

Golden Gardens eNews

www.californiagardenclubs.com

February 2023 Vol. 7 -15

Member:

**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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In this issue:

President's Message.....1
Calendar2
President's Project2
Award Sponsors2
Herbie the Herbalist2
Tech Tips3
Giving Tuesday3
NGC Grant Award4
Notes from Newsletters4
Salmon Link5
Penny Pines6
AmazonSmile.....6

Award Winning—Golden Gardens eNews

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- Distributed electronically FREE
- To subscribe or view past issues:
californiagardenclubs.com/cgcineletters
- **Submit articles by 20th of month.**
- Distributed during first week of month.



Winter Greetings Gardeners,

During the week of Winter Board meeting three much admired floral designers passed away. You received the official notice about our 2019-2021 President Shane Looper. Thanks to Julie West and Sue Bennett for supplying her biography. We will share more about Shane in an upcoming Golden Gardens. Shane's good friend Dolores Moffat passed away at the beginning of that week. She had moved to Texas to be near family but had served on our CGCI board for many years. Our third loss was a nationally recognized designer known as a great instructor by many in CGCI, Tony Todesco. I am sure they have already formed a heavenly design group.



Our Winter Board Meeting was wonderful. Thank you to everyone who attended, to Rita Desilets who produced the program, to Robin Pokorski who served as the registrar, to George and DeeDee Speer who organized the event and to Palomar District Director Sharon Tooley for agreeing to host the meeting and to designate the profits for Design Forum. Design Forum is a committee of the district which has provided a monthly design program for the past 30 years.

George planned so many great workshops. The bright idea of the year award centered around the two workshops in which attendees produced four different floral designs which were used as the table centerpieces at meals. My favorite workshop was the visit to the indigenous people's museum followed by making a basket! Kudos to George for choosing a fabulous hotel which served excellent meals (extraordinary desserts) and for arranging speakers and workshops which carried out his theme *California Roots*!

We heard great news from our Committee Chairs and District Directors. Please click on the website and read the minutes and their reports. The CCC voted to cancel the tri-refresher and the Symposium may cancel for lack of attendance. If you plan to attend, please communicate with Emily Troxell this week.

Thank you to everyone who is helping me reach my revised goal of \$40,000 for the President's Project. Two wonderful bench/tables handmade and delivered by Hank Vanderhorst were sold at WBM. It is not too late for you to acquire this lasting remembrance of your help in creating the Gardens at Grant Park for a donation of \$300. Thanks to Robin for making the delicious Almond Roca sold for the project.

Just a reminder that I am trying to cram two years of district/club visits into one year. Please invite me before the convention. Our convention will now be at The Palm Garden in Thousand Oaks.

I hope you receive and give many kisses and hugs, boxes of candy, bouquets of flowers, visits and talks with loved ones next week. Wishing you a very Happy Valentine's Day,

Lynne



CGCI Calendar

californiagardenclubs.com/calendar

- **Winter Board Meeting**

January 29-February 1, 2023
Harrah's Resort, Valley Center
Contact: George Speer
speerCGCI@msrshp@aol.com

- **CGCI Convention**

June 5-9, 2023
Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys
Contact: Rita Desilets
4rita.desilets@gmail.com

- **Flower Show School**

Course 3 April 14-16, 2023
Course 4 September 23-25, 2023
Modesto—Contact: Judi Picinini,
jpicinini@aol.com

- **Flower Show Symposium**

March 27-28, 2023
South San Francisco
Contact: Emily Troxell
etroxell@sdsu.edu 858 748 1025

- **Tri-Refresher**

March 29, 2023 *Canceled*
South San Francisco
Contact: Sue Bennett
sue_c_bennett@att.net

CGCI Schools Chairmen

Environmental: Shane Looper
slooper@sbcglobal.net

Flower Show: Sandra Graff
sandgrf@sbcglobal.net

Gardening: Greg Pokorski
gregpokorski@earthlink.net

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

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

By Robin Pokorski, Chairman

We have surpassed our original goal of \$25,000 and have set the bar a little bit higher because of price increases. We need to raise a little over \$1500 to meet our new goal of \$35,000. TOGETHER, I am confident we can make this happen.

A big **THANK YOU** to those who have supported the President's Project. Three Table/Benches were available at the Winter Board Meeting in Valley Center in January and we sold one and two or three more are promised! **Manufacturing is winding down and the Table/Benches will not be available after June 1.** To be sure your Table/Bench is reserved just for you or for your club, place your order in advance with me (in other words, send me a check!).

Generous Donors:

Roseann Costabile
Ronni Russell
Soledad Club
Green Thumb GC of Milpitas
Hanford GC
San Diego Bromeliad Society
Temecula Valley GC

Table/Bench Donors:

Connie Lee

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

Seeking Award Sponsors

The following awards need sponsors for the 2024 awards year:

- 40-4. Photography Award (1st \$50) – photo of a flowering tree or shrub, in bloom, grown by applicant.
- 65. School Garden Award (1st \$50 in each section -- 3 sections -- \$150).
- 77. Penny Pines Award (1st \$125 in each section -- 2 sections -- \$250).

This can be divided between two sponsors if necessary.

Please contact the Awards Chairman at patclayes@aol.com if interested in sponsoring these awards.

Herbie the Herbalist**ALOE VERA**

The fresh juice inside the leaves of the Aloe Vera has been used in cosmetic lotions and creams for over 3,000 years.

Drought resistant succulent

Will grow well indoors

Fresh leaves are always ready to use

Orange flowers, Perennial.



CGCI Programs & Projects

Go to californiagardenclubs.com
for details

- **Membership**

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

- **Insurance (NEW)**

Chairman: Launa Gould
1212 Avenida Buena Suerte
San Clemente 92672

- **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 [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 94080-2204
[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](#)

Tech Tips for 2023

By Jane McKee, Webmaster

NEW YEAR - NEW PASSWORDS. It's that time again and if you haven't already done so, it's a good idea to change passwords, especially for online financial accounts.

MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA): Many websites now require MFA for added security. MFA is an electronic authentication method in which a user is granted access to a website or application only after successfully presenting two or more pieces of evidence to sign in. In addition to a password, it may require a verification code sent to your phone (text or call) or email. If you haven't updated various log ins to MFA now is a good time to start the process.

SCAMMERS, SPOOFERS & PHISHERS: Yep, they are still out there. Pay attention to the "sender's" address to weed out the fraudsters. And remember that CGCI and/or its officers will never ask you to purchase anything on behalf of the organization.

Good luck and have a great 2023!



GivingTuesday

By Pat Claves, Board of Trustees Member

The Board of Trustees was very pleased with the response from our members to *GivingTuesday* last November/December. Thank you to **Sue and Bill Bennett; Al and Pat Claves; Shane Looper; Martha Smyser; Carol Vallens; Julie and David West; and Southern California Garden Club.** Grand total = **\$950!** CGCI appreciates your generosity with this fundraising endeavor pursuing CGCI's objectives.

THANK YOU!

This year, *GivingTuesday* will take place on November 28, 2023 (it's the Tuesday after Thanksgiving). Please ask your clubs and districts to consider donating on *GivingTuesday* to the CGCI Endowment Fund and/or the CGCI Scholarship Fund when creating their budgets for the coming year.



Awards, Honors & Recognition

californiagardenclubs.com/forms

- Awards Program**

Chairman: Pat Clayes

• 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:

St. Louis, MO

Telephone: 314-776-7574

Fax: 314-776-5108

Email: headquarters@gardenclub.org

Publication: *The National Gardener*

Website: gardenclub.org

NGC Convention May 2-5, 2023

White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia



Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

Director: 2021-2023

Lana Finegold

Theme: "One Green World"

Email: lanafinegold@msn.com

Publication: *WACONIAH*

Website: PacificRegionGardenClubs.org

PRGC Convention April 17-20, 2023

Embassy Suites, Lynnwood, WA

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

If not, you can subscribe here

californiagardenclubs.com/gcnewsletter

Oakdale Garden Club, Valley Lode District

Recipient of a PLANT AMERICA Community Grant!

PLANT AMERICA



The National Garden Clubs, Inc. & President Mary Warshauer are pleased to announce the 2023 recipients of the PLANT AMERICA Community Project grants. More than 140 applications were reviewed by the PLANT AMERICA



Committee. Since its inception in 2017, more than 300 grants have been awarded to NGC member clubs to beautify their communities.



<https://gardenclub.org/plant-america-community-project-grants>

Notes from Your Newsletters

Divide Garden Club book recommendation.

Swamplands Tundra Beavers, Quaking Bogs, and the Improbable World of Peat
By Edward Struzik Book Review by Jackie Morgan

For centuries – peat lands – bogs, fens, marshes, and swamps have been vilified as places of pestilence. The author tells the history of draining swampland such as the Great Dismal Swamp and Central Park and the harmful effects. In Swamplands the author celebrates these landscapes, visiting bogs in Kauai, Hudson Bay, the Mojave desert, the Arctic, and the high Sierras. His adventures highlight the urgent struggle to save peat lands by scientists, conservationists, and landowners, who view their restoration and protection as the best way to deal with climate change. Peat lands store twice as much carbon as all the world's forest. They also regulate climate, filter water, mitigate floods, protect low-lying coastlines from rising sea levels and storm surges, slow wildfires, and provide refuges for many plants, insects, and larger animals. The author investigates the restoration projects that involve peat that repair the destruction by forestry, mining, and energy companies

Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society

The CCCSS ASK US TABLE is available during meetings or email us your questions. For Active members only. Help with: • Plant ID (Provide photos of the plant: 1) close-up of leaves, flowers, spines; 2) plant photo with a ruler, soda can or credit card for scale; and 3) plant photo showing where its grown (full sun, shade, in the ground?) • Cultural Requirements (water, light, fertilizer, soil type) • Pests & Other Problems • Please provide as much information as you can.

Salmon - Link Between Ocean and Forest

By Judy Unrine, Sempervirens Co-Chair

Besides Big Basin Redwoods State Park, the Sempervirens Fund cares for other park lands in the Santa Cruz mountain area. Often partnering with the Santa Cruz Land Trust, Sempervirens recently highlighted the importance of the old Mill Dam and the forest watershed.



Watersheds are a part of the natural ecology of an area. Building homes, parking lots, or dams can damage or interrupt the natural functioning of a watershed. As part of the restoration of the San Vicente Redwoods natural watershed, the century old Mill Dam was removed. One year ago the work was completed. Water and granite cobble were allowed to flow for the first time in 100 years.

As part of the ecological restoration, fallen trees, debris, and invasive species were removed from the stream. Removing these ecological threats and stressors made it possible for the return of two endangered species: Coho and Steelhead Salmon.

Free flowing water and granite cobble are important for salmon spawning. Recently, it was reported that 15 coho and steelhead salmon were counted in the stream for the first time in 100 years. This will be the southern edge of the salmon's range. Considered endangered due to over fishing, climate change, and drought, the presence of salmon in this location is exciting.

A relatively complex life cycle, the salmon spawn and rear their young in rivers for at least one summer before migrating to salt water to feed, grow, and mature. Salmon then return to freshwater to spawn. Previously confined to oxygen poor water the salmon would die before reaching the spawning ground. Now, with the pure, clean water released when the Mill Dam was removed, and with the aid of autumn rains, the river runs swift and turbulent.

The salmon have traveled across the ocean. In the ocean they have changed color, developed solid, streamlined muscle. As they near the shore they smell fresh water. They have eluded killers whales, sharks, sea lions. Still, bears and wolves, and eagles await their arrival on the river's shore. With the shock of leaving salt water and entering fresh water the salmon stop eating and drinking.

No longer trapped by the river's shallow water, they make their way. They reach the spawning ground, the stretch of gravel where they will create the spawning ground where their offspring will return time and time again. The female lays the eggs and the male salmon releases the sperm into the water. The amazing link between ocean and forest has been made.

The San Vincente Redwoods area was reopened December 3, 2022 for the first time since being damaged in the fires. A favorite destination in the Santa Cruz mountains, free, permanent passes will be available for hikers, bikers, and equestrians.

We would very much like to thank all the donors to the Sempervirens Fund and Big Basin Recovery Fund. Your donations have made an important impact on saving the Coastal Redwoods and endangered salmon. Recent donors are: Mission Viejo Garden Club, Bonita Valley Garden Club, Green Thumb Garden Club of Milpitas, Linden Garden Club, Long Beach Garden Club and Ronni Russell.

If you would like to contribute, see donation form on CGCI website or send check to P.O. Box 823, San Fernando, Ca., 91341-0823. Please indicate whether your donation is for the Sempervirens or for the Big Basin Recovery Fund.

Judy Unrine and Kathy Taylor de Murillo, Sempervirens Co-Chairs



Nina Blonski, Chairman
 pennypines@cagardenclubs.org
[Penny Pines](http://PennyPines.org)

The total count for 2022 Penny Pines is 383 donations totaling \$26,044. Sequoia National Forest has a new address which has been updated on the website drop down menu and also in the Penny Pine Pamphlet that is available to print online. The pamphlets that have been distributed have the old contact information. Always look to the website for the current Penny Pines information. All submissions must be made on the online form. The forms have been updated on the website and will look and print different than you are use to. Keep collecting for Penny Pines and look for your clubs donations "in Honor of or In Memory of" in the Golden Gardens eNews a month or two after your donations are submitted.

District	Club / Donor		Honor or Memory / To Whom		Amount
Bay Bridges	El Cerrito GC	Martha Jackson	Memory	Roland A. Rush	\$ 68.00
Bay Bridges	Pinole GC		Honor	Sally Riggs	\$ 68.00
Bay Ocean	Carolands Garden Club		Memory	Marion Adamis	\$ 68.00
Buttes	Paradise Garden Club Inc.		Honor	Anne Barrett	\$ 68.00
Buttes	Friendly GC		Memory	Loraine Gibson	\$ 68.00
Buttes	Friendly GC		Memory	Skip Maxfield	\$ 68.00
Buttes	Friendly GC		Memory	Pat Arbogast	\$ 68.00
Buttes	Friendly GC		Memory	Donna J. Murrill	\$ 68.00
Buttes	Friendly GC		Memory	Dorothy J. Westaby	\$ 68.00
Channel Islands	Pleasant Vally GC				\$ 68.00
Diablo Foothills	Livermore-Amador Valley GC		Memory	Len Smith	\$ 68.00
Golden Foothills	Colfax Garden Club		Memory	Mel Couchman	\$ 68.00
Luther Burbank	Petaluma GC				\$ 68.00
Palomar	Fallbrook GC				\$ 204.00
San Fernando Valley	Burbank-Valley Garden Club		Memory	Richard Itomura	\$ 68.00
San Fernando Valley	Southern California Garden Club				\$ 68.00
Valley Lode	Newman Garden Club		Honor	Katherine Crinklaw, Loretta Rose, Lorisa Sequeira	\$ 204.00
Valley Lode	Calaveras County GC		Honor	Berni Hendrix, District Director Valley Lode District	\$ 68.00
Valley Lode	Ripon GC	Tim & Martha Hawkins	Memory	Remo Maggiora	\$ 68.00
Valley Lode	Ripon GC	Jim & Kathy Stuart	Memory	Diane J. Wiese	\$ 68.00
Yosemite Gateway	Atwater GC		Memory	Rudy Valenzuela	\$ 68.00

Update from AmazonSmile

In 2013, we launched AmazonSmile to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. We want to thank you for your partnership during all these years.

We learned that with so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally—our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.

Over the past few years, we've seen that Amazon can have a more significant and lasting impact if we invest in specific areas and focus our philanthropic efforts in the communities where our employees live and work. and we will continue to pursue and invest in other areas where we've seen we can make meaningful change.

We are writing to let you know that we have made plans to wind down AmazonSmile by **February 20, 2023**. Until this date, customer purchases made via AmazonSmile will continue to accrue funds for your charity as normal. To help nonprofits like you plan ahead, we will also provide you with a one-time payment equivalent to three months of payments based on what you accrued in 2022 through this program.

We will keep supporting thousands of charities across the U.S. in many ways, and focus on the areas we believe can help create an even greater impact. Our long-term commitment to our communities remains the same: We are determined to help create a better world for our customers, our employees, and the communities we serve across the country.