

# Golden Gardens eNews

NGC 1st Place winner for State Newsletter!

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

December 2020, Vol. 4-13

Member:

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.**

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[cgcpresident@cagardenclubs.org](mailto:cgcpresident@cagardenclubs.org)

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2nd Vice President ..... Carol Vallens

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Corresponding Secretary ..... Milly Benson

Financial Secretary ..... Rita Desilets

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Parliamentarian ..... Greg Pokorski

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**Golden Gardens eNews**

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**Golden Gardens eNews**

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

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'Happy Holidays' CGCI Members-

2020 marks the first of many for CGCI and its members. Members are using various telecommunications platforms for their meetings whether it's a virtual meeting or telephone conference. Since we have been unable to meet in person, we have found new ways to fund raise using online auctions, solicit electronic donations and hold outdoor plant sales.



Thanks to all of you who participated in the President's Jewelry Box online auction in October and *#Giving Tuesday* held December 1. These two events were new ways to financially support CGCI projects. *#Giving Tuesday* benefits the CGCI and Scholarship Endowments and is still available for donations until **December 6, 2020** with this active link:

<http://californiagardenclubs.com/givingtuesday2020>

The hotel is unable to provide adequate 'social distance' so the January 2021 Winter Board Meeting had to be canceled. The good news is there will be a "virtual" Winter Board Meeting so CGCI can conduct pending business of the organization. A full schedule will be sent to members of the Board of Directors in the next few weeks. The meeting will include committee meetings being scheduled the week of January 18-22, 2021 and the Board of Directors business meetings will be held January 28-29, 2021. There will be a special social hour too! Keep your eyes open for an e-Blast with more details as they develop.

I continue to receive newsletters and am amazed that clubs are able to find ways to meet, fund raise or work in the community. Recently, I had the privilege of attending River Valley Garden Club's Blue Star dedication held outdoors with social distancing, masks, etc. In spite of the pandemic, "where there is a will, there is a way" that member organizations creatively function following local health department mandates.

I am looking forward to 2021 when hopefully, we can meet in person. Wherever you celebrate the upcoming holidays, stay healthy and stay safe!

Shane



**CGCI Calendar**

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

- **January 18-22, 2021:**

CGCI Winter Board Meeting  
Virtual - watch for e-blasts

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

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

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**CGCI Schools Chairmen**

**Environmental:** Michael and Leticia  
Biedenbender: [mikeb.cvgc@gmail.com](mailto:mikeb.cvgc@gmail.com)

**Flower Show:** Gudrun Kimmel  
[gudron56@att.net](mailto:gudron56@att.net)

**Gardening:** Greg Pokorski  
[gregpokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:gregpokorski@earthlink.net)

**Landscape Design:** Alexis Slafer  
[aslafer@ca.rr.com](mailto:aslafer@ca.rr.com)

**NGC Schools**

All registration forms are on the  
CGCI website Calendar page  
[californiagardenclubs.com/calendar](http://californiagardenclubs.com/calendar)

**Woo-hoo!!!! It's Liability Insurance billing time.....**

Liability Insurance bills were sent to the club and APS treasurers in early November. Contact me if yours wasn't received. Complete the form included and mail check (made payable to CGCI) to me before the deadline of January 15, 2021. There is a \$25 late fee that will be assessed for every payment received January 16 or later. Be sure to answer the questions at the bottom of the form – I need a "yes" or "no" for each question or I will have to follow-up with you.

CGCI membership dues must be paid in full and I will be checking the number of members your club has paid for against how many members are indicated on the renewal form you send me.

I am not a licensed insurance agent but am always happy to help you!

Robin Pokorski, Liability Insurance Chairman

[Cgciinsurance@CAGardenClubs.org](mailto:Cgciinsurance@CAGardenClubs.org) or 818-361-7873

**2019-2021 President's Project**

*by Julie A. West, Chairman*

A big 'thank you' to those who participated in the President's Jewelry Box online silent auction! Here are the **SPOOKTACULAR** FUNdraiser high bid results:

Item #1 Turquoise strand necklace with signed pendant: **Meg Milani**

Item #2 Jasper ring: **Milly Benson**

Item #3 Two stone stretch bracelet: **Myrtle Findley**

Item #4 Turquoise with opal inlay ring: **Kim Laru**

Item #5 Sterling Silver stretch bracelet: **Myrtle Findley**

Item #6 Carved Jade necklace: **Carolyn Hoyum**

Item #8 Sterling Silver coral ring: **Mona Dunlop**

Item #9 Black spinel slip on bracelet: **Ward Habriel**

Item #10 Larimar ring: **Pat Claves**

Total proceeds raised: **\$530.00**

Watch for a special Valentine's Day FUNdraising event to be held early February 2021.

In addition to the above donors, CGCI received a generous donation from **Sacramento River Valley District**. Total contributions received to date are **\$14,050** of the \$20,000 goal needed to restore *San Bruno Botanical Garden*.

Please join us as we continue to raise \$5,950 in funds needed before the end of President Looper's term of office in June 2021. Make checks payable to CGCI with "President's Project" noted on memo line and send to P.O. Box 75, Graton, CA 95444-0075. Visit CGCI's website for more details: [President's Project](#)

We appreciate your generous charitable support!



The CGCI Facebook is in need of videos.

Do you have a video on any aspect of gardening, landscape design, floral design, environmental concerns or any other subject in which garden club members may be interested? If so, please send your video to the CGCI Facebook Administrator at [patclaves@aol.com](mailto:patclaves@aol.com).

By the way, if you are submitting for an NGC Facebook (Social Media) award, please note that NGC wants to see videos on your Facebook page.

**Like us on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaGardenClubsInc>

**CGCI Programs & Projects**

Go to [californiagardenclubs.com](http://californiagardenclubs.com)  
for details

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- **Membership**

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

- **Insurance**

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

- **Group Tax Exemption Program**

**Chairman: Sue Bennett**  
7560 Shelborne Drive  
Granite Bay 95746-8617  
[gtep@cagardenclubs.org](mailto:gtep@cagardenclubs.org)

- **Penny Pines**

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

- **President's Project 2019-2021**

- **Project Mission Blue**

**Chairman: Julie West**  
850 Grandview Road,  
Sebastapol 95472-2930

- **Scholarship Applications**

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

- **Stamps**

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

- **Donations to the following projects are mailed to:**

California Garden Clubs  
P.O. Box 75, Graton 95444-0075  
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park  
Blue Star Memorials  
CGCI Endowments  
CGCI Scholarship Fund  
Sempervirens Fund

**Blue Star Memorial Marker Honors Veterans**

*by Nancy Compton, River Valley Garden Club*

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2020, the River Valley Garden Club honored our nation's veterans by dedicating a Blue Star Memorial By-way Marker near the gazebo at Laguna Joaquin in Rancho Murieta.

Boy Scout Troop #633 presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a trumpet solo of "The Star Spangled Banner," by Rancho Murieta resident Angie Friedrich.

Pam McCabe, President of the River Valley Garden Club, introduced several honored guests from the California Garden Clubs, Inc., the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. and Jack Seigal, veteran, United States Air Force.

Robin Pokorski, Director of the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. shared her thoughts on the importance of paying tribute to the men and women of our country's Armed Forces who are ready at a moment's notice to keep us safe. Shane Looper, President of the California Garden Clubs, Inc. spoke to the assemblage thanking the River Valley Garden Club for joining the national Blue Star Memorial program. Sue Bennett and Gail Vanderhorst, CGCI Board of Directors, attended as well and joined in the celebration.

Jack Seigal, veteran of the United States Air Force provided historical information about Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, celebrating the armistice at the end of World War I which was signed on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.

Following his presentation, Seigal, along with River Valley Garden Club member Debbie Kolmodin, unveiled the Blue Star Marker and laid a bouquet of roses and hydrangeas on top.

The River Valley Garden Club is proud to have dedicated this Blue Star Marker to honor all the men and women who have served our country with pride and distinction.



*Sue Bennett, Shane Looper, Robin Pokorski*





**Awards, Honors & Recognition**

CGCI offers many ways to say  
"Thank You" or "Good Job"

NOTE: Check the forms for the  
correct mailing address

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

♥ **Awards Program**

Chairman: Pat Claves

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

♥ **Business Commendations**

Chairman: Judy Bates

Online request form

♥ **California Consultants Council**

Chairman: Sue Bennett

Sue\_c\_bennett@att.net

Consultant of the Year,  
Environmental, Gardening, &  
Landscape Design awards.

♥ **Honor Book**

Chairman: Bette Langford

102 Calle Cuervo

San Clemente 92672-2423

♥ **Life Memberships**

Chairman: Carlotta Wixon-Welker

14216 Karry's Place

Grass Valley 95945-7934

♥ **Long-Term Certificates**

Chairman: Judy Bates

Online request form

♥ **Member Award of Distinction**

Chairman: Judy Bates

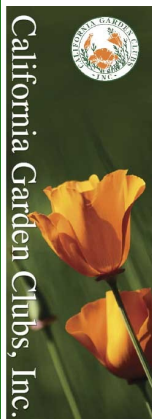
5075 Valley Crest Dr #246

Concord 94521-4914

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**Promotional Materials**

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



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

(Check the website for  
ordering details)

**Winter Board Meeting Announcement**

January 2021 Winter Board Meeting in Van Nuys is canceled.

New "virtual" Winter Board Meeting January 18-22, 2021

Board of Directors business meetings January 28-29, 2021.

Watch for an e-Blast with more details as they develop.

**PACIFIC REGION AWARDS -- UPDATE**

*by Pat Claves, Awards Chairman*

The Awards Committee of Pacific Region Garden Clubs,  
Inc. has just revised its Awards Program.

Please note these changes:

--Award #13. Membership Campaign – a new subsection  
(district) has been added.

--Award #14B has been added (Specialty Flower Show)  
under Flower Show Schedules.

--Award #15 now has two sections: A – Small Standard  
Flower show; B – Specialty Flower Show.

--New Award #16 -- Any other worthy electronically pro-  
duced project or event not listed.

--Former #16 and #17 have been renumbered to #17 and #18.

To view the new Award Rules, the site is: [Pacific Region Awards](http://Pacific Region Awards)

Questions, contact CGCI Awards Chairman Pat Claves at [patclaves@aol.com](mailto:patclaves@aol.com)





**President 2019-2021**

**Gay Austin**

**Headquarters:**

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

**Email:** [headquarters@gardenclub.org](mailto:headquarters@gardenclub.org)

**Publication:** *The National Gardener*

**Website:** [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)

### Ongoing projects:

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

(Go to [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org) for details on these and other projects)



**Director: 2019-2021**

**Robin Pokorski**

**Publication:** *WACONIAH*

**Website:**

[PacificRegionGardenClubs.org](http://PacificRegionGardenClubs.org)

**Conventions:**

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

### Blue Stars Shine in the Pacific Region!

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

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

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

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

## Hiking the Gnome Trail

by Nancy Compton, River Valley Garden Club



They peek out from behind small trees, lurk in little bushes, loiter amongst river rocks, and swing from low-hanging branches. These are the little gnomes who populate the Gnome Trail in Rancho Murieta, home of the River Valley Garden Club (RVGC).

Each year the club offers grants to school gardens, natural habitat projects, or similar ventures that focus on gardening, and/or enhancing the natural environment. This year, RVGC awarded a \$500 grant to the Murieta Trail Stewardship, the mission of which is to create, enhance, and preserve great trail experiences for hikers, walkers, bird watchers, mountain bikers, trail runners, equestrians, and all those who enjoy the outdoors. This group was initially formed as a community volunteer organization working in cooperation with local agencies to support the trail network behind Rancho Murieta. The trails are located between the community and the Deer Creek Preserve behind it.

As many club members had not hiked the trails before, two hikes on consecutive Tuesdays (to honor social distancing and keep groups to ten or fewer), were planned, and the Gnome Trail was the selected footpath.

Hikers were immediately greeted by all manner of little gnomes that have been brought to the trail and placed by community members and friends. A gnome with a tall hat standing perpendicular to the trunk of a small oak tree invites hikers to "bring us gnome friends." Hikers have apparently been paying attention, because there is no shortage of gnomes, seemingly everywhere. One of the neighborhood children was so enchanted by the Gnome Trail and its unusual inhabitants that she decided to have her birthday party out on the trail.



The club has donated a little gnome holding a sign that reads, "River Valley Garden Club;" however, he has turned out to be a sneaky gnome and is somewhat hard to find. But that's what gnomes do; they are rather elusive and somewhat shifty. It makes finding them all the more delightful.



The culmination of the hike was finding the Wedding Party, a large group of gnomes grouped around a bride and groom (and a rather strange-looking pastor) guarded quietly by a fawn.

If you ever want to hike the Gnome Trail, there is no shortage of RVGC members who would love to be your guide. Bring your water, a hat, and a sense of humor.

The experience will truly make your day.



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

#### Penny Pines update:

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

### Plant some bulbs for Spring color!

*by Judy Paul, Red Bluff Garden Club*

Right now is a perfect time to plant some bulbs for a burst of color in the spring! This is a pretty easy gardening task, with a lot of “bang for your buck.”

First, choose a spot that gets 6 or more hours of sunlight. Work up the soil to a depth of about 10 inches. Enrich with a bit of compost, and bone meal too. Most bulbs don’t like to have wet feet, so be sure your soil drains well.

There are several types of bulbs to plant in the fall. My favorites are tulips, daffodils, allium, grape hyacinths, and crocus. Directions for how deep to plant the bulb should be on the package. Usually big bulbs plant about 8 inches deep, and smaller bulbs 5 inches. A general rule to follow is to plant a bulb about 3 times deep as bulb is tall, with the pointy side up, roots down. If you can’t tell top from bottom, plant on its side and the bulb will figure it out.

Plant your bulbs in clusters for the greatest impact, as well as being less work! Low bulbs in front, taller in back. You may choose to stagger the bloom time from early to mid or late blooming as extended color. Many gardeners plant the bulbs amongst their perennials so that the perennials will hide the foliage of the bulbs as they die back.

Trench planting is a quick way to plant a lot of bulbs for a big, colorful show in the spring. After preparing your area as stated above, simply drop your bulbs in your trench at proper depth, cover with soil, and you are set. You could plant 50 or 100 bulbs or more this way, much easier than digging small areas.

Water well to settle the soil after planting your bulbs. They will need water weekly if we don’t get rain, so consider that in your planning.

After the bulbs bloom, cut off the dried flower head but not the foliage. The bulb will gather nutrients to store up for next year’s bloom. When the foliage is dried and brown, cut it off. Bulbs will bloom again next year, as well as multiply their numbers!

If you don’t have garden areas for bulbs, you can still enjoy this process by planting the bulbs into pots. Follow the same depth guidelines when planting. You may want to chill your bulbs for 6-10 weeks in a refrigerator to insure better blooming. Just don’t have them with apples as they release harmful gases for the bulbs. You can “force” hyacinths, tulips, and daffodils this way to have a pot of blooms indoors. Some of these can even grow in a dish of rocks indoors after the chilling period.

The last bulb I want to mention is the amaryllis. Right now they are easy to find in many stores, usually complete as a kit with pot, planting medium, and the bulb. They take about 6-8 weeks to come into bloom, are so colorful, successful, and fun to watch the growth process for adults, children, and grandchildren!

I hope you will consider planting a few bulbs now as they will bring joy to you as they bloom in the following months!

