

# Golden Gardens eNews

www.californiagardenclubs.com

November 2021 Vol. 5-14

Member:

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

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cgcpresident@cagardenclubs.org

1st Vice President ..... Carol Vallens

2nd Vice President ..... Adele Kelly

3rd Vice President ..... Marlene Kinney

Recording Secretary ..... Gail Vanderhorst

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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## Award Winning—Golden Gardens eNews

- Published monthly
- Distributed electronically FREE
- To subscribe or view past issues:  
[californiagardenclubs.com/cgcinewsletters](http://californiagardenclubs.com/cgcinewsletters)
- **Submit articles by 20th of month.**
- Distributed during first week of month.



Happy Autumn Gardeners,

Thank you all for your part in making my first board meeting so successful. Because of the Zoom format I had the opportunity to visit all but three of the committee meetings. I visited the Nominating Committee for 5 minutes but with the permission of the various chairs, I was able to stay for the entirety of the Chairman's Forum, District Director's Forum, Procedures, Strategic Planning, Bylaws & Policy, Budget & Finance and the California Consultant's Council. What a privilege to hear about all that is being accomplished and about creative ways clubs and districts are tackling challenges. It was a wonderful opportunity to get a feel for what is happening state wide. I was thrilled to have so many Club Presidents and Club Treasurers in attendance. My vision was that they would realize the scope of our endeavors and accomplishments through this snapshot of CGCI in action which would provide an impetus to serve with us in the future and to provide an opportunity for two-way communication. We are all indebted to those who presented to the Presidents and Treasurers: George Perko, Robin Pokorski, Sue Bennett, Shane Looper, Marlene Kinney, Jane McKee, Pat Clayes, Carol Vallens and Greg Pokorski. Our woman of innumerable jobs, Jane McKee, provided a wonderful workshop on both the NGC and the CGCI websites. Jane has worked with a consultant to totally revamp our website which is so efficient and user friendly with an up-to-date look. We have had requests for a video to be made and posted from all of our workshops and our presenters have agreed; watch our website after December 1 to review them. Webmaster Jane McKee, Flower Show Chair Sandra Graff and Scholarship Chair Martha Smyser provided wonderful inspirations to open our business meetings. The executive committee was the host for fall board; thank you one and all especially 1<sup>st</sup> VP Carol Vallens and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Adele Kelly for all the behind-the-scenes web hosting. Another important feature was the informative speech by the CEO of the San Diego River Park Foundation who are the partners in my President's Project. He will video his presentation so that you may show it at one of your meetings and garner interest in donating to my President's Project.

Elisabeth Tufo did an excellent job on the yearbook and membership cards. A big thank you to Carol Vallens for preparing them for mailing, to the District Directors for distributing them and to Rita Desilets for counting out all the cards.

We have so much for which to be grateful-the opportunity to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in America, the beauty of this lovely state, the love of family, the support of friends (the family we meet along the way), the connections we have through our garden clubs, the pleasure of gardening and floral design, the ability to learn and grow, the provision of life's basic necessities and more, and the opportunity to make the world a better place.

Happy Thanksgiving,

**Lynne**



## CGCI Calendar

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

- February 7-9, 2022**

Winter Board Meeting  
Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys  
Chairman: Rita Desilets

- June 6-10, 2022**

CGCI Convention  
Hanblery Hotel, San Diego  
Chairman: Sharon Tooley

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## CGCI Schools Chairmen

**Environmental:** Nancy Compton  
ncompton43@att.com

**Flower Show:** Sandra Graff  
sandgrf@sbcglobal.net

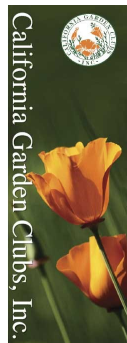
**Gardening:** Greg Pokorski  
gregpokorski@earthlink.net  
NGC Course 1—Virtual  
Nov. 9 - 10, 2021.  
[NGC Course 1 Registration](#)  
[NGC Course 1 Brochure](#)  
Contact this chairman if attending.

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

Course 1 January 15-16, 2022  
Course 2 February 12-13, 2022  
Course 3 February 26-27, 2022  
Course 4 March 12-13, 2022  
Host: Valley Lode District  
Chairman: Bernie Hendrix  
209-402-2351  
schoolsld@gmail.com

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## Promotional Materials



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

\* Free materials  
Online request forms

## 2021 – 2023 President's Project San Diego's River Center at Grant Park

A big **THANK YOU** to those who have supported the President's Project. We have raised just over **\$1,000** toward our goal of reaching **\$10,000 by December 31, 2021** in order to receive matching funds offered by a generous donor. Let's be sure we don't leave any money on the table – let's make a difference in San Diego. Please add a line to your club and district annual budget – a donation to our [President's Project](#)! But remember the matching funds offer only lasts until the end of this year! Groundbreaking will begin in the next few weeks, we'll be able to see the results of our donations at the convention next June in San Diego.

## Generous Donors:

Westlake Village GC

Cherry Blossom GC – in honor of Robin Pokorski

Green Thumb GC of Milpitas – in memory of Helen Terra

Santa Clara Valley District

**Thank you for making a positive difference in the lives of others,  
our community, and our state!**

## Tech Notes from the CGCI Webmaster

by Jane McKee



We are pleased to report that the rebuilt/upgraded website went live on October 1, 2021! The domain host is GoDaddy and the platform is WordPress. Webforms submitted generate an email that automatically goes to the appropriate chairman or officer. All webform submissions can be collated and downloaded to a spreadsheet for use in reports and databases. Some pages and webforms were updated and may not have the same URL (address) as before. If you have bookmarks to pages or forms be sure to check before using. All forms are linked in at least two places on the website – 1) on the related topic page i.e. Membership & Dues, Ongoing Projects, etc. and 2) on the Forms page.

Webforms: Please check the following webforms and use accordingly:

Organization Locator Form: [www.californiagardenclubs.com/organizationlocatorform](http://www.californiagardenclubs.com/organizationlocatorform)

To request a new listing or update an existing listing for the city or zip code search application. A link is on the Home Page under "Quick Find."

Contact CGCI: [www.californiagardenclubs.com/contact-cgci](http://www.californiagardenclubs.com/contact-cgci)

This is a new form to submit general questions or minor updates to organization contact information (change to president or treasurer email or phone number etc.) A link is at bottom of Home Page.

Dues: [www.californiagardenclubs.com/dues-annual-clubsaps](http://www.californiagardenclubs.com/dues-annual-clubsaps) or  
[www.californiagardenclubs.com/dues-additional-members-clubsaps](http://www.californiagardenclubs.com/dues-additional-members-clubsaps)

Links to each form are on Home Page under Membership & Dues.

(See Tech Notes, page 6)

**CGCI Programs & Projects**

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

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- Membership**

**Chairman: Marlene Kinney**  
315 Windmill Canyon Place  
Clayton, CA 94517-1904

- Insurance**

**Chairman: Shane Looper**  
213 Carmelo Lane  
South San Francisco 94080-204

- 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 [Penny Pines](#)

- President's Project 2021-2023**

**Chairman: Robin Pokorski**  
[President's Project](#)

- Scholarship Applications**

**Chairman: Martha Smyser**  
[CGCI Scholarship Fund](#)

- Black Point Garden**

**Chairman: Shane Looper**  
213 Carmelo Lane  
South San Francisco 94080-204  
[Black Point Garden](#)

- Donations** to the following projects can be made online or mailed to:

California Garden Clubs  
P.O. Box 823

San Fernando, CA 91341-0823  
[Anza-Borrego Desert State Park](#)  
[Blue Star & Gold Star Memorials](#)  
[CGCI Endowment Funds](#)  
[CGCI Scholarship Fund](#)  
[Conejo Valley Botanic Garden](#)  
[Sempervirens/Big Basin Funds](#)

**Attention: All CGCI Board Members**

The Nominating Committee announces that the following slate of officers is needed for the 2023-2025 term:

1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary	Treasurer
Financial Secretary	Communications Director

Please let any member of the Nominating Committee know of your desire to serve on the CGCI Executive Committee to further the goals and objectives of CGCI during the 2023-2025 term and beyond. The Nominating Committee members are Pat Clayes, Roseann Costabile, Carolyn Hoyum, Nancy McDougal, Sharon Tooley, Elisabeth Tufo and Carolyn Villi.

**Sempervirens / Big Basin Redwoods**

*by Judy Unrine Co-Chair*

Thank you for your generous support of the Big Basin Redwoods State Park through the Sempervirens Fund. Because of the devastating CZU Lightning Complex Wildfire a second fund, The Big Basin Recovery Fund under the umbrella of Sempervirens, was initiated.

Thanks to Past President Shane Looper, CGCI offered to match up to \$5000, twice, for a total of \$10,000. Because you care about Big Basin Redwoods State Park, we received donations from 64 clubs, districts and individuals. As of today, we have received \$10,969.99 in donations from CGCI members.

Donation forms are on the CGCI website [Big Basin Recovery Fund](#)

<b>Recent Donations:</b>	<b>Sharon Anderson</b>	<b>Chuck Goodwin</b>
<b>Katherine Harkness</b>	<b>Joe Longo</b>	<b>Westlake Village GC</b>

**Flower Show Awards**

*by Emily Troxell, CGCI Flower Show Awards Chair*

All Flower Shows are worthy of evaluation. If your club is planning a flower show, it is time to consider having the show evaluated – and possibly earning an award! The process is easy. When the schedule is complete and the judges are chosen, go to the CGCI website and submit the application to have your show evaluated. [Flower show form](#). Three judges will review the schedule and evaluate your show. If you score 90 or above, you will be encouraged to submit a Book of Evidence and maybe you will be qualified for either a California or National Garden Club Award. This provides your club with tangible evidence of the work that creates any flower shows, as well as a clear picture of the educational value of producing a NGC Flower Show.

Contact Emily Troxell for further information. [etroxell@sdsu.edu](mailto:etroxell@sdsu.edu).





**Awards, Honors & Recognition**

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

- Awards Program**

Chairman: Pat Clayes

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

- Business Commendations,**

- Long-Term Certificates, and**

- Member Award of Distinction**

Chairman: Judy Bates

jlbates5900@sbcglobal.net

Online request forms

- California Consultants Council**

Chairman: Sue Bennett

Sue\_c\_bennett@att.net

- Life Memberships**

Chairman: Carlotta Wixon-Welker

lifemember@cagardenclubs.org

Online request form



**National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**President 2021-2023**

**Mary Warshauer**

**Theme:** "Plant America-Play Outdoors"

**NGC 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)



**Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**Director: 2021-2022**

**Lana Finegold**

**Email:** [lanafinegold@msn.com](mailto:lanafinegold@msn.com)

**Publication:** **WACONIAH**

**Website:**

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

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

If not, you can subscribe here

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

## Protecting Succulents through Legislation: The Sequel

by Nancy Compton, Government/Legislation Chair

The October 2021 issue of **Golden Gardens** included an article about *Dudleya farinosa*, a succulent that grows on the cliffs of California's North Coast. The focus of this article was the prevalence of poachers, mainly from China and Korea, who board an airplane, fly over the Pacific, land in San Francisco, rent a car, go to a box store to load up on boxes, then drive up the coast, rent a hotel room, climb down rocky cliffs, and extract the *Dudleya* from the cliffs. Then they send these boxes back to Asia.



The reason for this is the increasing demand for these succulents, many of which sell for over one thousand dollars, due to their popularity as status symbols and collectors' items.

When that article was written, California Assembly Bill 223, written by the California Native Plant Society in collaboration with Assembly Member Christopher Ward (D-San Diego) had sailed through the legislature and was sitting on the Governor's desk. This bill would make it unlawful to uproot, remove, harvest, possess with intent to sell, transport for sale, or export for sale.

Good News! Governor Gavin Newsom signed the bill into law on September 23, 2021, causing my daughter to exclaim, "**Plant Lives Matter!**"

Gardeners, naturalists, and outdoor enthusiasts owe a debt of gratitude to the California Native Plant Society, Assembly Member Ward, the Governor, and all Californians who worked hard to make this happen, including those who contacted the Governor's office in support of this bill. Together we have worked to ensure the continuing integrity of our outdoor environment and the health of California's beautiful North Coast.

### Strawberries and cashews

are the only fruits whose seeds grow on the outside.

### Avocados

have the highest calories of any fruit at 167 calories per hundred grams.

### The banana

cannot reproduce itself. It can be propagated only by the hand of man.



Cashew growing outside fruit

# GIVINGTUESDAY 2021

*by Pat Clayes, Board of Trustees Member*

Once again, **CGCI** is participating in **GivingTuesday**, the global day of generosity that will take place on **Tuesday, November 30, 2021**.

**GivingTuesday** was created in 2012 as a simple idea — a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past nine years, this idea has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate and celebrate generosity. People show their generosity in a variety of ways during **GivingTuesday**. Whether it is helping a neighbor, advocating for an issue, sharing a skill, or giving to causes, everyone has something to give and every act of generosity counts. When so much attention is given to what divides us, generosity brings people together across races, faiths and political views.

With this in mind, California Garden Clubs, Inc. is reaching out to individuals, clubs, districts and the general public to offer the opportunity to support the CGCI Endowment and Scholarship Endowment Funds by participating in **GivingTuesday 2021**, the beginning of the charitable season, when many focus on holiday and end-of-year giving.

The two endowment funds were established in 2010 to provide a suitable vehicle to receive donations from those wishing to make a lasting contribution to the CGCI organization or to the scholarship fund. In 2020, our first year participating in **GivingTuesday**, \$550 was donated to the Endowment Fund and \$590 was donated to the Scholarship Endowment Fund — for a total of \$1,140 for both endowments! **Let's double that amount this year!**

We hope you will consider participating in this twenty-four hour global event. The link to the donation form will be available on the home page of the CGCI website ([www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org](http://www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org)) on November 29, 2021. Thank you!



## Do you know a college student who needs money for school?

*by Martha Smyser, Scholarship Chairman*

This year one of our California students won a scholastic "Triple Crown" receiving scholarships from California Garden Clubs, Pacific Region Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs (NGC). These scholarships are for Junior year (and up) students who are studying one of the many fields related to garden club goals and interests.

CGCI Scholarships are for \$2,000, Pacific Region's were \$1,250 this year and NGC awards \$4,000. Go to the CGCI website to find information about our scholarship and to find links to Pacific Region and NGC. [Scholarship link](#).

The deadline for applying for a CGCI scholarship is **January 15, 2022**.

Did your garden club award a scholarship this spring? If that student will be a full time student during the 2022-23 academic year please encourage them to apply for these scholarships.

Please get in touch with me if you have any questions. Martha Smyser, [mbsmyser12@gmail.com](mailto:mbsmyser12@gmail.com).

## Alberta Thiry Bequest to CGCI

*by Julie A. West, Board of Trustees Chairman*

California Garden Clubs, Inc. is a recipient of Alberta Thiry's generous bequest upon her passing in June 2020. Alberta was a master Flower Show Judge in Judges Council of Orange County as well as a Landscape Design Critic (Consultant) who lived in Santa Ana and moved to Columbia, South Carolina. \$15,252.28 was recently received from Alberta's estate.

At the Fall Board Meeting recently held, the Board of Directors approved distribution of this bequest as follows: A \$2,000 Alberta Thiry Memorial Scholarship be awarded for seven years with remaining balance to be donated to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

A special thank you will be sent to Alberta's family to let them know of CGCI's appreciation being remembered in her will and distribution of funds in her memory.

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



**Nina Blonski, Chairman**  
 pennypines@cagardenclubs.org  
[Penny Pines](#)  
 Year to date donations total: \$14,280

District		Club / Donor		Honor or Memory / To Whom		Amount
Bay Bridges	Pinole GC			Memory	Alice Strain	\$68.00
Buttes	Garden Club of Colusa	Betty J. Holland		Memory	Robert G. Holland II	\$68.00
Golden Foothills	Organic GC of Sac. County			Honor	Elsie Player	\$68.00
Luther Burbank	Petaluma GC					\$68.00
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Orange County	San Juan Capistrano GC					\$68.00
Orange County	Anaheim GC			Honor	Linda Kitada, Marcia Poulin, Liz Knarr, Candy Nakanishi	\$272.00
Palomar	Carlsbad GC			Memory	Marilyn Wilson	\$68.00
San Fernando Valley	Southern California GC			Memory	Giordano Bruno Oct. 11, 2021	\$68.00
Top 'O The State	McCloud GC					\$476.00
Valley Lode	Foothill GC			Honor	Laurie Taylor	\$68.00
Valley Lode	Tuolumne County GC			Honor	Mish Kendall	\$68.00
Valley Lode	Tuolumne County GC			Honor	Emily Kilgore	\$68.00
Valley Lode	Tuolumne County GC			Memory	Jerry South	\$68.00
Valley Lode	Tuolumne County GC			Honor	Linda Starnes	\$68.00
Valley Lode	Tuolumne County GC			Honor	Lynne Batchelor	\$68.00
Valley Lode	Tuolumne County GC	Jeanne Bodiford		Memory	Aray & Arvella Jackson	\$68.00
Valley Lode	Valley Lode District			Honor	Firefighters & volunteers	\$204.00
Valley Lode	Ripon GC	Martha Hawkins		Memory	Booke Conrad	\$68.00

(Tech Notes, from page 2)



Mail distribution – a reminder: CGCI uses two bulk mail services – one to distribute newsletters and one for “official mail” (Call to board meetings/conventions, minutes, special notices to board members).

If you believe that you are NOT receiving mail from CGCI and did not “unsubscribe” check your SPAM or TRASH folders. Every email provider allows users to “white list” email addresses to prevent them from being blocked. Check your settings to see how your email account works. Example: You may add an address to your address book or create a filter indicating that a specific email address is not to be deleted, blocked or sent to spam. All CGCI mail originates from this email address: [cgcic@cagardenclubs.org](mailto:cgcic@cagardenclubs.org).

A video of the Fall Board Workshop “A Walk Through the Website” is in the works and hopefully will be ready by December 1. Watch *Golden Gardens eNews* for the announcement.

### National Peanut Butter Month

Did you know that peanut butter has it's own month?

Well it's true!

The month of November is considered National Peanut Butter Lover's Month.

