

Golden Gardens eNews

www.californiagardenclubs.com

April 2021 Vol. 8-13

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

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cgcpresident@cagardenclubs.org

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Golden Gardens eNews

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californiagardenclubs.com/cgcinewsletters
- **Submit articles by 20th of month.**
- Distributed during first week of month.



Greetings CGCI members:

Your support and generosity with the many donations to the new **Big Basin Recovery Fund** have been received with gratitude. The Executive Committee approved another \$5,000 to match donations. This will be ratified at the Pre-Convention Board meeting so a total of \$10,000 matching funds will be available by CGCI. See the Co-Chairmen's article in this newsletter regarding the charitable donations received to date.



CGCI's Annual Convention will be held virtually starting May 24, 2021.

Every member is invited to attend the workshops, seminars and business meetings. If you have never attended a Convention, give it a try. There is **no cost** involved at all. Registered Delegates and the Board of Directors virtually attending are voting members. I promise you will be interested in the fun activities. Opportunities are there for each of you. Details provided in The Call to Convention will be sent out in the next two weeks and will be posted on CGCI's website. **You must register online to receive the zoom link.** It would be great to have at least one member of each club attend in addition to eligible delegates.

Thank you to *San Clemente Garden Club* for inviting me to join your March virtual meeting. The club is active with clean-ups at the beach, plant sales and recycling. The program was enjoyable and educational - French Country Lifestyles. The speaker introduced the virtual attendees to French historical gardening with emphasis on fresh vegetable gardening, French farm life, home decor and cooking. It was entertaining for all as well as an interesting idea for a program.

I also attended the *Village Garden Club of La Jolla's* virtual meeting. Their sub committees are busy doing their activities. Their impressive "Boutiques of Thanks" committee made over 100 small designs in shells and distributed them to Veterans. Another committee recently restored a healing garden at a local health center - a beautiful garden for those using the center. Their talented program speaker was both entertaining and informative talking about birds, their wildlife habitat and ecology. Again an excellent virtual meeting that was well attended by their members.

I am planning to attend the *Valley Lode District* meeting in May in-person assuming things continue move forward for meeting in-person. I have my mask and I have been vaccinated so I am ready and available. Please continue to invite me to your in-person and/or virtual meetings.

Please watch for The Call to Convention and take advantage of the opportunity to attend and participate virtually. Remember, it's FREE!

Stay safe and stay well.

Shane

CGCI Calendar

californiagardenclubs.com/calendar

- **May 24-29, 2021:**
CGCI Convention - Virtual
Watch for The Call

CGCI Schools Chairmen

Environmental: Michael and Leticia



Biedenbender: mikeb.cvgc@gmail.com

Flower Show: Gudrun Kimmel
gudron56@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



2019-2021 President's Project

by Julie A. West, Chairman



As we approach the home stretch of the 2019-2021 President's Project for the *San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden*, we are currently raising funds to manufacture one large interpretive sign describing the plant communities and layout of the *San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden*. This large sign will include CGCI's logo, mission statement, plus wording *This sign funded by California Garden Clubs, Inc. President's Project 2019-2021*.

Fifty-three garden clubs, ten districts, fifty-seven individuals have generously supported this project to date, as well as CGCI Memorial Donations in memory of CGCI President Dorothy Roton (1999-2001), CGCI Board Members Janet Eyre and Anne Capes. \$827 has been received with gratitude since the March issue from **Shirley Day, Eureka Sequoia Garden Club, Katherine Harkness, Heather Enthusiasts of the Redwood Empire, Humboldt District, Inland Empire Master Gardeners Club, Maria Krenek in Honor of Heather Enthusiasts of the Redwood Empire** and in **Honor of Redwood Coast Succulent Club, Lake Oroville Area Garden Club and Riverside/San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society**. The project has raised **\$17,237**.

We are only \$2,763 shy of the \$20,000 goal established in the Resolution for restoring the *San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden*. (See photo) It's not too late to support it! Please make checks payable to CGCI with "President's Project" noted on memo line and note FINAL change of mailing address to: 2919 N 185th St., Elkhorn, NE 68022-7123 and cell # 707-484-6199. There is no change in email address: julieawest@aol.com. An updated donation form can be found on CGCI's website.

The generosity of people like you is what allows CGCI to make a difference in completing restoration of the *San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden*. Let's work together to reach the \$20,000 goal before the end of President Looper's term of office in June. **Your support is appreciated!**

Plant America, Plant Native: Creating a National Park in Your Own Backyard

Books Specific to California:

California Native Plants for the Garden. Bornstein, C. Fross, D. & O'Brien, B. (2005). Cachuma Press.

The California Native Landscape: The Homeowner's Design Guide to Restoring its Beauty and Balance. Rubin, G. & Warren, L. (2013). Timber Press.

The California Wildlife Habitat Garden: How to Attract Bees, Butterflies, Birds, and Other Animals. Bauer, N. (2012). University of California Press.

Recommended Websites:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, invasive animals: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Species>

California Invasive Plant Council: lots of good information on invasive plants. A-Z list of California invasive plants brings up lots of familiar weeds as well as *garden plants* you may not have known were invasive. <https://www.cal-ipc.org/plants/>
Plant Right: advocacy to keep invasive plants from being sold in California, alternatives to invasive plants (not all are native) <https://plantright.org/how/>
California Native Plant Society, "Restore Nature One Garden at a Time." <https://www.cnps.org/gardening>

*"The splendor of the rose
and the whiteness of the
lily do not rob the little
violet of its scent nor the
daisy of its simple charm.
If every tiny flower wanted
to be a rose, spring would
lose its loveliness."
~ St. Therese de Lisieux*

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
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
2919 N 185th St.
Elkhorn, NE 68022-7123

- **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 823
San Fernando, CA 91341-0823
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
Blue Star Memorials
CGCI Endowments
CGCI Scholarship Fund
Sempervirens Fund

Spam or Scam?

By Jane McKee, Webmaster

There is a new **scam** appearing in email inboxes. You may receive an email that looks like it came from a friend or garden club colleague. It may contain something like the following: "I hope this finds you well. Can you do me a favor?" The message may also ask if you have an account with Amazon or PayPal.

These emails are **not legitimate**. They are being sent by malicious entities who are impersonating people in your contacts list to gain your trust and exploit you. These kinds of fraudulent emails, known as "phishing", attempt to gain your trust in order to access your personal and/or credit card information, or to get money (by asking you to purchase gift cards). **DO NOT click any links or reply to such messages. Delete these emails immediately!**

If you receive one of these and are unsure, contact the person whose name appears in the email to find out if the request is valid. Do this via telephone or create a new, separate email...not a "reply to." Remember that CGCI will never ask that you purchase something on behalf of the organization. This is not the way we do business.

**Environmental Art Exhibition and Competition****Artist Participants Needed**

By Judy Unrine, Chairman

The CGCI 2021 California Garden Club Convention will be held virtually in May. We are appealing to members interested in participating in this fun event to contact us immediately. Your participation can help the environment while boosting your creativity. Any recycled or repurposed object can be incorporated into a design.

There are five categories for competition including Fiber, Collage, Sculpture, Assemblage, and Jewelry. For example, the fiber category could include clothing, weaving, quilts. Jewelry can be made with found objects around the house or from a walk outdoors. We are looking forward to seeing how the different materials you use will create many variations on the theme of art.

Many of you have dreamed of creating something all your own. Thought you would make something if you only had time. Or you fear what people will say. Don't let those thoughts stop you. Carl Jung said, "The creative mind plays with the objects it loves." Acknowledge that you are a creative person. Join this exciting, new experiment by creating a new form from a found object.

Please contact this chairman for an application and guidelines:

Judysgarden01@gmail.com 310-378-0227

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

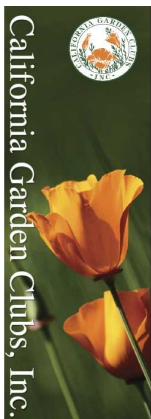
Chairman: Judy Bates

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)

Clubs, Who are Your Official Convention Representatives?

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian

Every garden club and associate plant society that belongs to CGCI is entitled to representation at the CGCI annual meeting (convention). This is your opportunity to be aware of how your organization is being run and to participate in its administration, as well as an opportunity to see fellow members from all over California, learn from the workshops and programs provided, and get ideas from other clubs.

Member organizations are entitled to representation by their presidents (or the president's alternate) and by delegates (the number of official delegates that may attend from each organization is based on the size of the membership of each organization and is specified in CGCI's bylaws). Delegates should be elected by each club – or at the least, be appointed (usually by the president). Club members cannot just fill out registration forms designating themselves as delegates. For every registration form that indicates the attendee is a president, alternate or delegate there needs to be a credentials form from that club verifying this information. See instructions that will be included with the Call to Convention. One credentials form is submitted online by each club that is sending representatives, and this is usually submitted by the club president.

Delegates should be those who plan to attend convention business sessions where they have the opportunity to vote on behalf of the club they are representing.

Be involved in your parent organization. Attend the CGCI convention and take information and ideas back to your club. And let us know you are coming by being sure that your club has submitted its credentials form.

Districts, Who Will Represent You on the CGCI Nominating Committee?

Every two years CGCI elects new officers and a new Nominating Committee to identify candidates for the administration that will begin two years later. All Districts are entitled to be represented on the Nominating Committee, but only seven are represented in any one term and those districts cannot be represented two terms in a row. Therefore, Buttes, Channel Islands, Golden Foothills, Humboldt, San Fernando Valley, Valley Lode and Yosemite Gateway Districts which have served this term will not be eligible for the 2021-2023 committee.

All other Districts should now be thinking about who can represent their District on the Nominating Committee. This is each district's opportunity to have a voice in the selection of our future leaders. Members of the CGCI Nominating Committee will be members of the CGCI Board of Directors and will be expected to attend the four board meetings and two conventions of the 2021-2023 term (especially all Nominating Committee meetings). Who from your District is willing to serve? Those who have served report that this is great learning experience. Nominees must have served on the CGCI board of directors and be present at the convention when they are nominated. Those Districts who identify candidates for the Nominating Committee should also identify a back-up because if the elected member has to leave the position for any reason, a replacement is appointed from the same District. The good news is that your District is represented for the full term!

Prepare for your District to be represented in determining CGCI's future. Identify candidates to represent your District on this most important committee. If you have questions about the Nominating Committee, ask questions and/or review the CGCI bylaws now. Be ready to nominate and elect members of our Nominating Committee at the upcoming convention.

**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**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:**

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

Notes from Newsletters**Bird Feeding Tips From Toluca Lake Garden Club**

Feeding wild birds is simple. To get started, all you need to do is get a bird feeder, fill it with quality bird food, then hang it up outside. Within days, you should have your first birds visiting your feeder.

There is more to it than that but getting started is really that easy. The best foods to offer birds in colder weather will have a high fat or oil content that provides abundant energy for winter survival. Nutritious winter foods for birds include: Black oil sunflower seed, hulled peanuts or peanut hearts and peanut butter. In the late spring and throughout the summer, birds have an easier time finding natural food from plants and insects. Still, they will make use of bird feeders year-round and especially benefit from them in the winter. If you put out more than one feeder in different parts of the yard, more birds will come. Some species are comfortable in crowds but others like their space. Also, try to position your feeder a few feet from a bush or tree. This gives the birds a staging area from which they can wait and then swoop in, pick a few seeds and retreat to safety. In some areas squirrels will make it their main goal to empty your feeder before the birds get a chance. The good news is there are several very effective squirrel proof feeders including a tube feeder surrounded by a cage with spaces the birds can get through, but the squirrels can't. Once you have set up your bird feeders, you can sit back and enjoy your bird habitat!

Monthly Surprises from San Diego County Garden Guild

Each month a group within the Guild delivers a surprise to the door of members. In February, the *Garden Crafters Guild* delivered absolutely stunning Valentines that they created. The *Seeds, Bulbs & Cuttings Guild* delivered paperwhite bulbs in Fall. This month, will be a real surprise as the *Garden Jewels* have not disclosed what's in store. In May the *Herbs and Essential Oils Guild* have a surprise!

Plant America, Plant Native from River Valley Garden Club

We have a speaker who will address our National Garden Club President's theme of **Plant America**. Entitled, "**Plant America, Plant Native: Creating a National Park in Your Own Backyard.**" This talk will focus on bringing wildlife into your yard by using native plants and sustainable gardening methods.

Alfalfa Pellets from Nancy Niemeyer, Clayton Valley Garden Club

Our speaker said that alfalfa pellets were a good fertilizer for fruit trees. Alfalfa pellets act as a slow-release fertilizer containing 2.7% nitrogen, 0.5% phosphorus, 2.8% potassium, 0.2% sulfur, and slight amounts of other micronutrients. Alfalfa pellets are often used by organic farmers as fertilizer for various crops.

Alfalfa pellets are basically compressed alfalfa meal, made from fermented, dried, and ground alfalfa. Carefully read the label before you buy to make sure the pellets only contain alfalfa meal. Pellets sold as rabbit or guinea pig food often include salt, minerals, vitamins, and other ingredients that would not be good for plants. Alfalfa pellets sold as horse feed are usually the least expensive and the least likely to contain other additives. I bought a fifty-pound bag of horse alfalfa pellets at a local feed store.

Several expert sources recommended using alfalfa pellets as fertilizer at a rate of two to five pounds per 100 square feet. However, you should not use them in plant pots because the pellets swell when they get wet.



Nina Blonski, Chairman
 pennypines@cagardenclubs.org

Total amount donated in 2020 \$23,460

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.

Big Basin Recovery Fund

By Judy Unrine, Co-Chairman

CGCI approves \$5000 to Match member donations up to \$5000 for Big Basin Recovery Fund

The August 2020 Lightning Complex wildfire burned over 97% of Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Nearly all the buildings and infrastructure were destroyed. Your donations are needed to repair and rebuild California's oldest state park, a park many of you have fond memories of visiting.

In the last Golden Garden eNews we informed you of how important your donations were to the Big Basin Recovery Fund. Members, clubs, and societies have stepped up to that challenge. As of March 19, 2021 your donations to the Big Basin Recovery Fund totaled \$4,765.40. As was announced last month your donations will be matched by CGCI. At this time the Big Basin Recovery Fund will receive \$9530.80.

Your donations to rebuild the historic Visitor Center, other infrastructure, and the signage at CGCI groves in the park are coming in daily. In the next few days, we will meet our original goal of \$5000. But the need for your support goes beyond \$5000. Please continue to send your donations to the Big Basin Recovery Fund.

Make checks payable to CGCI and mail to P.O. Box 823, San Fernando, Ca. 91341-0823. Include donor's name, address, email, phone number and a notation that this donation is for the Big Basin Recovery Fund.

The following donations have been received between February 2021 to March 19, 2021. Thanks to the generosity of the following donors, recovery efforts have been launched at the park. Their donations are helping with restoration of wildfire damage and expediting the reopening of the park. Thank you for your support of this important work. Rosa Radicchi: radicchi@aol.com or Judy Unrine: judysgarden01@gmail.com

Floraphiles	Ojai Valley GC	Temecula Valley GC
Green Thumb GC of Milpitas	Elisabeth Tufo	Golden Foothills District
Santa Clara Valley District	Maria Krenik	Gary and Nancy Harrington
Southern California GC	Shirley Lipa	Shane Looper
Julie and Dave West	San Juan Capistrano GC	Paradise GC
Desert Rose GC	Alexis Slafer	Riverside/San Bern Orchid Soc
Friends of Heirloom Flowers	Lynda Couchman	Roseville Better Gardens Club
Norma Macias	Eureka Sequoia GC	Thank You!!!



To plant a seed is a hopeful deed.

Remembering our roots keeps us down to earth.



Carolyn A. Mayes, CPA
Auditing and Consulting Services

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Graton, California

I have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of California Garden Clubs, Inc. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2020, and the related statement of activities, statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of organization management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

Accountant's Responsibility

My responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the America Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require me to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether I am aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. I believe that the results of my procedures provide a reasonable basis for my conclusion.

Accountant's Conclusion

Based on my review, I am not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Carolyn A. Mayes, CPA

Santa Rosa, California
December 29, 2020

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