements over the years. Various grants through National Garden Clubs, Inc. have been used to refurbish about 12 of these markers. A few of the smaller markers have been refurbished also. The highway marker increased in cost from \$150 to \$1130. There are fifty-eight highway markers in the state.

The newest large marker was approved by NGC in 1996 when the word "highway" was removed so that the markers could be placed at National Cemeteries and VA Medical Centers. There are now eight in California. In 2004 it was broadened to include state veterans homes and selected cemeteries, after approval of the national Blue Star chairman.

A state Blue Star Memorial award was established by the Blue Star Memorials chairman in 1996 with a monetary award of \$50. After the CGCI website was established, an article with a color photo of a marker and listings of all markers in the state was published. This has brought interest from veterans groups expressing the desire to dedicate a marker in their names. These markers have been sponsored by California Garden Clubs, Inc. The Blue Star Memorial fund still exists.

The program continues to expand. The markers have had a baked enamel finish with a drab olive green background with a rust shaded center since their original design. Over the years this rust center has discolored, so in 2007 *Sewah Studios*, the manufacturer, agreed to eliminate the rust color of paint.

Landscaping around the markers is a beautification project and reflects the purpose chosen by members of National Council of State Garden Clubs in 1945 to honor members of the Armed Forces and to beautify our country. Garden clubs and districts are proud to continue sponsoring these markers.

Ruth Angevine
CGCI Blue Star Chairman
1993-2009

GARDEN THERAPY

From the beginning, garden therapy has never been regarded as a new therapy, but rather as another tool to supplement existing therapy practices. It is a nebulous thing to define, but is known through experience to be conducive to health and well being, and has been widely recognized and practiced abroad for many years, particularly in

penal and mental institutions. Therapists have come to realize that there are unseen and untold benefits to working in the garden, and it is generally agreed that gardening is good for all of us – spiritually, physically and mentally.

The garden therapy program initiated by the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. was originally known as “War Service for Hospitalized Veterans” and was, in fact, planned specifically for veterans hospitals. A national chairman was first appointed in 1951, with the second chairman named to this position being Mrs. J. E. Harton, a past president of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

California Garden Clubs followed suit in 1953 when State President, Mrs. Weston Walker appointed a garden therapy chairman to serve on the State Board of Directors. The garden therapy program quickly found a place in many institutions and establishments besides the veterans wards; and it is now widely accepted as a service in hospitals, convalescent homes, foundations for the blind or any place where temporarily or permanently handicapped persons are found.

Garden therapy is a long range program with patient rehabilitation as its goal; and it is of primary importance in proving a means through which human relationships can be formed. Many professional staff members of homes and hospitals for incapacitated persons heartily endorse the participation of garden club members in their general therapy programs, and cite endless cases of the positive results of such activities as watching a plant grow on a bedside table or participating in flower and vegetable gardening on the premises or making a corsage or flower arrangement. Garden therapy is often medically prescribed, and occupational therapy gardens have been developed at a number of hospitals and special care centers, proving situations comparable to those in a more normal life-style. In other words, garden therapy is a means to an end rather than an end in itself.

Emphasis on the garden therapy program in California has been consistent since the beginning, and garden therapy has been the principal theme of at least half a dozen issues of *Golden Gardens*. Accounts of the various garden therapy projects in each district have been printed, along with letters from military and mental hospitals and from psychiatrists and hospital volunteer coordinators; and garden therapy chairmen have written articles and reports for publication. Garden therapy workshops have been conducted at district meetings, and groups of garden club members have been enrolled in therapy training programs at hospitals and clinics. It was even suggested some twenty years ago that a garden therapy training program similar to the Flower Show Schools and Landscape Design Study Courses might be undertaken by National Council.

Late in 1956, State President Mrs. C. C. Henry, (now F. O. Blair), received Board approval to establish the Florence Henry Therapy Award, which was presented at the Convention in 1957 to Stockton Garden Club and Visalia Garden Club. Responsibility for this award was assumed by Mrs. Elenore Rober Hamlin in 1973, and three other therapy awards for adult clubs or districts have also been added to the

award program, plus a junior club award sponsored by Mrs. Lawrence Winship, Past State President.

Acknowledging the difference between actual garden therapy, with its concurrent involvement of patients and garden club members in garden-related programs and activities, as compared with services done for the handicapped which constitute another adjunct of the garden therapy concept, this program of assistance is now designated as "Garden Therapy and Sunshine" in California. Both types of activities are encouraged and awards are available in both categories. Benefits accrue to everyone involved, be it as a patient or a garden club participant, and it can best be said that, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Garden clubs throughout California continue to find garden therapy programs a vital service program within their communities. Garden therapy is for physically-challenged people of all ages and disabilities. There are two types:

1. Active Therapy: garden-related activity projects conducted with the participation of the physically-challenged.
2. Sedentary Therapy: service projects conducted for those unable to participate (visits, gifts, reading, etc.).

The following are examples of garden therapy projects reported by some of CGCI's garden clubs:

- Anderson Valley Garden Club (Cascade District) has included sedentary garden therapy since the club was founded in 1937. Tray favors are made five times a year for the local 100+ rest home residents.
- In 1984 Auburn Garden Club (Golden Foothills District) and the Master Gardeners of Placer County worked together to transform the inner courtyard of Auburn Garden Care & Convalescent Home more patient-friendly and attractive. Planter boxes were built and maintained, and the courtyard planting improved. Today, the club sponsors once-a-month programs with a project using holiday themes.
- Clearlake Trowel & Trellis Garden Club (Mendo-Lake District) began its garden therapy program in 2001. Participants made arrangements for patients' rooms and the lobbies at three local rest homes. Today, the club

schedules four seasonal activities each year at Senior Centers in Clearlake and Lucerne.

- Conejo Valley Garden Club (Channel Islands District) began garden therapy workshops in 1979 at a small senior day care center. Club members cared for window boxes and made flower arrangements with the residents. Currently, the club provides four annual workshops for Halloween, Christmas, early spring and summer.
- Dos Valles Garden Club (Palomar District) teaches young boys about gardening at Valley Center Boy's Ranch. Members help the boys properly prepare the soil, plant, water, weed, fertilize, prune as well as harvest the fruits of their labor.
- Lafayette Garden Club (Diablo Foothills District) asks members to bring cuttings, flowers and clippers to Lafayette Convalescent Hospital to make arrangements with senior residents.
- Modesto Garden Club (Valley Lode District) members make therapeutic garden boxes. Construction details are on the club's website (www.modestogardenclub.org) to download and utilize. These raised planter boxes are located at various local residential care facilities. Each facility has a garden club member to oversee the care of the planters.
- Multiflora Garden Club (Montana de Oro District) sponsors monthly garden activities at Vineyard Hills Health Center. Activities include fresh flower arrangements, pressed flowers and leaf projects, etc.
- Petaluma Garden Club (Luther Burbank District) started its garden therapy with non-participating activities in 1994. Garden club members maintain landscaping at the local Senior Center and take flower arrangements after their monthly meeting to the center for distribution.
- Pleasant Valley Garden Club (Channel Islands District) began its garden therapy program in 2003 when club members worked at Camarillo Health Center with residents suffering from dementia. The projects were simple with the preparation done by club members and the final decorations done by the patients. E.g., four-leaf clovers in March, Valentine cards in February and cornucopias in September.
- Redding Wonderland Garden Club (Cascade District) has a 93-year old member who makes tray favors on a

monthly basis for a local rest home. When asked how many years she has been providing this non-participant garden therapy, she replied, "I've lost count . . . more than 20 years!"

- Roseville Better Gardens Club (Golden Foothills District) works with Oak Creek Senior Living residents to make Christmas wreaths as well as other projects during the year.
- San Clemente Garden Club (Orange County District) members volunteer at the Adult Day Health Care Center. Some of their activities include decorating greeting cards and pumpkins, making simple floral arrangements and sharing gardening knowledge.
- Trinity Garden Club (Cascade District) has members who provide seasonal "hands-on" garden and craft activities, as well as refreshments, at the local hospital.

While some of these activities are similar in nature, the clubs that responded to the chairmen's request to report their clubs' garden therapy projects had a common thread throughout. The satisfaction of seeing smiles on the participants' faces, both garden club member volunteers and patients make this a "win-win" situation for everyone involved.

As our daily lives become more hectic and stressful, garden therapy should be promoted for everyone's daily routine! People today are discovering that spending time in their gardens not only is productive for the soul, but it also produces creative results in the home landscape.

Anne Capes and Doris Rivas-Brekke
Garden Therapy Co-Chairmen, 2007-2009

WORLD GARDENING

The World Gardening program of agricultural assistance to deprived or devastated countries is one of several garden club activities that developed in the aftermath of World War II. The first World Gardening project proposed by the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. was called "Seeds of Peace," and was directed to the countries in the Marshall Plan for European recovery, providing seeds and garden tools in a self-help program of reconstruction.

California Garden Clubs joined the Seeds of Peace program in January, 1947, encouraging donations from garden clubs and

individuals to pay for vegetable seeds to be sent to Finland and Lapland. Through a cooperative agreement with the Burpee Seed Company, thirteen varieties of vegetable seeds were made available to the sponsors at a nominal price. By the end of the first year of the program, California Garden Clubs and certain other organizations in the state had donated funds to provide enough vegetables for one year for an estimated 10,225 people. The Seeds of Peace plan continued until 1949.

Another seed distribution program was also worked out to provide help for the devastated countries of Asia, particularly the Philippines. This distribution program, Seeds for Democracy, was one of the objectives of Pacific Region from 1951 to 1953, when Mrs. John O. England, former California State President, was serving as Pacific Regional Director. The activity was acclaimed as a most effective way to promote international goodwill and economic well being, and the Board of Directors of the Philippine Seeds for Democracy project awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in 1954 to California Garden Clubs for its general support and interest.

Several years later, in 1958 during the administration of President Eisenhower, the People to People program was instituted. Again, National Council encouraged its members to participate, and packets of seeds and letters of friendship were sent to countries around the world. The beginning of this new world gardening program coincided with the issuance of the first United States postage stamp in history honoring the garden clubs throughout America. This coincidence was considered a great opportunity to create awareness of the garden club movement in the United States, and seeds and letters sent abroad all carried the Bailey-Garden Club stamp, issued to commemorate the one hundredth birthday anniversary of the renowned American horticulturalist, Liberty Hyde Bailey.

The World Gardening program, as we know it today, actually began nationally in 1959 with California's first World Gardening chairman, Mrs. Wallace F. Hirsch, named to the position early in 1960. The concept of agricultural assistance to increase the potential of emerging nations has many broad implications, and California Garden Clubs has chosen, for many practical reasons, to concentrate its efforts on one particular project in several instances over the years. For example, in 1961, an ambitious program was launched by Pacific Region to help restore the Kyoto Botanical Gardens in Japan, which had been occupied by the American Forces for twelve years. California Garden Clubs participated wholeheartedly; and the Governor of California, acknowledging the concerted garden club effort, proclaimed May 15, 1962 to be World Gardening Day, setting this date to coincide with the time of the traditional Regional Breakfasts at the National Convention, held that year in Los Angeles.

Simultaneously, the California federation adopted the American Samoa Project, writing letters regularly to the American Samoa Garden Club in Pago Pago. A schedule was established, assigning each district

in the state a specific month for sending letters telling the American Samoans about California garden clubs and gardens.

In 1964, some ten years after the end of the Korean conflict, the need for rehabilitation in South Korea inspired California garden clubs to concentrate their World Gardening efforts on South Korea, working with the American-Korean Foundation, particularly for the benefit of the young people in the 4-H Club movement, which had suffered severely during the war. Once again, Pacific Region adopted a unified regional project emphasizing World Gardening, focusing on the Hwang-Ji area in South Korea, which was assigned particularly to them for the purpose of helping to reinforce the important 4-H program. More than \$2,000 was collected by the Region for scholarship grants and 4-H work in a two-year period, with California contributing generously.

Also, on its own, California Garden Clubs, Inc. elected to sponsor the 4-H club idea in Korea as a cornerstone in the rehabilitation of the Korean agricultural economy. Firsthand knowledge of the Korean situation was readily available from Col. Frank E. Gillette, former Military Governor in South Korea, who became the State World Gardening chairman in 1965. Emphasis on South Korea has continued, with the addition of other much needed projects in other countries as emergencies have arisen. The American-Korean Foundation itself has also broadened its scope and is currently operating under the name of International Human Assistance Programs, Inc. (IHAP).



***World Gardening program furnishes seeds and tools
to produce food in devastated countries.***

For some time now, California Garden Clubs has embraced the overall idea of World Gardening for its many contributions to agricultural development around the world but has left the choices for implementing the program in the hands of the individual garden clubs throughout the state. Participation in World Gardening continues, as California garden clubs continue to help finance a broad spectrum of assistance programs.



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

IHAP and CARE were two programs which clubs supported through World Gardening donations. Both programs were involved in the nutritional status of elementary school children in the Philippines and South Korea, providing 4-H scholarships and seeds for food cultivation in schools. IHAP was discontinued after 1984.

“CARE for the Earth” offered sensible, pragmatic solutions to the problems of deteriorating natural resources in 16 developing countries through preservation of soil, forests and water. The choice of country was determined by the sponsoring organization.

Beginning in 1995, World Gardening transitioned into three choices for clubs that continued through the 1991-2001 term. The basic philosophy was that of teaching and helping cultures around the world to improve their standard of living. Monetary support for equipment, seeds and trees showed the concern of garden clubs for people around the world. Clubs could earmark their donations to any one of the following agencies:

- CARE – one of the world’s largest private relief organizations. It helped people with emergency assistance. It also helped farmers plant millions of trees and worked toward long-term solutions to hunger and poverty by helping farmers increase their productivity.
- Heifer Project International – provided a “living loan” of livestock, e.g., cows, chickens, llamas and water buffalo to help families help themselves out of poverty, and to provide food. Typically, a project consisted of three essential components: livestock and other material goods; training in the care of livestock and extension of work; and organizational development.

- World's Children, Inc. – reached out to destitute children around the world to provide food and medical care and taught adults about self-sufficiency. All funds were sent abroad to establish gardens.

While CGCI no longer continued the World Gardening chairmanship after the 1999-2001 term, NGC continues to actively support it. Visit www.gardenclub.org for current project information. At Winter Board 2006, the Board of Directors approved closing the restricted fund and forwarded the balance of \$194.47 to NGC's World Gardening Fund.



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

In May 1999, a partnership was formed between National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Habitat for Humanity (HFH). HFH's mission is to eliminate poverty housing from the face of the earth. NGC's goal is to encourage garden clubs across the nation to participate in the landscaping of HFH homes. The philosophy is that no commitment – physical or monetary – is too small. All endeavors and contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

A direct line of communication is in place for one-on-one networking between HFH Affiliates and garden club representatives. The more than 1,500 HFH Affiliates are aware of the NGC and HFH partnership.

Emphasis is on enhancing the environment by landscaping HFH homes, landscaping with hearty native trees, shrubs and plants that also attract butterflies. It is the hope of NGC to have the community, both adult and young gardeners, involved in this very worthy project.

CGCI's chairmanship was created at Fall Board in 1999. CGCI encouraged clubs and individual members to participate in *Tree-a-Thon*, a project providing sustainable landscaping for Habitat for Humanity houses. Each club was encouraged to contact its local HFH Affiliates in California via an Internet address for a variety of gardening opportunities needed. The program transitioned to landscaping the grounds or providing a planter for HFH homes in garden club communities when NGC partnered

with HFH Home Builders Blitz program and “Perfectly Simple Giving” (PSG) in 2006. During National Garden Week, PSG made free container garden plants available to clubs wishing to participate in HFH’s Home Builder Blitz. Since 2006, PSG and participating garden clubs have provided colorful “welcome home” container gardens to hundreds of Habitat homeowners.

The CGCI chairmanship continued through the 2007 term and was then discontinued. NGC continues to support it today.



NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. (now NGC) initiated promotion of National Garden Week in 1981 when 1,322 constituent signatures were sent to Congress. 995 signatures were sent to the two California Senators at the time by members of CGCI. In 1983, the official proclamation by President Mrs. Francis A. Fink proclaimed June 5-11, 1983 as the first National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. Garden Club Week. Members were encouraged to write to their Senators requesting a National Garden Week for the first week in June 1984.

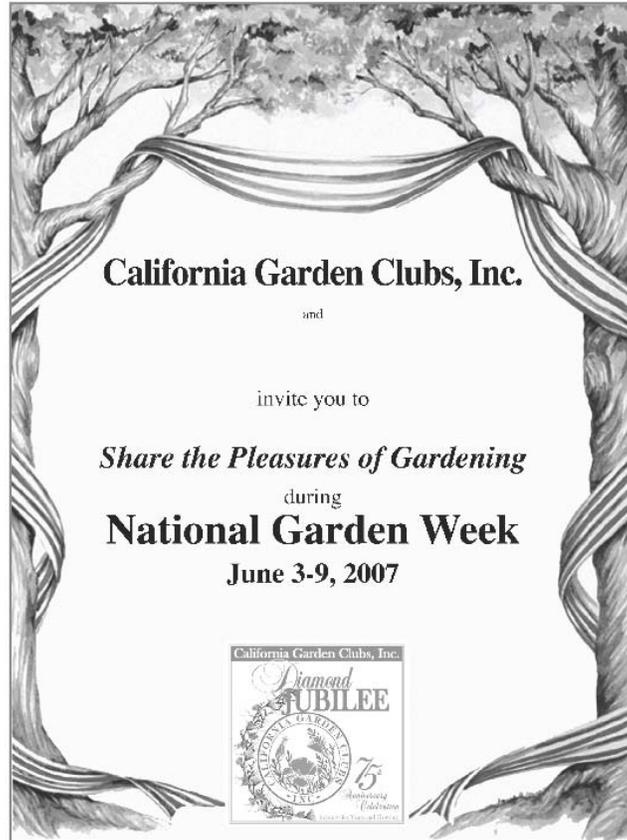
The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 136, authorized and requested the President of the United States to issue a proclamation designating the week beginning April 13, 1986 as “National Garden Week.” This resulted in Proclamation 5462 signed by President Ronald Reagan.

Today, NGC designates the first full week in June, beginning on Sunday, as National Garden Week. This is a special week designed to focus public attention on the programs, projects and activities promoted by garden clubs. A Proclamation is declared by NGC’s president and is published in *The National Gardener*. Full-color posters are available from NGC to help publicize the event.

To celebrate the event garden clubs are encouraged to participate in educational exhibits, flower shows, garden tours, memorial plantings, tree plantings, garden therapy, and floral design exhibits in public areas. Members are requested to issue publicity press releases to promote clubs and districts, CGCI and NGC and ask their local governments to proclaim National Garden Week to help raise community awareness. National Garden Week provides a perfect opportunity to tell the story of the organization, and, by observing this occasion, clubs highlight

every aspect of gardening, thus attracting the attention of the public as well as promote joining a garden club.

An NGC Special Award and CGCI award are given annually for the most effective promotion of National Garden Week.



DIVISION IX – PRESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Presidential Highlights

PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

"I congratulate you, garden and nature lovers of California, whose sincere and unselfish interest and vision of an even more beautiful California, have led you to take part in this banding together of her garden clubs. You will realize the glorious results of such a cooperative effort in your awakening to California's marvelous opportunities in the floral and horticultural world, pledging yourselves to conserve her natural beauty and to cherish the landmarks of her romantically historic traditions."



*Elvenia Slosson, Founder President
California Garden Clubs, Inc.*

PRESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

1931-1935 Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson, Founder President

California Garden Club Federation organized December 5, 1931 at Santa Maria Inn with 23 charter clubs, following extensive promotion and research by Mrs. Slosson. Admitted to membership in National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. on December 5, 1932. First yearbook, April, 1932, Editor, Mrs. Slosson; first issue of *Golden Gardens*, October, 1932, Editor, Miss Charlotte M. Hoak. First Judges Course, San Francisco. Lending library established with books donated by Las Jardineras Garden Clubs (Los Angeles). Sixth annual meeting of National Council hosted in Los Angeles. Seeds from Dr. Rock Expedition to China and Tibet, sponsored by University of California at Berkeley, distributed for test growing.

1935-1937 Mrs. Richard Kirkley

Recommended to Governor of California that state landscape architect be appointed. First Pacific Regional Convention held in Oregon; Mrs. Slosson, first Pacific Regional Vice President. *Golden Gardens* increased from four to eight pages. California Garden Club Federation incorporated under name of California Garden Clubs, Inc. Chairmen of standing committees admitted to Board membership. Second donation of seed from Dr. Rock 1932 Expedition.

1937-1939 Mrs. Samuel A. Guiberson

Plant hunting expedition to Andes sponsored under direction of Dr. T. Harper Goodspeed, University of California at Berkeley. Three achievement awards for club activities authorized for study. Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco opened, Alice Eastwood, Kate Sessions and John McLaren participating in ground breaking ceremonies; special horticulture exhibit provided by Mr. H. M. Butterfield. Pacific Regional Fourth Annual Convention in San Francisco.

1939-1940 Mrs. Z. E. Page

Chairmen appointed for distribution of rare seeds, bulbs and plants from Dr. Goodspeed Andean expedition. National Life Membership presented to Mrs. Slosson. Prizes authorized for club yearbook competition. *Golden Gardens* sent to all tax free libraries in state. Membership cards provided for all members for first time.

1940-1943 Mrs. Frederick N. Scatena

Sacramento Art and Garden Center established. Extensive victory gardening, landscape camouflage, planting of army hospital grounds. Hall of Flowers Building moved from Treasure Island to State Fair Grounds; first annual State Fair Flower Show held. Alice Eastwood Herbarium Fund started for Alice Eastwood wing, Academy of Sciences Building, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Fall semi-annual meetings

discontinued. Club yearbook, roadside beautification and best exhibit prizes established. Life memberships reduced to \$50.00. Publication of *Golden Gardens* transferred to Chancey-Citizen Printing Company, Beverly Hills. Mrs. Samuel A. Guiberson elected Pacific Regional Director.

1943-1944 Mrs. E. B. Wyman

War effort continued, stressing home vegetable gardens and raising plants in containers for army camouflage. Perpetual trophy established for garden club achievement. Life membership purchased in Save-the-Redwoods League. First National award to a California garden club won by Piedmont Garden Club for outstanding war efforts. Upon Mrs. Guiberson's death in July, 1943, Mrs. Frederick N. Scatena appointed to office of Pacific Regional Director.

1944-1945 Mrs. Charles Gibbs Adams

Establishment of arboretum and botanical gardens in Los Angeles area endorsed under auspices of Southern California Horticultural Institute, Dr. Samuel Ayres, Jr., chairman. Annual meeting cancelled due to wartime travel restrictions; balloting by mail; installation of officers at special Board meeting in Fresno.

1945-1947 Mrs. Walter G. Brendel

Monthly Federation Letter sent to all garden club presidents. National Council Blue Star Memorial Highway program adopted; Highways 99 and 40 designated Blue Star Memorial Highways. Participation in "Seeds of Peace" program authorized; money collected for vegetable seeds for Finland and Lapland; first world gardening effort. Group membership class adopted. Garden therapy program in hospitals under state chairman of Hospital Services. Participation in program to send letter to every newspaper and radio station in California on law prohibiting picking of wildflowers.

1947- 1949 Mrs. William D. Shearer

California Garden Clubs Day at Sacramento State Fair established. Funds to purchase 40-acre redwood grove raised. Forty-acre adjacent grove purchased by National Council to celebrate National's twentieth anniversary. Groves dedication in post-convention ceremony, 1949. "Seeds of Peace" program continued; total donation, \$1,021.25. Advisory Council of Past Presidents created. Concept of Freedom Gardens for home food production endorsed. Life Member Endowment Trust Fund created; Board of Endowment Trustees created to administer Fund. Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson elected National President.

1949-1951 Mrs. John O. England

Publication of *Golden Gardens* returned to Kruckeberg Press, September, 1949. First nationally accredited Flower Show School in California. Pygmy Forest acquisition adjoining Van Damme State Park adopted as conservation project. Alice Eastwood endorsed to receive

National Council Gold Medal. Perpetual trophy for club achievement retired; replaced by two cups, awarded according to club membership. "Early American Garden Traditions" published by National Council; \$500.00 patron donation from state, honoring Mrs. Slosson. Publishing of *Golden Gardens* awarded to Consolidated Printing, Los Angeles, beginning April, 1951. Pacific Regional Seventh Annual Convention hosted in San Francisco.

1951-1953 Mrs. J. E. Harton

Mrs. John O. England elected Pacific Regional Director. National Council annual convention hosted in San Francisco. Junior garden club program reactivated under chairmanship of Mrs. Weston Walker. Junior gardening achievement awards underwritten by California Association of Nurserymen. Publication of *Golden Gardens* returned to Kruckeberg Press. Cutting of redwood trees on Highway 101 actively opposed.

1953-1954 Mrs. Weston Walker

Golden Gardens Managing Board established. Handbook prepared as procedural guide for officers, district directors and chairmen. Membership award established for district with most new clubs. Claim filed to register trademark "GOLDEN GARDENS." Duties of Board of Trustees enlarged to include management of all investments. Procedural handbook authorized as permanent publication. Standing Rule adopted to attend annual Garden Clubs Day at the Fair. Garden therapy chairmanship established. State Chamber of Commerce Roadside Clean-up Campaign supported.

1954-1956 Mrs. J. J. Gallagher

First chairman of Judges Councils appointed. Miss Charlotte Hoak's eightieth birthday and Diamond Jubilee in Horticulture observed on radio broadcast in Pasadena. *Golden Gardens* awarded National Council State Publication Certificate for first time. Awards program greatly expanded. State legislation urged to establish roadside rests. Offer received from Los Angeles State and County Arboretum of storage space for permanent files. State yearbook authorized. First California Flower Arrangement Book endorsed, to be published privately; profits designated for garden therapy and conservation. Plant-a-Tree Week established for first week in March.

1956-1958 Mrs. C. C. Henry

Garden Therapy activity widespread. Pacific Regional Fourteenth Annual Convention hosted in Monterey. Rustic bench donated by Life Members for Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden, Springfield, Illinois. Library moved to Garden Center Building on grounds of Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Arcadia. First California roadside rest dedicated. Donation of \$500.00 for sofa at National Permanent Home in honor of Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson. First state yearbook since 1932 published. Man of the Year Award established. Active participation in Penny Pines program as a result of massive forest fires statewide.

1958-1960 Mrs. Harry F. Hunter

Awards Manual sent to all clubs. Slosson Memorial Redwood Grove adopted to honor Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson, deceased. District numbers changed to descriptive names. First Landscape Design Course held at University of California at Berkeley. National Permanent Home in St. Louis, Missouri dedicated. Mrs. J. J. Gallagher elected Pacific Regional Director. First Flower Show Judges Symposium held in Berkeley; Mrs. W. H. Barton, National Flower Schools Chairman, lecturer.

1960-1962 Mrs. Charles P. Scott

Slosson Memorial Redwood Grove dedicated. Miss Charlotte Hoak and Mr. Harry Butterfield named Chairman Emeritus in respective fields of California Native Flora and Horticulture. Pacific Regional Seventeenth and National Council Thirty-Third Annual Conventions hosted in Los Angeles. First statewide Standard Junior Flower Show staged at state convention. High School Gardeners chairmanship established. Per capita dues increased to 50 cents. Woman of the Year Award established.

1962-1964 Mrs. Henry T. Read

Education Fund established. California history, "The First Thirty-Three Years of California Garden Clubs, Inc." published. Flower Show and junior gardening policies defined. Costa Rica plant salvage expedition, sponsored by Arboretum District, supported statewide. State policy book established, to be maintained as up-to-date record. Blue Ribbon Club award adopted. Directors issued educational kits with information from all state chairmen. *Golden Gardens* issues reduced to ten per year.

1964-1966 Mrs. Lawrence A. Winship

First Junior Garden Club Manual published, compiled by Mrs. Weston Walker. First two Life Membership Fund scholarships awarded. California bicentennial program to plant flowering trees and shrubs, "Celebrate with Color," endorsed. World Gardening emphasis on Korea. Symposium Fund created. Landscape Design Council formed. Procedure manual for state Board meetings and conventions compiled. Election rules changed; officers to be elected for two-year terms. Green and gold adopted as official state federation colors. Civic Beautification Conference sponsored at Fresno.

1966-1968 Mrs. Vincent T. Gilchrist

First State Flower Arrangement and Activities Calendar, ways and means project. First Pacific Regional Conference for Landscape Design Critics, sponsored by Sears, Roebuck and Company. Radio and TV Booklet compiled. *Golden Gardens* issues reduced to six per year. Donation of \$200.00 to Desert Protective Council for Conservation booklet for school distribution. Awards year changed to coincide with National's, January 1 to December 31. First Landscape Design tour of homes and businesses sponsored by Critics Council. Pygmy Forest

project named in honor of Miss Charlotte M. Hoak. Resolution to Governor Reagan to declare April as Clean-up, Paint-up and Plant Month.

1968-1970 Mrs. Milton R. Bell

Permanent files reorganized and indexed. Articles of Incorporation amended to change tax status to 501(c)(3) exempt organization. Charlotte M. Hoak Pygmy Forest dedicated. Second State Flower Arrangement Calendar, state pins and charms, ways and means projects. Three statewide conservation conferences: Sacramento, San Mateo, Arcadia. New banner purchased. Tree and shrubs donated by Mrs. Bell to National Headquarters honoring California Garden Clubs, Inc. Mrs. Vincent T. Gilchrist elected Pacific Regional Director. Bequests from Mrs. Walter G. Brendel for *Golden Gardens* and state scholarships. Month of May proclaimed Clean-up and Paint-up Month by Governor Reagan. Pacific Regional Twenty-Fifth Annual Convention hosted in San Francisco. Three garden clubs in Hawaii accepted for state membership, pending organization of enough clubs to qualify as separate federation.

1970-1972 Mrs. Henry T. Dolezal

Handbook for Youth Leaders compiled by Mrs. Weston Walker, Mrs. Matthew Dunlap, Mrs. Philip G. Brueckner. Two Junior Garden Club flower arrangements in National Council calendar. "People and Their Environment," teachers' curriculum guides, program accepted. California State Park Foundation poppy fields preservation project endorsed. First Standard State Flower Show, San Luis Obispo. Anza-Borrego Desert Gardens project adopted; inauguration of annual "Walk for Desert Gardens." Hawaii clubs separate federation formed. Standing Rule regarding attendance at annual Garden Clubs Day at the Fair rescinded, relieving Sacramento River Valley District of hosting first quarterly Board meeting in Sacramento every year. National Life membership, or its equivalent, voted for incoming state presidents.

1972-1974 Mrs. John N. Fehrer

National Forestry Association's Conservation Woman of the Year and National Arbor Day Foundation's tree planting awards received. State President included on panel of judges for Tournament of Roses Parade, 1973. State emblem gummed seals, new ways and means project. Invitations extended to host 1977 Pacific Regional and 1982 National conventions. One hundred percent status reached in contributions to National Headquarters. Green Conservation Book and Gold Book of Appreciation established. Conservation Education Grove project in Big Basin initiated. Desert Tortoise Preserve in Mojave Desert supported. File of photographs of state presidents, established under stewardship of photography chairman. Mrs. Allen Hilton appointed Horticulture Chairman Emeritus.



Designed by Mrs. John Marx honoring Mrs. John N. Fehrer upon her retirement as President of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

1974-1976 Mrs. Wallace F. Hirsch

Environmental Education workshops sponsored by Standard Oil Company, Shell Oil Company, U.S. Forest Service. Seven High School Gardeners sent to Washington, D.C. Youth Conference, courtesy of Shell Oil Company. Los Angeles flood control basins planted with native flora by two districts. "Great Rake" litter control program accepted as state project. California Poppy Reserve dedicated. "Poppies for People," statewide planting project; funds from residual of Sears contests. State library renamed Alice Hilton Memorial Library. Bicentennial projects: door decoration contest; second Standard State Flower Show; Liberty Trees; George Smith flower arranging program on Queen Mary, special ways and means project. Publications: new California Garden Clubs membership pamphlet; *Handbook for Youth Leaders* (reprint); *Twelve-Year History of California Garden Clubs, Inc.* State president's pin designed and presented. *Golden Gardens* sent to each garden club president for first time. Copy of brochures on "People and their Environment" provided to State Department of Education for distribution to all state teachers. Dr. Henry M. Weber appointed Conservation Chairman Emeritus.

1976-1978 Mrs. Eugene Woesner

Conservation Education Grove in Big Basin dedicated. Stagecoach Hill Azalea Project adopted. Mrs. Roderick R. Black named Editor Emeritus of *Golden Gardens*. American Land Trust endorsed and support pledged. Acquisition of five acres adjoining Conservation Education Grove approved. Bequest of Christy Fitz Memorial Fund for financing of Flower Show Schools received. *Golden Gardens* Managing Board, except Editor, to become appointive positions instead of elective. Education Fund discontinued. Provisos adopted to change state elections to odd-numbered years, beginning in 1985. Pacific Regional Convention hosted in San Mateo. Nature Conservancy proposal to acquire Santa Cruz Island for Conservation Preserve favored. Four High School Gardeners in attendance at environmental workshop at Texas A & M; adult representative, Andy Lipkis, TreePeople Director. Dues raised to \$1.00 per capita. Mrs. John N. Fehrer elected National Fourth Vice President.

1978-1980 Mrs. Robert E. Busher

First state-sponsored Environmental Education Workshop; first Gardening Study Course. "Golden Circle of Trees" honoring National Council's fiftieth anniversary presented. Second grove redwoods (5 acres) dedicated. Third grove (10 acres) pledged. Board meeting schedule changed from quarterly to Fall, Winter, Pre-Convention, Organizational meetings. *Policy Book* printed. Theodore Payne Foundation project for improvement of wildflower propagation facilities adopted. State scholarships raised to \$750.00. Installation Fund established for National Convention, 1985. *Golden Gardens* subscriptions increased to \$2.00. Balance in Pygmy Forest Fund donated to California State Parks Foundation for printing of Pygmy Forest descriptive brochure. Contributions collected for "Exhibition 50" (National Council fiftieth anniversary, Washington, D.C.). Mrs. John N. Fehrer elected National Third Vice President.

1980-1982 Mrs. Georg W. Daiber

Floral designs and photographic display of South Coast Botanic Garden provided at "Exhibition 50." Permanent files, seriously damaged by flooding at Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, were moved to new quarters offered at California State University at Long Beach. First Historical Preservation Landscape Design Conference, San Diego. Commendation for civic improvement presented to city officials, Tijuana, Mexico. May Belle Brendel Scholarship established for qualified applicant with highest scholastic standing; this scholarship was \$250.00 greater than other scholarships awarded, beginning in 1982. New membership brochure printed by Chevron U.S.A. Contribution of \$1,000 from Conservation Fund to Theodore Payne Foundation for repair of fire damage. Presentation of plaque and redwood tree in Big Basin State Park to Mr. Arthur W. Kruckeberg on occasion of his ninetieth birthday. Mr. William Penn Mott endorsed for National Silver Seal Award in 1982. Reprint of first state yearbook, 1932, offered as

souvenir of California's fiftieth anniversary. Fifty-year clubs officially recognized at 1982 State Convention. National Council Fifty-Third Convention hosted at Century Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles. Pacific Regional Unified Project, "Abraham Lincoln Alternate Energy Scholarship"; suggested donation, 4 cents per capita. Mrs. John N. Fehrer elected National Second Vice President.

"In all places then, and in all seasons
Flowers expand their light and soul-like wings
Teaching us, by most persuasive reasons,
How akin they are to human beings."

- Longfellow



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

1982-1984 Mary Tebo

Stagecoach Hill was completed with \$500 from the conservation fund and \$1000 from the azalea quilt. The sum of \$1000 was donated to Theodore Payne Foundation to repair fire damage. With grove #3 assured, an additional ten acres were pledged for Big Basin Redwood State Park. Support for Anza-Borrego Desert Gardens and Penny Pines continued. CGCI membership increased and Life Memberships reached record highs, providing additional scholarship funds. *Golden Gardens* acquired a new look. All educational programs were active. Three sister clubs were established in Mexico, San Salvador and England. The adoption of Pacific Region's scholarship, a world gardening project in Bangladesh, placement of a Blue Star Byway marker, youth activities, and study of organic and intensive food gardening were evidence that was indeed "A Time to Grow." Mrs. John N. Fehrer elected National First Vice President.

1984-1985 Meredith (Hughes) Clark

This one-year presidency brought California in line with National. CGCI continued participation in the educational programs and conservation goals of National Council of State Garden Clubs. Dedications were held for the thirty-acre grove at Big Basin Redwood State Park, Stagecoach Hill Azalea Preserve, a sensorial trail at Wild Animal Park, the San Mateo Garden Center, three new Blue Star Highways and nine Blue Star Highway/Byway markers. New state conservation projects

included Baldwin Lake Preserve, Kaweah Oaks, King Creosote Clone (all under the Nature Conservancy) and White Oak Farm. A commemorative stamp program served the habitat for California Bald Eagles. A new District was created; a new life member pin, a new district director's pin, a three-year purse-size calendar and a new *Handbook for Youth Leaders* were offered to the membership. Major revision of the bylaws completed. Published a new book, *Wings Over Our Gardens*. A twin club in England was formed. CGCI hosted the 1984 Pacific Region Convention exemplifying CGCI's belief in "*Forever Gardening*."

1985-1987 Elsie Mae Nicholson

Information posters on the Blue Star program were placed by the California Department of Transportation in all rest areas containing a marker. The first wildflower conference was held. An "education explosion" included five gardening study schools, three flower show schools, two landscape design study schools and two symposiums. Members supported several Nature Conservancy projects, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Theodore Payne Native Plant Foundation, and saving commemorative stamps for Baldwin Lake, wintering habitat of bald eagles. In addition, tens of thousands of trees were planted as part of "Trees Please." Penny Pines reforestation program donations reached \$31,307 (451 plantations) for this two-year period. Members purchased their eighth grove in Big Basin Redwood State Park. Club garden therapy projects increased from 50% to 90% participation, with the stimulus of the "Working with Plants and People" Unified Project of Pacific Region. The World Gardening Heifer Project received donations of over \$3,000 and nearly 300 seed packets. Four state scholarships were given annually. Mrs. John N. Fehrer elected 29th President of National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. (National Garden Clubs, Inc.).

1987-1989 Betty Hedtke

A new workbook was prepared with helpful ideas for starting new clubs. One goal was to attract new members who would like to become part of our organization by setting up clubs to meet at night for those who could not attend daytime meetings. Thirty-six new clubs were organized. A much needed liability insurance policy was established, leading to a great increase in membership (almost 2,000) as non-federated clubs and plant societies chose to become members in order to be eligible for this insurance. New projects adopted included a Peace Garden

in Washington D.C. to be managed by the National Park Service; money and manpower for planting trees at the Kern River Preserve (a Nature Conservancy project); as well as trees and patriotic gardens planted throughout California in honor of the Constitutional celebration. Over \$19,000 was contributed to Penny Pines. Education flourished throughout the state. Membership reached 13,000 with 250 National Life Members.

1989-1991 Gladys Nielsen

Membership grew to 14,560 in 27 geographical districts, 22 Clubs-At-Large, 3 affiliates and 49 High School & Junior Garden Clubs. Guidelines were established offering a one-time \$250 grant toward the start of each new Series of Gardening Study, Landscape Design and Flower Show Schools. Yosemite National Park was the setting for a Wildflower Conference in June and fifteen one-day Xeriscape Workshops were given throughout the state. Financial Resolutions included support for the California Hall of Flowers at Cal-Expo (state fairgrounds); the Friendship Garden; Cosumnes River Riparian Vegetation Preserve; and the Watsonville Earthquake Relief Fund. Resolutions in principle included the Heritage Tree Preservation; the Monarch butterfly as the National Insect; and the first full week of June was declared Garden Week in Perpetuity. Youth was a major focus with the new Gladys M. Nielsen Youth Workshop Award and utilizing youth as Color-Flag Bearers at meetings and as escorts at Convention.

1991-1993 Mary Lou (Van Deventer) Goodwin

Education flourished with a Gardening Study refresher, Landscape Design School, Flower Show Schools and Symposiums. A new Environmental School was developed by National. The Blue ribbon tour to Holland and France was a great success as a fundraiser for the president's project - to provide educational signs and labels for the Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden in Fort Bragg. While a goal of \$5,000 was set, \$10,000 was raised for the Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden. \$1500 was given to the Alameda-Contra Costa Regional Parks Foundation for Lake Temescal Firestorm Reforestation and \$500 was donated for the NCSGC Iron Gazebo placed in the Ameriflora '92 held in Columbus, Ohio. "Economics and the Environment" sponsored by Shell Oil, followed the National Convention. CGCI hosted Pacific Region Convention with Mary Tebo, CGCI Past President, as the Pacific Region Director.

Wildflower Conference was held in Fort Bragg, CA. Printed the *60th Anniversary History Book 1931-1991*.

1993-1995 JoAnn Gould

Membership grew to 17,843 consisting of 287 clubs in 26 Districts and 39 associate plant societies and represented a 22% increase. In addition, there were 24 affiliates and 78 youth clubs. Landscape Design Conference was held in wine country and Wildflower Conference in Death Valley. There were 36 Blue Star Memorial dedications. Eight scholarships were awarded for \$1,000 each. The state finance system was revised and automated with the use of computers. Extensive revision of the Bylaws was completed. The new *Handbook for Youth Leaders* was reprinted. Permanent Files were removed from CSU Long Beach to a permanent location. Projects supported include the following: Anza Borrego Desert Gardens; CGCI Conservation Education Grove; Kern River Preserve; Land Trust/Nature Conservancy; Mono Basin Environmental Education Fund; National Peace Garden; Theodore Payne Foundation Plant Propagation. Two projects were completed: Mt. Diablo Interpretive Center and Museum; Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden.

1995-1997 Peggy Northon

Greatest number of P.E.T.A.L.S. (Protect the Environment through Action, Learning and Service) grants were received by CGCI member clubs – 18. Twelve new Blue Star Memorial Dedications occurred. A new project was adopted to raise funds for Interpretive Signs at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, California's largest botanic garden. Continued support for Anza-Borrego Desert Gardens, CGCI Conservation Grove, Kern River Preserve, The Nature Conservancy, Mono Basin, National Peace Garden, Theodore Payne Foundation. Membership continued to grow and reached 19,084 members from 276 clubs and 77 associate plant societies. In addition, 29 affiliates and 89 youth groups were members. CGCI had 252 National Life Members, 1,057 California Life Members and 122 Pacific Region Life Members, a program started 5 years ago during Mary Tebo's term as Pacific Region Director. Education flourished with Flower Show Schools, Landscape Design School, Gardening Study School and the new Environmental School. CGCI had 262 Flower Show Judges, 7 Instructors, 96 Landscape Design Critics and 87 Gardening Consultants. CGCI continued to make progress with computerization of the financial

records, circulation records for *Golden Gardens*, membership records and soon the various school records. Dues increased to \$1.25 per capita.

1997-1999 Beverly Brune

Electronic communication began in 1997 with the introduction of the CGCI website and with three executive committee members using email. A ten-acre Conservation Education Redwood Grove in Big Basin Redwoods State Park, financed over several years by CGCI members, was dedicated. The fourth CGCI Flower Show was staged in San Luis Obispo. The 1999 Pacific Region Convention was hosted using a P.E.T.A.L.S. grant and with programs by UC Davis professors. CGCI supported NCSGC (now NGC) by purchasing a patio paver at Headquarters in St. Louis. Conejo Valley Botanic Garden was chosen as the President's Project for the two years. With a \$5,000 gift in memory of CGCI member Helen Minor from her sister, \$500 grants are offered for each Flower Show School in course 5. The Angel Fund was established to help *Golden Gardens* with finances. An association was created with the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show that began in 1999 and to date has continued for ten years. Membership in 1998 was 19,982.

1991-2001 Dorothy Roton

Wildflower Conference was at Bass Lake and 10 Blue Star Memorials were dedicated. Fifth state flower show, "California Magic" was held in conjunction with San Francisco Flower & Garden Show. CGCI member clubs received 25 P.E.T.A.L.S. grants in addition to the CGCI grant for a total of \$9,575. A paver was purchased for the National Garden in Washington, D.C. to honor the youth in California. Membership reached 20,213 in 250 clubs within 26 Districts and 81 associate plant societies. In addition, CGCI had 24 affiliates and 79 youth groups. Penny Pines reported donations by member clubs of \$25,568 and purchased 376 plantations. The state hosted the National Convention in San Diego, "2000 – A Virtual Reality." President's project financially supported CALM, California Living Museum.

2001-2003 Virginia Bennetts

The sixth state flower show was held in conjunction with the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show. Membership totaled 20,515 and included 1500 new members, 28 new garden clubs and 25 new youth groups. P.E.T.A.L.S. grants from Shell Oil in

the amount of \$15,000 were awarded to 26 member clubs and the State for various projects. Nine NGC schools were held. A "Manual for Youth Gardeners" was published and the number of youth groups grew to 100. The President's project financially supported signage for The Gardens at Heather Farms. 521,435 trees were planted in California as part of the NGC 2 Million Trees Project. 855 Penny Pines plantations were purchased by member clubs for the reforestation of National Forests in California. CGCI published a Flower Arranging Journal, California Poppy Note cards and produced a CGCI tote bag as promotional items for sale to members and the general public.

2003-2005 Robert L. Gordon

In order to improve communication, involvement and efficiency, the Cabinet was created where like committees were combined with a Cabinet member to oversee. District Clusters were created for organizational purposes for fundraisers and president visits. As a result there were two successful fundraisers (design tours), and all Districts were visited without driving up and down the state 26 times. CGCI also had successful Garden/Theatre trips to London and New York as fundraisers. *Golden Gardens* was tested in new color format. Membership recorded 21,500 members consisting of 264 clubs and 65 associate plant societies. In addition, there were 31 affiliates and 153 youth groups. The President's project was raising funds to support the restoration of the gardens at Hearst Castle back to the way they were when William Randolph Hearst was there. The goal was a dollar per member and the goal was exceeded when over \$26,000 was raised. Youth Gardeners were also included with a prize of a weekend historical trip to the Castle and camping in the Castle Campgrounds using their equipment. To celebrate the project, there was a weekend celebration in San Simeon that included a Floral Exhibition in the Castle, Tea on the Terrace, presentation of the money at a ceremony in the gardens, dedication of a Blue Star Memorial marker in Hearst State Park on Highway 1, a reception hosted by Friends of Hearst Castle and a dinner. A highlight of the weekend was a visit by National President, June Wood, who also placed a design in the floral exhibition.

2005-2007 Elisabeth Tufo

The seventy-fifth Diamond Anniversary was celebrated with a yearlong Jubilee, June 2006 through June 2007 (see *Diamond Jubilee Celebration* in Division X for details of activities). Ten

clubs received *Let Freedom Ring* grants from NGC totaling \$11,200. Seventeen Blue Star Memorials were dedicated. *Patriotic Trees*, honoring California's firefighters, were planted at each state meeting. CGCI hosted the NGC Executive Board Meeting in Glendale, January 2006, and the Pacific Region Convention in Burbank, April 2007. Education flourished with four NGC Study Schools, one in each field. A Wildflower Conference was held in Bishop, May 2007. IRS 501(c)(3) group tax exemption was introduced. CGCI exhibited floral designs at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, March 2006 and 2007, as well as at the Sacramento Home & Garden Show, January 2007. Leadership seminars were held January and June 2007. *Grassroots* was introduced, a quarterly website newsletter for gardeners. Dues raise approved to \$2.25 per capita, effective July 1, 2008. President's Project consisted of Jubilee Grants - \$10,200 was offered to clubs and districts for landscaping projects incorporating native plants.

DIVISION X – NEW PROGRAMS, PROJECTS & EVENTS



1981-1982 to 2006-2007

Garden Club Day at the State Fair

Master Liability Insurance Policy Program

P.E.T.A.L.S. Grants

CGCI Website

IRS Group Exemption Program

CGCI Certificate of Commendation & Participating Sponsors
Discount Program

Membership

F.A.S.T. (Flowers at Show Time)

Circle of Poppies

Diamond Jubilee Celebration 2006-2007

GARDEN CLUB DAY AT THE STATE FAIR

A popular event for many years was Garden Club Day at the Fair in Sacramento. This was a special day for garden club members to attend the State Fair that included free entrance, lunch and one horse race dedicated to California Garden Clubs, Inc. with the President in the winner's circle with the winning horse and jockey. The dates on record for this event in the past twenty-five years are:

- September 3, 1981
- September 2, 1982
- September 1, 1983
- August 22, 1984*
- August 21, 1985

*On August 22, 1984, it was reported that 203 CGCI members and guests attended the 38th consecutive Garden Club Day at the Fair since resumption of the California State Fair after World War II.

The State Fair Board advised in 1986 that they were no longer willing to have garden club members attend with the usual free entrance and V.I.P. tent accommodations for their luncheon. As a result, there was no Garden Club Day in Sacramento that year. It would have been the 40th anniversary of such an event.

Garden Club Day at the State Fair resumed August 26, 1987 and continued August 24, 1988 where 103 CGCI members and guests attended the event. However, it appears to have been discontinued after that.

MASTER LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY PROGRAM

The question of liability insurance for member clubs was first discussed at the 1987 Fall Board meeting. Effective February 15, 1988, the insurance program was initiated by CGCI President Betty Hedtke, who managed the financial details for the two years of her presidency, and served as chairman in 1989-1991.

Emphasis was on converting associate plant societies classified as "affiliates" who paid a fixed group fee depending upon total membership to becoming "per capita" based dues paying clubs. To qualify for the liability insurance, a number of

associate plant societies elected to become "Clubs-at-Large," paying the required per capita dues and thus becoming eligible for insurance, but not belong to a District.

Membership grew by leaps and bounds as news traveled about CGCI's inexpensive liability insurance program offered to clubs and associate plant societies as a benefit of membership in CGCI. Membership grew from less than 12,000 members in 1985 to over 20,000 members in 2007 of which the majority of clubs and associate plant societies participate in purchasing CGCI's liability insurance.

The insurance rate is set annually at Fall Board for the following policy term that runs February 15 to February 15. It has fluctuated through the years from .75 per member to its current rate of \$1.75 per garden club member/\$2.25 per associate plant society member. Minimum premiums were established in 1997 of \$20 and third party Certificates of Insurance charges were instituted for each certificate issued. In 1999, a late fee was implemented for clubs remitting their premiums after January 15. Today minimum premiums of \$35 apply; third party Certificates of Insurance are \$35 and late fees of \$25 are enforced.

Affiliates are not eligible and membership dues must be current for a club or society to be eligible to purchase the insurance. The insurance premium continues to be an additional fee, separate from membership dues. The liability insurance coverage is not available to clubs or societies that own real estate or have primary use of, or responsibility, for gardens.

In 1997, it was announced at Fall Board that Directors and Officers Insurance, which provides coverage for "wrongful acts," would be offered directly from the insurance broker for an additional flat premium charge to member clubs and associate plant societies that were eligible. The current premium for this additional coverage for eligible clubs is \$250.

P.E.T.A.L.S. GRANTS

Protect the Environment through Action, Learning & Service

A new environmental monetary incentives program sponsored by National Garden Clubs and Shell Oil Company was launched in 1993. The objectives of the program were to (1) support worthwhile environmental projects at the club level; (2)

stimulate the education of all ages on environmental issues; and (3) encourage greater participation in garden club/community environmental activities. \$65,000 was available for individual member clubs nationwide to apply for grants up to \$500 for a NEW environmental project that met one of these goals. General categories for club projects included Conservation, Environmental Issues or Community Improvement. The project planned had to be completed during the 1993-1995 administration. Over 300 clubs nationwide received grants totaling \$89,046 including eight CGCI clubs.

Continuation of the P.E.T.A.L.S. grant program for the 1995-1997 administration was announced at the 1995 Fall Board for NEW environment-related projects. Matching funds and/or labor (from club or other sources) was required as well as a plan for maintenance or monitoring of project. At Winter Board in 1996, Chairman Marilyn Oberti reported 25 PETALS applications were received from CGCI garden clubs. California sent in more applications for PETALS' grants than any other state. As a result, over \$7,000 was awarded to 18 of the 25 club submissions. An estimated minimum of \$28,000 was actually spent on these projects including additional funds raised beyond the "matching funds" criteria. The "PETALS In Action" column in *Golden Gardens* publicized these worthwhile projects. CGCI won the national PETALS award for \$1,000 in the large state category and was given as a donation to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

Funding was increased to \$130,000 for the 1997-1999 administration. Grants for up to \$500 per club, affiliate or district was available. CGCI entered a PETALS application for the President's Project at Conejo Valley Botanic Garden in the state category. A total of 35 PETALS applications were received from individual garden clubs, three districts and one from CGCI. Twenty-four clubs/districts received grants ranging from \$100 to \$500, including the CGCI submission for Conejo Valley Botanic Garden which was awarded \$500. The \$7,200 in grants generated over \$83,000 in worthwhile projects.

The 1999-2001 administration announced the continuation of PETALS grants. Twenty-six garden clubs submitted applications, as well as CGCI which submitted a state application for the President's project, CALM. In addition to the state project which was awarded \$500, ALL club applicants were awarded grants totaling \$9,575.

The 2001-2003 PETALS program announced new grants for up to \$1,000 per club were available, an increase of \$500.

Twenty-five clubs/districts received funding totaling \$14,750, plus \$1,000 was awarded for the President's project, The Gardens at Heather Farm. CGCI received more funding than any other state with \$15,750 awarded in total. A special \$1,000 grant was awarded to the Environmental Studies School to be held November 2002 sponsored by Eagle's Nest Garden Club, Palms to Pines District. The total of the grants presented nationwide was \$108,556.

After ten years, Shell Oil Company announced they would no longer sponsor the grant program, and it was discontinued.

CGCI WEBSITE

www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org

National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. (National Garden Clubs, Inc.) established its website in the spring of 1997. It was reported in the November/December 1997 issue of *The National Gardener* that the website was already receiving 1700 hits (or visits) a week.

At Fall Board 1996, five members of CGCI's Board of Directors had an email address. The President's Message by Beverly Brune in the July/August 1997 issue of *Golden Gardens* noted that eight members of CGCI's Executive Committee used e-mail and mentioned that CGCI had a page on the world-wide web. At Winter Board 1998, CGCI President Beverly Brune formed a Website Committee that was responsible for acquiring information on financing, setting up and running a website. An informative WEB Page workshop was presented at 1999 Winter Board. In 1999, CGCI President Dorothy Roton created a new chairmanship, Website Coordinator. The Board of Directors approved funding to register CGCI's domain name as "CaliforniaGardenClubs.org" and for the site to be registered with a provider at no charge. At Winter Board 2000, Maryanne Lucas, Website Chairman, reported CGCI now had a permanent presence on the Internet.

The website is an evolving tool and has been updated and redesigned several times to make it easier for current and prospective members to find information including what garden clubs are doing, where clubs are located and how to join. This exciting medium allows CGCI to reach out to members and the public twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. By 2006, CGCI's website averaged 3500 hits a month.

The calendar section, a free service to members, has grown in popularity. Districts, clubs, associate plant societies and affiliates can list their special events. In addition, the official CGCI calendar, including the four NGC schools schedules, is available.

The website is intended to provide an overview of CGCI activities and be a communication tool for all members. Additional information and services will be provided as the need arises.

IRS GROUP EXEMPTION PROGRAM

At Winter Board 2005, the Board of Directors approved the availability of a 501(c)(3) tax umbrella for Group Exemption Status to be offered to unincorporated garden clubs. Maryanne Lucas, Third Vice President and George Perko, Board of Trustees member, were authorized to present the project.

In the spring 2005 issue of *Golden Gardens*, CGCI officially launched its IRS Group Exemption Project for all unincorporated garden clubs.

CGCI, as a well-established 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization, solicited eligible affiliated member clubs to apply for this new benefit of membership. The unincorporated club must meet a few IRS requirements and submit several forms to CGCI to apply for participation in the new IRS Group Exemption project.

Two of the forms, the Articles of Affiliation and the Group Exemption Application, are preprinted and available for downloading from CGCI's website. Additionally, each club is required to provide its latest annual financial statement, revised bylaws and an explanation of club activities. All paperwork, along with a \$25 nonrefundable application fee to CGCI, had a deadline of November 1, 2005.

Sixty-five clubs participated in this initial application. CGCI then submitted all of the necessary paperwork for IRS approval. George Perko was granted a Limited Power of Attorney at the 2006 Winter Board. It was restricted to dealing with the IRS in regard to the Nonprofit Group Exemption application filed by CGCI.

After many months of delay, follow-up and additional information required by the IRS, the IRS Group Exemption Program was finalized. CGCI successfully registered with the IRS and has been approved by the IRS to provide 501(c)(3) group exemption status to member clubs that fulfill all of the legal requirements. The CGCI Group Exemption number is 5358. Forty-six of the sixty-five clubs complied with all of the IRS requirements and were approved by the CGCI Board of Directors. Donors may deduct donations to these clubs as charitable contributions on their federal income tax returns.

The nonprofit, nonrefundable application fee was increased to \$35 effective Winter Board 2007, and the renewal fee was set at \$15. At Convention 2007, Maryanne Lucas, Second Vice President and IRS Group Exemption Chairman, reported that 66 clubs had 501(c)(3) status and were ratified by the Board of Directors.

All approved clubs are ratified by the CGCI Board of Directors, listed on CGCI's website as 501(c)(3) Group Exemption Clubs and are recorded annually each March in a letter sent to the IRS listing eligible clubs. A complete description of the program, current requirements, fees and forms are available from CGCI's website.

CGCI CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION & PARTICIPATING SPONSORS DISCOUNT PROGRAM

In 2003, CGCI introduced a new program offering clubs a way to thank their commercial supporters. The CGCI Certificate of Commendation honors those garden centers, nurseries and garden-related businesses that are to be commended for their outstanding contributions to, and support of, the mission and objectives of CGCI clubs. The certificate is a beautiful, full-color document personalized with the name of the business, club name and town, a gold CGCI seal and the signature of the CGCI President. It is appropriate for presentation at a media event.

This continues to be a free and easy way for CGCI member clubs to help support the businesses that support CGCI clubs. The application form is available on the CGCI website.

To expand this program further, a new committee was formed to develop discounts for members at Fall Board 2006, the Participating Sponsors Committee. Over 300 letters were mailed

to various nurseries, including Certificate of Commendation recipients. The April/May 2007 issue of *Golden Gardens* listed forty local businesses throughout California offering club members a minimum 10% discount when presenting CGCI membership cards at time of purchase, another new benefit of membership in CGCI.

At the 2007 Convention, 45 businesses had agreed to provide discounts to CGCI members. New businesses were added as members recommended a favorite nursery or garden center in their neighborhoods, and the business commitment was received. A current list of Participating Sponsors can be found on CGCI's website with the amount of the discount. As members travel around the state, CGCI suggests that members visit the merchants listed and enjoy using their CGCI membership card for discounts.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership consisted of five classes as defined in the 1981-1982 *Yearbook, Manual and Roster*:

- Garden Clubs and Garden Sections of Clubs
- Junior and Intermediate Garden Clubs
- High School Gardeners
- Group Organizations
- Life Members

There were 12,489 members in 289 clubs which paid \$1.00 in dues per capita which included National dues. There were 28 group organizations listed which paid annual dues of \$10 for memberships of 50 or less and \$20 for memberships in excess of 50. There was no dues charge for Junior and Intermediate Garden Clubs. CGCI paid affiliation dues to National of \$10 each year on their behalf. High School Gardeners paid ten cents per capita annually to National Council of State Garden Clubs (now NGC). Life Memberships are honorary and paid a one-time fee of \$50 with all proceeds applied to CGCI's Scholarship Fund. CGCI held affiliate memberships in the National Audubon Society, The American Horticulture Society, Inc. and The Nature Conservancy.

Effective June 1, 1995 dues were increased to \$1.25 per member to accommodate the increase in NGC dues from twenty-five cents to fifty cents. Membership now consisted of seven classes:

- Garden Clubs
- Associate Plant Societies
- Affiliates
- Junior Garden Clubs
- Intermediate Garden Clubs
- High School Garden Clubs
- Life Members

The 1996-1997 *Yearbook, Manual and Roster* listed 19,084 members in 276 clubs and 77 associate plant societies. In addition, 29 affiliates were listed. Youth groups no longer paid dues, and Life Membership had increased to \$75. CGCI maintained its affiliate membership in The Nature Conservancy only. At Convention in 1998, it was agreed that membership bills for dues would be mailed to all clubs. CGCI President Beverly Brune reported that California was the state with the largest membership nationwide with 20,710 members.

The 2006-2007 *Yearbook, Manual and Roster* defines five classes of membership:

- Garden Clubs
- Associate Plant Societies
- Affiliates
- Life Members
- All categories of Youth Gardeners

Membership consisted of 21,459 members in 269 clubs and 55 associate plant societies. Effective July 1, 2006, annual dues for affiliates were increased to \$50 regardless of size, and 23 were listed. Youth Groups (all categories) totaled 155.

At the 2007 Convention, Life Memberships were increased to \$100. Dues for Garden Clubs and Associate Plant Societies were increased to \$2.25 per capita, effective July 1, 2008.

The 1980-1982 administration had a chairmanship called "Representative at Large" whose purpose was to represent CGCI as requested and explain its objectives to clubs and organizations with similar interests. The chairman also assisted in organizing new clubs and in affiliating clubs already established. At Fall Board 1986, the chairman reported:

"To accommodate the changing lifestyles of contemporary American women, particularly the fact that most of them are now working at full-time jobs and do not have the time for extra daytime activities, it is suggested that new clubs be organized that meet during the evening or on weekends. We should encourage

greater public awareness of our service-oriented programs and educational activities in regards to civic beautification, conservation, garden therapy, and environmental concerns, among others. The need for a garden club in every community is greater than ever!"

In the 1987-1989 and 1989-1991 administrations, there was a New Clubs Organizer with various members of the committee located throughout the state. It is interesting to note excerpts from the following report given by Edith Puckett, Chairman, at the 1989 Convention:

"CGCI must continue to address the issue of declining numbers of members and clubs. Men should be encouraged to join garden clubs. Meetings should be scheduled outside working hours to attract younger members. CGCI must continue to emphasize that we are an educational and service organization to those outside our clubs, although good fellowship is important and another reason for joining a garden club. Gardening is America's #1 hobby. Garden clubs have something for everyone. The expense need not be great, but the rewards are many."

In 2001, CGCI President Virginia Bennetts re-introduced under Membership, a New Clubs chairmanship. The purpose was to help form new garden clubs throughout the state. The following are excerpts from Chairman Joelle Holford, who reported at the 2007 Convention:

"After a slow start the first two years (2001-2003), it became much easier to reach out and organize clubs throughout the state. In the past two years, with the help of CGCI's Membership Chairman, Julie West, we brought in 10 newly organized and 18 clubs in total. To all those District Directors who were willing to come along with us and welcome the clubs into CGCI and their district, I owe you my 'thanks.' It truly made a difference!"

CGCI membership cards have changed both in looks and quantity through the years. At Winter Board 1997, the Board of Directors approved of the non-distribution of membership cards automatically every year. Membership cards were available to those clubs that requested cards from the Membership Chairman.

When the Jubilee year arrived, a beautiful full-color CGCI membership card was designed by Maryanne Lucas, Second Vice President, with the Jubilee logo which was underwritten by

The Nursery at Emerisa Gardens in Santa Rosa. Cards were purchased and distributed to all clubs as the clubs remitted annual membership dues. Members were encouraged to carry the card with them for discounts at participating businesses.

Long-term service certificates were introduced by NGC honoring members with 30 or more years. The majority of these were presented at CGCI's annual Convention. CGCI introduced similar long-service certificates for 30-years and 50-years in 1997, free-of-charge, from the Membership Chairman, upon request. In 2005-2007, these certificates were defined as 25-years and 50-years or more. In addition, specially designed blank certificate forms were posted on the website for clubs to download and utilize to honor members who did not qualify for the CGCI longevity certificates.

The following summary of Club Benefits of Membership in CGCI was distributed at the 2007 Convention:

- Membership in National Garden Clubs (NGC) is included (\$.50 of the \$1.25 CGCI dues per capita) so you are automatically a member of the largest volunteer organization in the world with 6500 clubs and 204,143 members.
- Financial Grants available from NGC (NOTE: Principal Financial Group funded 10 clubs totaling \$11,200 2005-2007) and sometimes CGCI (Jubilee Grants in 2005-2007 funded 24 projects).
- Participate in the lucrative awards program by applying for NGC, Pacific Region and CGCI awards.
- The educational opportunities are incredible and fairly inexpensive. (Remember this part considering what you learn.) The following NGC schools are sponsored by CGCI:
 - Environmental Study - A series of four courses aimed at furthering awareness and an understanding of the environment and the promotion of environmental literacy.
 - Flower Show Schools - A series of four courses which include the study of horticulture, floral design and flower show procedure. Those taking these courses may become a Flower Show Judge.
 - Gardening Study - A series of four courses designed to stimulate an interest in horticulture and to further the art of gardening.

- Landscape Design - A series of four courses to promote awareness and the understanding of the theories and principles of landscape design.
- CGCI's inexpensive Liability Insurance program, as well as Directors & Officers Insurance, is available to qualifying clubs.
- Discounts are available upon presentation of CGCI's membership card at 45 Participating Sponsors (nurseries and garden centers) located throughout California.
- Clubs have access to CGCI's website calendar and *Golden Gardens* Dateline for posting of club events and promoting garden club activities.
- IRS Nonprofit Group Exemption program is available to qualifying clubs.
- Complimentary permanent email address is available to every club through CGCI's website and automatically routed to the club's email contact.
- Approximately 500 prospective garden club members referred by CGCI's membership table in 2007 at San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, California State Home & Garden Show in Sacramento and the San Diego Floral Association's Centennial Flower Show.
- Complimentary membership and promotional materials available.
- Prospective garden club members referred to individual clubs via NGC and CGCI website inquiries.
- Complimentary Longevity Certificates available to honor members of long-term service of 25 years or more.
- Program resources available through CGCI Chairmen.
- Networking opportunities with fellow gardeners which are "priceless" as garden club members share these common goals:
 - To create and promote interest in horticulture and gardening as well as floral and landscape design
 - To encourage and engage in civic beautification and the improvement of roadsides
 - To aid in protecting California's native plants, wildlife and natural beauty
 - To promote and participate in projects and programs that conserve our natural resources

- To centralize and coordinate the work of individual garden clubs (district & state levels)
- To cooperate with other agencies in furthering interest in educational areas

These are just a few of the many benefits of current membership in CGCI available to member clubs.

F.A.S.T. (Flowers at Show Time)

At Fall Board 2004, a new committee was formed: F.A.S.T. (Flowers at Show Time) and co-chaired by Shane Looper and Dolores Moffat. It was described as a “State Garden Club,” meeting by e-mail and representing CGCI at any flower show. At Convention 2005, F.A.S.T. was ratified as an Affiliate of CGCI. It came back into CGCI as a committee when approved at the 2006 Winter Board. F.A.S.T.’s purpose is to promote floral exhibitions on an educational level on behalf of C.G.C.I. The committee actively seeks financing through sponsorship with funds retained in a CGCI F.A.S.T. restricted fund. In 2007, three-year calendars for 2008-2010 were sold by F.A.S.T. to assist with expenses. F.A.S.T. provided floral exhibition designs for the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show in 2005, 2006 and 2007, as well as the California State Home & Garden Show held in Sacramento in 2007. The committee continues to be active today and chaired by the original co-chairmen.

CIRCLE OF POPPIES

Elisabeth Tufo, First Vice President, suggested the formation of the “Circle of Poppies” that was approved at Winter Board in 2005 as a means of honoring long-time CGCI board members. Charter members nominated and approved were:

- Dorothy Copeland
- Frances Frenzel
- Alice Heilman

Bylaw Article VII – Board of Directors was amended at Convention 2006 to allow members of the Circle of Poppies to be life-long permanent members of the Board of Directors. Helen Gates joined the honorary committee approved by the Board of Directors at Convention 2006. Betty Taylor was nominated and approved at Winter Board 2007 as the newest honoree to the Circle of Poppies.

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION **June 4, 2006 to June 6, 2007**

On Sunday June 4, 2006, the final evening of the 75th Annual Convention held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Ontario, California Garden Club's 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Celebration kicked off with a fabulous gala presented by the Judges Council of Southern California – *A Retrospective of Fashion and Flower Design, 1931-2006*.

Planning for the Jubilee began in the summer of 2005, and a committee was formed under the chairmanship of Robert Gordon (CGCI President 2003-2005) to propose a year-long program of events which would appeal to the members. A tour to Washington, D. C., which incorporated the dedication of National Garden Club's Butterfly Garden at the National Garden; mutual-benefit partnerships with garden centers and nurseries throughout the state; holiday shopping sprees to wholesale floral supply houses; inter-district denim jacket decorating and door decorating competitions; and a floral design competition at the 2007 Convention in Bakersfield. A special Jubilee logo, designed by Maryanne Lucas (CGCI Second Vice President 2005-2007), was used in place of the official seal throughout the year and decorated the fundraising ceramic mugs and limited edition hanging ornaments. Four-level Jubilee sponsorships were also available as fundraisers, \$75, \$250, \$500, and \$1,000. The \$250 level offered a formal dinner with the President at the 2007 Convention in Bakersfield and was extremely popular.

An important part of the celebration was the President's Project - *Jubilee Grants*. Donations to this, plus \$7,500 from the Wildflower Fund, amounted to \$10,200 which was awarded to 24 CGCI groups for landscaping projects incorporating native plants. The Grants helped fund some diverse and wonderful projects around the state, among them a sensory garden in

Oakland; landscaping for the Paiute Tribal Interpretive Center near Lake Isabella in the Sequoia National Forest; ethno-botanical plantings around a recreated Maidu Indian village site in Roseville, near Sacramento; and landscaping for a Blue Star Memorial at the Naval Air Station in Lemoore.

The Anniversary Board Meeting was held January 25-27, 2007 at the Historic Santa Maria Inn, site of CGCI's original Organizational Meeting, December 5, 1931. To commemorate the occasion, a King Palm (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*) was dedicated on the Inn's grounds. Jubilee Trees were also dedicated during the 2006 Fall Board Meeting in Fortuna--a Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus Nuttallii*) at the Humboldt Botanical Gardens, College of the Redwoods; and during the 2007 Convention in Bakersfield, a Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) at the California Living Museum.

The celebration's grand finale was held June 6 at the 2007 Convention's Jubilee Banquet. Letters of congratulation were read from California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Senator Dianne Feinstein, California Secretary for Food and Agriculture A. G. Kawamura and a Resolution from the California Legislature. Sadly a letter from President and Mrs. George Bush and a flag which had flown over the US Capitol, sent to honor the occasion by Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, did not arrive until after the event.

A representative from each district modeled their entry for the Denim Jacket Decorating Competition, which were then auctioned, with Palomar District's jacket fetching \$390 and Yosemite Gateway's jacket drawing \$300; presentations were made to the winner of the Door Decorating Competition, Valley Lode District, and to the winner of the Floral Design Competition, Sonja Longley from Palomar District (who won in both sections taking home two beautiful containers made by longtime CGCI board member Perry Aminian and donated by his widow, Gloria). To wrap up proceedings CGCI President, Elisabeth Tufo, was presented with the David Austen rose *Jubilee Celebration* as a wonderful souvenir of a remarkable year.

Elisabeth Tufo
CGCI President, 2005-2007



Diamond Jubilee ornament created and sold in 2007 to commemorate CGCI's Diamond Jubilee Celebration

