

Palomar Pruner

December 2008

Gardening: Having a Hand in Creation

Director's Message



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A Quarterly Newsletter
For the
Palomar District, Inc.
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Member of
California Garden
Clubs Inc.
(CGCI)
Pacific Region
National Garden Clubs,
Inc.
(NGC)

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Director's Theme:

Gardening:
Having a Hand in Creation

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Message from the Director:

A few days after my first District Meeting as your Director I received a lovely note from a club member that read in part "congratulations on your first meeting you handled it beautifully". Needless to say, I was both pleased and surprised. What can be more encouraging or motivating than recognition from your peers that they like the job you're doing.

I share this with you because, so often I think we are all remiss in not telling people how much we appreciate what they do for our Palomar District or for our clubs. Think about it for a minute and ask yourself, "do I thank the people who write our newsletter or show up early to our club meetings to make the coffee or who write those interesting articles in The Palomar Pruner?" If you answer "no" to any of these statements, then now is the time to take that extra minute to thank those individuals who have contributed so much of their time to make your clubs and our Palomar District the best in the state.

Best wishes to you all for this Holiday Season,

Jerry Thirloway
District Director



December 2008



**District News
Club News**

Palomar District

Winter District Meeting, January 26, 2009

- Where:** The Handlery Hotel and Resort
950 Hotel Circle North
San Diego
- Time:** 10:00 A.M. Board Meeting
11:00 A.M. General Meeting
11:30 A.M. Lunch
1:00 P.M. Program
- Cost:** \$25/person. Club checks must
be in to the District Treasurer,
no later than January 15th.
Joan Patten, PO Box 1630,
Valley Center 92082-1630.
760-749-3766.
- Program:** Betty Patterson Del Sol, Floral
Design Instructor at
Southwestern Community
College.

Host Clubs:

- Centerpieces --- Mira Costa, Point Loma,
San Dieguito.
- Head Table --- Carlsbad
- Name Tags --- Bernardo and Bonita
- Registration --- San Diego

Palomar District Nominating Committee,
chaired by Marcia Townsend will be presenting
the new slate of officers at this meeting. They
will then be voted on and then officially
presented and installed at the April 27, 2009
meeting. Maryanne Lucas, CGCI President-elect
will be doing the installation.

2008 – 2009 Floral Design Forum is once
again at the Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320
Monroe St.

December 1st is the Holiday Flower Show. It will
include our Palomar District Designers entering
designs from the NGC Flower Show Handbook.

January 5th, 2009 sees JR returning to bring
another educational and entertaining program.

February 2nd is Flower Power once again.
March 2nd, back by popular demand is the
Ladies from Ensenada. This time they will shop

for flowers here and plan on lots of color and
interesting designs.

April 6th presents Nancy Colvin, NGC floral
designer. Nancy was Flower Arranger of the
Year in 2003, 3005 and 2006. She will be here
just in time to help with ideas to finish off your
designs for this year's flower shows.

May 4th is Jim Johnson a well known national
designer and instructor at Texas A&M.

San Diego Floral is once again sponsoring the
decorated trees in Room 101 in the El Prado,
Balboa Park for *December Nights* on December
5-6, 2008. This years theme will be the *Festival
of the Trees, Decorating with Nature's Gifts*. Two
sizes of trees will be available for purchase. To
reserve your tree contact Cheryl Guidmore at
guidmore@aol.com or Kay Harry at
shipdragon@earthlink.net or 619-222-5207. We
will continue our traditions of selling our fabulous
gingerbread kids and beautiful proteas. This
event serves to entertain and educate 15,000
visitors. It also provides a great opportunity to
market your organization and to build collegiality
within your group as you work together to create
your decorations and to decorate your tree. We
look forward to having you as a part of this
worthwhile community event. Please make all
checks payable to San Diego Floral and enclose
with your reservation form and mail to SDFA,
Inc., 1650 El Prado #5, San Diego 92101-1684.

Flower Show School, Course II, will be held at
the Quail Botanical Gardens on February 26-28,
2009. Evalyn Rodgers, Chairman, can be found
at 760-635-1557 or evalyn7@sbcglobal.net.
Palomar District is the proud sponsor, so please
do try to attend. It is so handy to have this
course in our own backyard.

Please note this important milestone in the
garden club careers of: Joan M. Biddle,
Temecula VGC; Sue Halderman, TVGC;
Barbara L.P. Hayes, TVGC; Felicia Hogan,
TVGC; Catherine L. Lambert, Poway GC; Marj
E. Myers, San Carlos GC; Susan W. Puma,
TVGC; George S. Speer, Jr., Dos Valles GC;
DeeDee Speer, Dos Valles GC; Emily B. Troxell,
Poway GC; and Nancy J. Waters, TVGC from
Palomar District have become **National Garden
Clubs, Inc. Landscape Design Provisional
Consultants.**

Congratulations !!



CGCI News

CGCI Winter Board Meeting, January 22 – 24, 2009 will convene at the Carriage Inn in Ridgecrest to:

“Experience the Mojave”

The Desert Empire invites everyone to attend. Deadline for room registration at the CGCI room rate is January 8, 2009. If you are interested, please visit the CGCI website at www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org, to download registration forms. They are having a very special tour of the Naval Air Weapons Station Museum at China Lake on Friday morning, January 23rd.

It's the Frosting on the Cake... ... And We'll Throw in the Cake!

By George Speer, CGCI 3rd Vice President & Membership Chair

This is an excerpt from the new press release announcing the NGC “Make Membership Bloom” to California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI) members: To help CGCI in the (expected) celebration of winning the NGC contest, CGCI President Robin Pokorski and 3rd VP and Membership Chair George Speer will travel to the club and district with the highest percent of increase and to the club and district with the highest number of new members.

The **Frosting on the Cake (and we'll throw in the cake)** will be provided and served to by the CGCI President and Membership Chair. They might even get their President and 3rd VP to do a program for them. At CGCI's 77th Annual Convention in Woodland Hills, the 3rd VP suggested that it would take a 50 to 75 percent increase in Garden Club and Associate Plant Society members to win. Our NGC President, Barbara May, looked surprised that we would even entertain such an increase as possible. Your membership chair feels it is not only possible but very doable. Remember, it is not only new members for clubs and APS; it is also new Garden Clubs and new Associate Plant Societies joining CGCI. Appoint a Membership Chairman, set a goal in writing and report monthly on your progress to those who can make it happen (club members or district clubs). What part and how big a part will you be?

Be Alert - Be Ready - Be Proactive!



Regional News

The Regional Convention will be held this year in Las Vegas at the **Flamingo Hotel** from March 31 to April 2, 2009. They will be featuring some exciting pre-convention tours and possibly one following. “**DESERT DAZE-NEON NIGHTS**” is not to be missed. Deadline is March 2, 2009 to register. Forms can be found in the November issue of WACONIAH or at RobinP@juno.com.

Speaking of Robin Pokorski, she is the first member of the Pacific Region to become a 5-Star Member. **NGC** bestows 4-Star Member status to those who successfully complete all four NGC schools. NGC further bestows 5-Star Member status to those who continue to refresh until they hold Master status in all four schools. **Congratulations to Robin!**



National News

It is vital that every State Garden Club acts as a leader in educating the public on how to affect changes in their state legislation. In the past, garden club members have been told that working for legislative change as a group would affect their standing as a non-profit group. Thus, garden clubs have been unwilling to risk becoming involved in the legislative process . . . Last month the Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest released the new principles and practices for public interest lobbying. These new principles clearly state that lobbying efforts, which include writing letters, sending e-mails, writing newspaper editorials and visiting your State legislators, do not represent a threat to your non-profit standing. Our NGC legislation chairman is constantly sending information to the State Garden Club legislation chairmen concerning bills that the Federal government is considering. Our hope is that this information will be shared with local garden club members. These bills often affect measures that involve wildlife sanctuaries; endangered species; water conservation; and drilling for oil in natural preserves. The NGC website has an entire section on this subject. www.gardenclub.org, go to 'What's New' and click on Legislation 'How to' Series. Excerpts from Barbara May, NGC President, *National Gardener*, Fall 2008.

Events



December, 2008

- 8 SDHort presents Pete Anderson on *Backyard Vineyards in San Diego County*. \$15 non-members. 760-295-7089 for more information.

January, 2009

- 22-24 **CGCI** Winter Board meeting. Host: **Desert Empire District**.
Chairman: Wanda Hewett
- 26 **Palomar** District Meeting, the Handlery, 950 Hotel Circle North. Host Clubs: Bonita, Bernardo, Carlsbad, Mira Costa, Point Loma, San Diego and San Dieguito. Program: Betty Patterson del Sol, teacher of Floral Design at Southwestern Junior College. \$25/person.

February, 2009

- 26-28 Flower Show School, Course II, Encinitas. Sponsor: Palomar District. Chair: Evalyn Rodgers.

March, 2009

- 19-26 *Southern Comfort Garden Tour* with Bob Gordon. \$2875/pp. Gulliver's Travel, 805-541-4141 for more information.

31 – April 2

Pacific Region Convention. Enjoy "**Desert Daze and Neon Nights**" at the **Flamingo** Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Come early, stay late, bring **money** but remember your Vegas will be showing.

April, 2009

- 27 **Palomar** District meeting, Escondido Country Club, 1800 West Country Club Circle, Escondido. Host Clubs: Chula Vista, Dos Valles, Fallbrook, Ramona, Temecula, Village and Vista. Program: Eric Larson, from the San Diego County Farm Bureau. *History of water and its problems in San Diego*, plus water needs. Special Guest: Maryanne Lucas, 1st VP CGCI and President-elect.

May, 2009

- 13-18 **NGC** Convention at Houston's Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel. Remember the **\$79 room rate** for early reservations and a 3% discount if you fly in on Continental Airlines.

June, 2009

- 4-9 **CGCI** 78th Convention. Host: Bay Ocean and Santa Clara Valley Districts. Chair: Shane Looper. Special Guest: Jeannette Pruin, Pacific Region Director.
- 22 **Palomar** District Organizational meeting, Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

July, 2009

- 24-26 Flower Show Symposium, Doubletree Hotel, Bakersfield.
- 31- Gardening Studies School, Series 20, Course IV. Soka University, Aliso Viejo.
- Aug 1 Sponsor: Orange County District.

August, 2009

- 20 Flower Show School, Course III, Encinitas. Sponsor: Palomar District. Chair: Evalyn Rodgers.

September, 2009

- 11-13 **CGCI** Fall Board Meeting; Hilton, Concord. Host: Diablo Foothills District, Chairs: Ruth Angevine and Jane Berger.
- 29- **NGC** Fall Board Meeting, St Louis, MO.
- Oct 3

January, 2010

- 7-9 **CGCI** Winter Board Meeting, San Diego. The Dana Inn. Sponsor: Palomar District. Chairs: Joan Blankenship and Jerry Thirloway.

June, 2010

- 4-7 **CGCI** Convention, Westlake Village Hyatt Hotel, Westlake Village.

Deadline for the *Palomar Pruner* is February 15, 2009. Please send to Joan Blankenship, 5171 Crystal Dr., La Jolla 92037-7951, 858-488-5618 or jblankenship@san.rr.com For a US Postal Service mailing, please remit \$3/year to Joan Patten, PO Box 1630, Valley Center 92082-1630 or joanpatten@vcweb.org

Merry Christmas PALOMAR ed

Here are some excerpts from a timely article written by Shirley S and the Dos Valles Garden Club's *Chaparral*.

A CHANGE --- if we step back and look at the last twelve to fifteen years as a whole, we must admit that there has been a change in the climate, as well as a decrease in the amount of rainfall. Add this to the rising cost of water, and I think it would be foolish to say we're not facing a major change. After all, Southern California is basically a semi-desert area. We're the ones who changed it with imported water and plants.

The correct thing to do, (and you better start accepting it) is to gradually start switching your landscape and garden plants to drought-tolerant, or better yet, native plants. That doesn't mean you have to start kicking around tumble weeds. There's a great selection in **Sunset Western Garden**, under *Plants for Arid Gardens* and some are even in our Club's greenhouse. You probably have some currently in your gardens.

NATIVES --- Now . . . don't crinkle your nose! Many are really quite beautiful and there's a large variety. We have many in our nursery. Check out Western Garden's section on *Natives for Southwest*. If you're in the mood for a fun day trip, drive up to the *Tree of Life Nursery* in San Juan Capistrano on Ortega Highway, 619-656-1168. They specialize in native plants and have a fantastic inventory. Another good source is the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club at www.lhnpc.org

Planting natives can be touchy as their necks and roots are fragile. Dig the hole (in accordance to the size of the plant you have) and fill it with water. Let it soak into the ground and fill it again (do this three times). As you remove the plant from the container, don't break the crown or the roots. When you backfill around the plant, be sure the crown of the plant is about 2" **above** the surrounding ground level, or it will die. Build a small water basin around the plant and water deeply. For the next few days, water regularly to keep the soil somewhat damp, but not soggy. Once it's established (about 5 weeks) cut back on the watering. Eventually it will only need watering once in awhile in the summer. My very favorite is the *Fremontodendron* (Flannel Bush) a large shrub or small tree, with a great show of lemon-gold, 1 to 1 ½" wide flowers in May – June. I successfully killed our first two with over-watering, but now we have one that's about 5X5 feet in size.

Thanks to Shirley. Other sites to obtain information about Native California plantings can be found at www.cnps.org (California Native Plant Society) www.laspilitas.com (Las Pilitas Nursery, Escondido) www.smgrowers.com (San Marcos Growers) or just Google for native or drought tolerant plants. There is a wealth of information at the tip of your fingers. jb





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