



The Sequoia



EUREKA SEQUOIA GARDEN CLUB MONTHLY NEWS

A CGCI Award-Winning Newsletter Vol. IX, No. 6, Dec., 2020

SO MANY CHRISTMAS TREES TO SHARE!

DECEMBER 18 MEETING

The Friday December 18 meeting will take place via ZOOM Video Conferencing and features Pacific Region



Garden Clubs Director **Robin Pokorski**. Robin is the perfect person to get us into the holiday mood. Her natural energy and infectious “Let’s do



it” attitude is applied to a multitude of endeavors. In this case, however, we are going to be swept away with her love of everything Christmas. One shining expression of her holiday spirit is through her 34 decorated Christmas trees (including some miniature trees). Robin will be sharing her beautiful trees and even some helpful hints and history about those trees. Don’t miss it. Join us! [Linking details and times TBA.](#) Everyone welcome.

(If you have pictures to share of holiday decorations, don’t be shy. Send them to Pres. Maria for sharing. Recipes still being welcomed as well.)

FROM THE PREZ



First, I hope that family and friends are safe and healthy. Next, I hope that you are able to enjoy Christmas with loved ones safely. That in itself is remarkable this year and a true celebration. Finally, I hope that you will send a little love, hope and help to those in need. There are so many more less

fortunate than ourselves.

For some of us, our gardens have been tucked in all tidy and nice. We plan to put away tools and put our feet up. Of course, some of us are still engaged either by choice or neglect, taking a bit longer to hunker down or starting projects our inspiration motivates. At last look, the seed catalogs haven’t arrived and the nurseries are filled with holiday treats and temptations. With outside chores less inviting as the weather gets wetter and colder, a few more virtual classrooms to explore will help fill the time as we curl up and dream about next year’s garden. We can’t resist the novelty of something we haven’t seen before. It’s fun and thrilling to explore something new. Seeds are a great example of that. It seems there are more and more to choose from. They tend to be economical, too. It’s only a few dollars after all, you say. The investment is really in the time and worry more so than a plant with roots in a pot and ready to plant. As in any investment, read the fine print and

choose the ones that can work for you and your circumstances. The reward just in satisfaction is wonderful, though.

On the planning side, think about what your garden means for you. **Simone** and **Sandy** shared the many dimensions of lavender at our November meeting. Crafting, cooking, decorating would be very important parts of having lavender in your garden in that case. Daffodils and heathers give me pause and fill my garden. Crafting and decorating with them came as a natural result. A place to sit and read a book or (eventually) visit with friends can be another starting point for an amazing collection of plants, shrubs and trees in your imagination. It is fun just thinking about it, right?

So, as the holidays unfold and the end of 2020 approaches, imagine how your garden has served and rewarded you for all you have done for it. I have ornaments made and found that reflect gardens and the natural world on display that I include. It is great stretching out the sense of wonder to include the bounty of natural things. Then let your thoughts wander forward to how your garden and you can spend the next year. Happy Holidays *Maria*

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES



Our Birthday Members for December are: (14)–**Janice Beach**, (19)–**Anne VanZandt**, (22)–**Lee Lane**, (27)–**Randy Eaton** and (29)–**Carol Davis**. A Birthday flower for the month is the narcissus, which symbolizes good wishes, faithfulness and respect. A native of the Mediterranean, the narcissus was brought over to Asia where it became widely cultivated in China.

HORTICULTURE REPORT

Charles Willis Ward: The Man Behind The Cottage Gardens Nursery
Georgina Pace

(Previously: For the last seven monthly newsletter issues *Georgina Pace* has shared with us her research on the *Cottage Gardens Nursery* which produced millions of plants grown in *Humboldt County* from 1913 until it closed in 1985. In our final issue we learn about the life of the man behind the Nursery. Many local residents still remember the nursery operation, including your editor.)



Charles Willis Ward was born December 12, 1856 in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, then a lumber camp. Ward attended country schools and later two years at Highland Military Academy in Worcester, Massachusetts. Ward returned to Michigan

to attend Goldsmith Business College in Detroit. After graduation he worked in the logging industry until 'impaired health' compelled him to give it up.

In 1883 Ward sailed to Europe for an extended stay. In 1886, he married Miss Wilhelmina Strauss in Geneva, Switzerland. Returning to New York in 1887, Ward and his brothers-in-law established a small greenhouse nursery business in Queens, Long Island.

In the late 1890's, Ward inherited a fortune from his father, estimated at \$1,000,000. He soon announced his intention to devote a portion of his inheritance to helping his fellow man to help himself. Taking a leave of absence, Ward assigned the management and operations of the greenhouse nursery business to his brothers-in-law and departed for Louisiana. Ward purchased several thousand fertile Mississippi River delta (reclamation) lands and divided a major portion into small holdings. He sold, leased and rented the tracts of land to grateful farmers at a nominal cost on terms which the poverty-stricken tenants could meet through the ownership, cultivation and stewardship of their newly acquired holdings. Ward's project was successful and the Louisiana State Legislature later adopted a similar plan. Years later these lands were once again reclaimed by the Mississippi River to become a State Wildlife Refuge.

C. W. Ward returned to New York in 1900 and with his brothers-in-law established Cottage Gardens Nurseries. It quickly 'grew' into a successful and award-winning carnation and florists' products business. Ward helped establish **The American Carnation Society**; and, in 1903, authored "*The American Carnation: How to Grow It*". Ward also helped create **The American Peony Society**.

In 1907, Ward became ill and was advised to relax away from New York. He spent time in Michigan, Louisiana and Mississippi. He explored the Gulf Coast and the Everglades for the Smithsonian Institute in his luxury motorboat "Ethel M. Ward." He later traveled the Pacific Northwest and purchased hundreds of acres of timberlands in Northern California before settling in Eureka in 1913 to establish Cottage Gardens Nurseries, Inc., in Humboldt County.

Sources: *The Oregon Daily Journal*, "Sad Story of Man Who Saved Bulb Industry," Nov. 28, 1920. *San Francisco Chronicle*, "Final Chapter of Sensational Career Closes," June 26, 1920.

* **DECEMBER INSPIRATION**— Each day is a gift and everyday miracles are scattered about if only we have eyes to see. (*Magnolia Journal*, Winter 2020.) **GP**

WHAT'S BUGGING YOU THIS MONTH?

With everything else going on, now you are under attack by an ant army. Ants are constantly on the hunt for food and water (moisture, in general) for their colonies, so your kitchen and bathroom are the most common spots to find ants. Ants have a sweet tooth, just like many of us, which

leaves our kitchens particularly vulnerable to an infestation. When ants are discovered, first identify where ants are entering the room and their destination. It's easiest to wait for darkness and use a flashlight to trace the trail.

Now plan your attack. First get rid of the ants that are in the room and clean up the area. One method is to spray the ants with mixture of one part each of white vinegar and water. Another is to use a pesticide formulated for ant control, such as Ortho Home Defense MAX. (This product is registered for interior use, but carefully read the label.) Next, after cleaning up the dead ants, examine the end of the trail to see what was attracting the ants. It could something as small as a single sugar cube that was overlooked! Finally, carefully re-spray the area, especially the entry point. If the ants return, repeat these steps and examine the exterior foundation of the house to see if spraying is needed here.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC. IS PARTICIPATING IN 2020 GivingTuesday

* Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (in the U.S.) and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday - GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season when many focus on the holiday and year-end-giving. This year it will be held December 1.

* GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past eight years, it has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. It's a simple idea: whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or donating to a favorite cause, every act of generosity counts and everyone has something to give.

Join with CGCI Pres. Shane Looper in supporting the GivingTuesday project to reach out to individuals, clubs, districts and the general public to offer the opportunity to support the CGCI Endowment and Scholarship Endowment Funds. The endowment funds were established to provide a suitable vehicle to receive donations from those wishing to make a lasting contribution to the organization in general or to the scholarship fund.

<http://californiagardenclubs.com/givingtuesday2020>

NATIONAL, REGION, STATE, DISTRICT OFFICERS

National Garden Clubs, Inc. President Gay L. Austin ♦ Pacific Region Director Robin Pokorski ♦ CGCI President Shane Looper ♦ Humboldt District Dir. Jeanne Johnson.

2019-2021 ESGC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President-Maria Krenek Vice President-Karen Burgess
Secretary-Shirley Lipa Treasurer-Janet Biasca
Director-Janice Beach Director-Simone Taylor
Parliamentarian- Chuck Goodwin Past Pres-Mary Lou Goodwin

EUREKA SEQUOIA GARDEN CLUB, INC.

A CGCI BLUE RIBBON CLUB

Meets 3rd Friday, at the Agricultural Center

5630 South Broadway, Eureka

Organized 1967, Incorporated 1977

Non-Profit EIN available on request

Dues: \$25.00 individual; \$35.00 family

Due April 1–Delinquent May 31

For General and Dues Information:

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or mail to: PO Box 479, Bayside, CA 95524 *A proud member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc., California Garden Clubs, Inc. and Humboldt District, CGCI.*



Charles Willis Ward,
circa 1913.

