

Golden Gardens eNews

www.californiagardenclubs.com

May 2020, Vol. 16-12

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Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.**

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Golden Gardens eNews

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californiagardenclubs.com

Greetings CGCI Members:

Garden clubs and associate plant societies have had to cancel meetings, flower shows, special events, and fundraisers, including plant sales, garden tours, etc. However, many are still active by virtual meetings, telephone conferencing and newsletters. As President, I enjoy receiving your newsletters that are filled with interesting articles.

San Diego County Garden Guild's newsletters included loads of articles about members' gardens, planting projects and displays of garden art, plus planting food and how to prepare food with their garden-grown plants.

San Clemente Garden Club has a member who will shop for other members who cannot leave home.

Golden Foothills District's newest club, **Placerville Garden Club**, is doing a *You Tube* video with "how to" videos and garden tours. Let me know what your club is doing or has done during our shelter-in-place directive to share with others.

I have learned about a few additional ideas to help your organization during these uncertain times. Here are some that you might find of interest:

- Create a virtual garden tour on your website and work to put the entire experience of the annual tour online with photos and/or videos narrated by garden owners highlighting favorite features.
- Put your plant sale online with inventory list so people can order plants online and arrange for curbside pickup or have plants delivered by members.
- Host a live online Q&A with local experts fielding questions related to sustainable gardening and landscape design practices.
- Victory garden giveaway to residents on a first-come, first-served basis at a specified location and timeframe. Free starter packs may include a mix of summer squash, cucumbers, melons, sunflowers, peas, beans, tomatoes, eggplants, pepper plants, etc. Include organic seed packets. Safe social distancing can easily be maintained asking recipients to wait in their vehicles for someone to place the box in the backseat or trunk.
- Create a free webinar for an hour - i.e., *Botany for Beginners* that covers the basic anatomy of flowering plants. What clues and patterns do flowers give us that help us understand their relationship? Another webinar possibility is *Wildscaping for Native Songbirds* with tips on landscaping with native plants that will provide food and shelter for native birds, pollinators and other wildlife.

CONGRATULATIONS to CGCI's three National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) 2020 *Plant America Community Project Grant* winners: **Organic Gardening Club of Sacramento County, Tuolumne County Garden Club** and **Vallejo Garden Club**. These clubs applied and were awarded up to \$1,000 in support of their local projects to green their communities. Start planning your next gardening projects and take advantage of the 2021 *Plant America Community Project Grant* application that will be posted on NGC's website (www.gardenclub.org) next month. Being a member of CGCI, this is a benefit for which your club is eligible to apply.

Shane



CGCI Calendar

californiagardenclubs.com/calendar

- **May 26-30, 2020: Cancelled**
CGCI Convention
Embassy Suites, So. San Francisco
Co-Hosts: Santa Clara Valley and
Bay Ocean Districts
- **Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 2020:**
CGCI Fall Board Meeting
Crowne Plaza Hotel
North Sacramento
- **January 24-27, 2021:**
CGCI Winter Board Meeting
Van Nuys
- **May 30-June 4, 2021:**
CGCI Convention
Embassy Suites, So. San Francisco
Co-Hosts: Santa Clara Valley and
Bay Ocean Districts

CGCI Schools Chairmen

Environmental: Michael and Leticia
Biedenbender: mikeb.cvgc@gmail.com

Flower Show: Gudrun Kimmel
gudrun56@att.net

Gardening: Greg Pokorski
gregpokorski@earthlink.net

Landscape Design: Alexis Slafer
aslafer@ca.rr.com

NGC Schools

All registration forms are on the
CGCI website Calendar page

californiagardenclubs.com/calendar

Awards Update

By Pat Claves, Awards Chairman

As the convention has been cancelled due to health issues, the following will take place in mid-May regarding awards for the 2019 Awards Year.



- Award entries, certificates and ribbons will be mailed to the District Directors. District award checks will be included in the mailings.
- Club and individual award checks will be mailed to the club presidents.
- An Excel sheet with award information will be placed on the website.

As you may know, California Pacific Region winners will be announced at the CGCI Fall Board Meeting. This may also be the case with regard to California NGC winners — if the California NGC winners are received prior to the mailings in mid-May, we will include these in the District Directors' envelopes and include the information on the Excel sheet.

Regarding mailing addresses: We will be using the addresses in the 2019-2020 *Yearbook, Manual & Roster* for District Directors and Club Presidents. Let me know (patclaves@aol.com) if there are address changes.

Here's a huge **thank you** for your patience and understanding during this unusual time in our lives. Stay safe and healthy.

A Vine to Capture Your Interest

By Shirley Felder, Red Bluff Garden Club

This vine is native to **Central and Northern California** woodlands. The flowers it produces, could have been designed by a whimsical Dr. Seuss. It is called a California Dutchman's Pipevine (*aristolochia californica*). You guessed it, the odd looking purple striped flowers on it look like a Dutch smoking pipe. It is also the only food source for the larva of the rare California Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly. The vine is extremely showy January through April and can be found growing wild along the ground near rivers and creeks in our area. It is always looking for something to climb on. Because of its large, lustrous, heart shaped green leaves, unusual flowers and great habitat value, it is one of the most popular native vines. This deciduous twining plant is adaptable to home gardens and is great if you have a trellis or fence in need of greenery. It requires a little shade and moderate water.

The flowers have a sneaky strategy for reproduction. A musky odor attracts fungus gnats into the flowers throat. Little hairs prevent the gnats from leaving, like metal spikes in a parking lot. They stay inside the flower for three or four days and become covered with pollen. Once the flowers get fertilized and shrivel up and die, the pollen covered insect escapes to the next flower.

While the flowers take on the hard job of ensnaring bugs, the plant leaves and vines host the more elegant swallowtail butterfly, which depends completely on the pipevine plant for reproduction. The females lay eggs on them, the eggs hatch into caterpillars that then gorge on the leaves. Sort of a bed and breakfast for this insect. The plant produces a toxin that when eaten by the caterpillar, makes them and the butterflies they produce, unattractive to predators.

If you want to plant this vigorous, native plant in your garden, you must have a bit of shade. They are not invasive, but the plants tend to become bushy and rambling and could reach a height of 20 to 30 feet. They do respond well to pruning. They are quite useful as a foliage plant, such as obscuring a chain link fence and if you have a love for butterflies it is another reason to invest in it because it is the only host plant for the California Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly.



CGCI Programs & Projects

Go to californiagardenclubs.com
for details

- Membership**

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

- Insurance**

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

- Group Tax Exemption Program**

Chairman: Sue Bennett
7560 Shelborne Drive
Granite Bay 95746-8617

- 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**

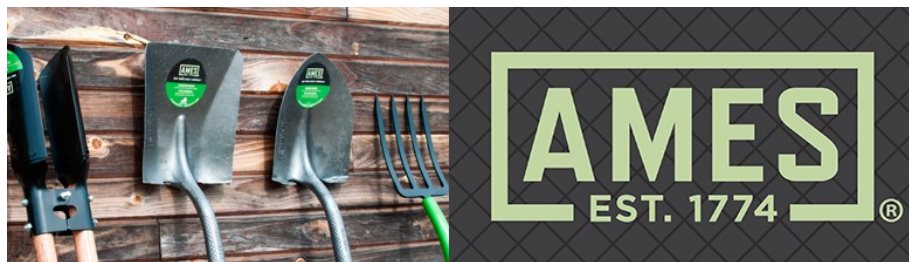
Chairman: Martha Smyser
4949 Mammoth Ave.
Sherman Oaks 91423-1319

- 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



Congratulations to **Petaluma Garden Club** who applied for the NGC **AMES** Tools grant and won garden tools for their club's garden renovation project at the Novak Senior Center located at 211 Novak Drive in Petaluma. The tools will remain in Novak's garden shed and members won't have to schlepp their own tools when volunteering to work on the project. Petaluma Garden Club is a past recipient of NGC's Plant America grant for their pollinator hedgerow project at Sunrise Community Garden featured in the summer 2018 issue of *The National Gardener*.

Congratulations also to **Eureka Sequoia Garden Club** who won an AMES Tools grant for one of their club projects. CGCI is proud to have these two club winners apply and receive garden tools. Visit NGC's link for more information on how your club can take advantage of this benefit of membership in NGC (as a member of CGCI) and watch for deadline to apply for 2021 projects:

<http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/ames-garden-tools.aspx>



Does your club have a community project? Apply for the NGC *Espoma* 'Plant America' Grant program currently accepting applications for 2020 through May 31, 2020. *Espoma* will select up to 20 clubs with projects in 2020 to receive a \$250 grant for *Espoma* plant foods and potting soils. Over 30 grants have been awarded to clubs in 22 states since the program was introduced in 2017 - another benefit of NGC membership. Visit this direct link to apply today before the **May 31, 2020 deadline**: <https://www.espoma.com/garden-clubs/>

Any CGCI member club may apply for an **AMES** Garden Tool grant, an *Espoma* in-kind grant and/or a Plant America grant. For details regarding these grant programs, please use the NGC website icon Projects and then select Grants, where descriptions and forms for each grant program may be found: <http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/grants.aspx>

Julie A. West
NGC Five-Star Member
Plant America: Plant Parks

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

Mattie Stepanek

Awards, Honors & Recognition

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

NOTE: Check the forms for the
correct mailing address

californiagardenclubs.com/forms

♥ Awards Program

Chairman: Pat Clayes

californiagardenclubs.com/awards

♥ Business Commendations

Chairman: Judy Bates

Online request form

♥ California Consultants Council

Chairman: Sue Bennett

Sue_c_bennett@att.net

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

♥ Honor Book

Chairman: Bette Langford

102 Calle Cuervo

San Clemente 92672-2423

♥ Life Memberships

Chairman: Carlotta Wixon-Welker

14216 Karry's Place

Grass Valley 95945-7934

♥ Long-Term Certificates

Chairman: Judy Bates

Online request form

♥ Member Award of Distinction

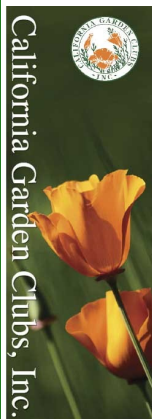
Chairman: Judy Bates

5075 Valley Crest Dr #246

Concord 94521-4914

Promotional Materials

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



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

(Check the website for
ordering details)

Stamps

By Terry Sampson, Stamps Chairman

Hello everyone. First of all, I would like to extend a HUGE thank you to all of our clubs and our club members who sent me their cancelled stamps. Trust me, a lot of you sent them to me. These stamps that would just have been thrown away are sent to Boys Town in Nebraska.

So, by CGCI donating their used postage stamps to Boys Town we are not only helping the Boys Town citizens but we are contributing to this beautiful museum.

The Village of Boys Town has at any given time, about 400 boys and girls living in the Village, receiving care and guidance for a wide range of behavioral, emotional and academic issues. In this community of hope, boys and girls change their lives and prepare to go out into the world as confident people of good character.

Boys Town has a museum and stamp center called the Leon Myers Stamp Center. They are famous for having the largest ball of stamps in the world which has been recorded in "Ripley's Believe it or Not". The Stamp ball was made by the Boys Town Stamp Collecting club in 1953. Mr. D. Barrett from Tulsa, OK was the first curator of the Boys Town Stamp Center.



At the Leon Myers Stamp Center they have a display of stamps designed by kids, children on stamps, children's fairy tales on stamps and a variety of educational and philatelic topics. The Stamp Center is full of fascinating stamp exhibits and you can view stamps from all over the world. Of course, the large ball of stamps is the center of attention. It weighs 600 pounds, 32 inches across and it is made up of 4,655,000 stamps. (I wonder who counted all of those stamps). Near the huge ball of stamps is what they call a "penny bin". Children can go through the bin and pick out colorful stamps for their collection.

If you are ever find yourself in Boys Town, make sure you stop by and visit the Leon Myers Stamp Center. You might even see one of your stamps that you have donated to the cause.

Another sight to see in Nebraska is the World's Largest Porch Swing in Hebron and just a little side note....my grandfather was born in Hebron and YEP I have sat on that swing.



**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**Publication:** *The National Gardener***Website:** gardenclub.org**Conventions: 2020 Cancelled**

May 11-16, 2020: Milwaukee, WI

May 17-20, 2021: Rutherford, NJ

Ongoing projects:

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

(Go to gardenclub.org for details on these and other projects)

**Director: 2019-2021****Robin Pokorski****Publication:** *WACONIAH***Website:**PacificRegionGardenClubs.org**Conventions: 2020 Postponed**

Aug. 17-20, 2020: Silverton, Oregon

April 9-11, 2021: Las Vegas, Nevada

2022: Washington

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

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

californiagardenclubs.com/cgcnewsletters

**Sunlight from Sunflowers***By Mary Mohr, San Clemente Garden Club*

Wow, if there's ever a need to bring a little sunlight into our lives, it's NOW. As the ground warms and we get some stellar weather in **Southern California**, my efforts to keep busy (while at home) turn to my garden. So, to my seed stash I go. Mexican Marigolds, fennel, native milkweed, green beans, and lots of Sunflower seeds are calling my name.

Last year I planted a row of some old sunflower seeds from several years ago, not sure if they were viable. Well, to my surprise, they all took. These are Giant Sunflowers with heads the size of platters that get upwards to eight feet high, follow the sun's rays (phototropic) and delight my two granddaughters. I cut and dried the flower heads from last year and have shared several with our Junior Gardener's Program, but I kept one big one for myself. I've planted about 25 seeds in my garden and will share with club members. I have little bags of seeds at my front door for anyone interested in planting these beauties.

To plant sunflowers, pick a full sun location:

1. Space seeds about 6 inches apart in a shallow trench about 1-2 inches deep.
2. Cover and keep watered until seeds sprout in 7 to 10 days.
3. When first true leaves appear (second set of leaves); thin plants to 12" apart.

Some interesting facts about Sunflowers:

Sunflower was a common crop among American Indian tribes throughout North America. Evidence suggests that the plant was cultivated by American Indians in present-day Arizona and New Mexico about 3000 BC. Some archaeologists suggest that sunflower may have been domesticated before corn.

Sunflowers also symbolize worship and faithfulness in various religions because of their resemblance to the sun, which is associated with spiritual knowledge and the desire to seek light and truth. The Incas used sunflowers to symbolize the Sun God, and brought them to temples for worship.





Nina Blonski, Chairman
pennypines@cagardenclubs.org

Total Donations Year to Date: \$8568

District	Club	Memory (M) or Honor (H) of Whom		Amount
Bay Bridges	Pinole GC	H	Donna Farrish	68.00
Buttes	Lake Oroville Area GC	H	Ilene Herringer, Sue Kuukka	136.00
Buttes	Garden Club of Colusa County	M	Marion Dirks	68.00
Buttes	Paradise GC			68.00
Buttes	Friendly GC	M	Lorraine Gibson	68.00
Diablo Foothills	Livermore-Amador Valley GC	M	Catherine Harrell	68.00
Golden Foothills	Chicago Park GC	H	Gloria Clayton	68.00
Greater Los Angeles	Naples Islands GC	M	Nancee Tinsley	68.00
Orange County	Lake Forest GC	H	Lake Forest Fire Department	204.00
Orange County	Lake Forest GC	M	Susan Gillette	68.00
Sacramento River Valley	Arden Park GC	M	Nancy Tennyson	340.00
Sacramento River Valley	Gardeners of the Grove			68.00
Sacramento River Valley	River Valley GC	H	Gail Bullen	68.00
San Fernando Valley	Southern California GC	H	Rita Lorenz	68.00
Santa Clara Valley	San Jose GC			136.00
Sequoia Foothills	Valley Oak GC	H	Janice Goucher, Gail Solorio	136.00
Valley Lode	Foothill GC	M	Ellenetta Longworth	68.00

Virtual Flower Show

By Shane Looper, CGCI President

NGC recently sent an email regarding the NGC Flower Show that was scheduled to be held at the Convention that was cancelled. NGC President Gay Austin assembled a committee to look at the possibilities of a virtual flower show with winners posted on the NGC website and social media accounts. NGC has developed a schedule and entry form for *Perfect Vision 2020 Virtual Flower Show*. CGCI has members with great horticulture specimens to show off and/or are itching to get their creative juices flowing for designs or artistic crafts. This flower show is for all of you who had to cancel your shows or for those of you who have never entered a flower show. And, just think, you do not have to pack and bring anything to the show. Your entry may win!

The schedule and entry forms are on NGC's website:

<http://gardenclub.org/about-us/news-and-events.aspx> for you to view and complete.

Would it not be grand to have California Garden Club members as winners?

