

Golden Gardens eNews

www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org

September-October 2023, Vol. 2-16

California Garden Clubs, Inc.
a member of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
and
Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Fall is now upon us and with the changing of the seasons comes cooler temperatures, the turning of the leaves, the beauty of fall flowers, and the start of garden club meetings. Once again, we begin to gather with friends to share stories about our gardens and what we have accomplished during our short summer break. We share our knowledge and look forward to new speakers, tours, workshops, and creating floral designs with a bounty of beautiful fall colors.



Fall also means that it is time for the CGCI Board of Directors to meet at the annual Fall Board Meeting. This year we tried something totally different — we met at Harris Ranch in Coalinga. What made this meeting different is that it was only a two and a half day meeting with meals on-our-own, not in a banquet format. There were three restaurants at Harris Ranch, a take-out barbecue restaurant, as well as fast food places nearby. Overall, our experience was a huge success and enjoyed by all attendees.

It was my first meeting as the presiding officer and responsible for keeping the meeting on track. A new format for the Chairman's Forum was very productive. CGCI has many new board members this term, and they were all made to feel welcome and appreciated. Some of CGCI's long-term board members have embraced new positions and have already achieved success.

Change can often be hard but with change comes growth. It is my hope and goal this term that we embrace the changes that we need to make for the organization to stay current and encourage members to step out of their comfort zones to take on leadership roles in their club, district or even at the state level. As I visit clubs and districts, I hope to entice many of you to take on leadership roles. As part of that goal, there will be opportunities for learning about becoming a club president or district director as well as the many positions on CGCI's Board of Directors. I hope to hold several Zoom meetings that will explain these positions and what is involved.

I thank club presidents, treasurers and district directors for all that they do at the local level and beyond. Thank you to all the 2023-2025 CGCI board members who continue to make this organization the great success that it is. Thanks also to those who helped make CGCI's first Board Meeting of this term a huge success.

I look forward to visiting a few districts in the coming months. Please reach out to me so I can add your club or district to my calendar.

Happy fall,

Carol



**Like us
on
Facebook!**

OFFICIAL CALENDAR

Check the CGCI Calendar of Events for links to brochures, flyers, registration forms, etc. For schools in other states, check the [NGC website](#). See CGCI [Calendar](#) Member Special Events for club, affiliate, associate plant society and district "special" events which are open to the public.

2023

- November 4-5, **Environmental School**, Course 1, Modesto. Sponsor: Ceres Garden Club. Contact: [Berni Hendrix](#). [Brochure](#).

2024

- January 6-7, **Environmental School**, Course 2, Modesto. Sponsor: Ceres Garden Club. Contact: [Berni Hendrix](#)
- January 29-31, **CGCI Winter Board Meeting** — Virtual
- February 3-4, **Environmental School**, Course 3, Modesto. Sponsor: Ceres Garden Club. Contact: [Berni Hendrix](#)
- March 2-3, **Environmental School**, Course 4, Modesto. Sponsor: Ceres Garden Club. Contact: [Berni Hendrix](#)
- May 19-22, **CGCI Convention**, Wyndham Hotel, Sacramento. Host: Golden Foothills District. Chairman: [Sue Bennett](#)
- May 23-24, **Flower Show Symposium**, Sacramento. More information to be announced.
- June 2-5, **NGC Convention**, Westminster, Colorado
- June 21-22, **Landscape Design School**, Course 1, North Hills. Sponsor: Southern California Garden Club. Chairman: [Alexis Slafer](#). Course 2: July 12-13; Course 3: July 26-27; Course 4: August 9-10.
- August 20-23, **PRGC Convention**, Anchorage, Alaska
- September 8-11, **CGCI Fall Board Meeting**, Bear River Casino Resort, Loretta. Chairman: Ellin Beltz. Host: Humboldt District
- September 24, **NGC Fall Board Meeting** — Virtual

BOARD RATIFIED PROJECTS

See the CGCI [website](#) for information about these CGCI projects and how to donate.

- Black Point Historic Garden – Chairman [Julie West](#)
- Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorials – Co-Chairmen [George Unrine](#) (South) & [Maria Krenek](#) (North)
- Conejo Valley Botanic Garden – Chairman [Shelley Sparks](#)
- Endowment Funds – Board of Trustees Chairman [Julie West](#)
- Golden Legacy Society – Chairman [George Perko](#)
- President's Project 2023-2025 – Chairman [Terri Taylor](#)
- Sempervirens Fund – Co-Chairmen [Judy Unrine](#) & [Kathy Taylor de Murillo](#)

Membership Chairmen

- Membership: [Nina Blonski](#)
- Life Membership: [Linda Travis](#)

Committee Chairmen

- Advisory Council: [Lynne Batchelor](#)
- Awards : [Pat Claves](#)
- Board of Trustees: [Julie West](#)
- Budget & Finance: [Rita Desilets](#)
- Bylaws & Policy: [Greg Pokorski](#)
- *Golden Gardens eNews*: [Pat Claves](#)
- Nominating: [Lynne Batchelor](#)
- Strategic Planning: [George Speer](#)
- Website/Technology: [Jane McKee](#)
- Youth Activities/Youth Awards: [Lisa Cosand](#)

Program Chairmen

- Group Tax Exemption Program: [Sue Bennett](#)
- Liability Insurance: [Launa Gould](#)
- Penny Pines: [Terry Sampson](#)
- Scholarships: [Martha Smyser](#)

Schools Chairmen

- Environmental: [Cynthia Jackson](#)
- Flower Show: [Jennifer Waite](#)
- Gardening: [Greg Pokorski](#)
- Landscape Design: [Alexis Slafer](#)

Awards, Honors & Recognition Chairmen

- Awards Program: [Pat Claves](#)
- Business Commendations, Long-Service Certificates & Member Award of Distinction: [Judy Bates](#)
- California Consultants Council: [Sue Bennett](#)

PLAN AHEAD



GIVING TUESDAY



Tuesday, November 28

See CGCI Website in November for more information.

Golden Gardens eNews

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- ◆ Distributed electronically—FREE.
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- ◆ For **2024**, please submit articles by the **20th** of the month: **December** (for Jan-Feb issue); **February** (for Mar-Apr issue); **April** (for May-June issue), **June** (July-Aug issue); **August** (Sept-Oct); **October** (Nov-Dec).





FALL BOARD MEETING PHOTO COLLAGE

Photos by Brad Welles, Golden Gardens eNews Photographer



A TREASURER'S TOOLBOX

The information provided in *A Treasurer's Toolbox* is intended to assist treasurers of CGCI member organizations keep track of an ever-growing list of important dates and deadlines along with the appropriate documents and forms required. It is a general reminder of items applicable to most CGCI members. Individual organizations will have a variety of additional dates and deadlines specific to each, i.e., election of officers, bank signature cards, payment of scholarship monies, memberships in local organizations, etc.



A Treasurer's Toolbox has been updated for 2023-2025 and is on the website. To view or download a copy, [click here](#).

CGCI DUES BECOME DELINQUENT ON OCTOBER 1

Dues were due on July 1. Dues become delinquent on October 1.

If dues are not paid by October 1, clubs and associate plant societies (APS) become ineligible for liability insurance and participation in the awards program. In addition, clubs also become ineligible for the Group Tax Exemption Program.

Forms can be found on the CGCI website under [Membership & Dues](#). Questions? Contact Membership Chairman [Nina Blonski](#). If your club or APS has not done so already, please complete the [Contact Information Form](#) that is found on the CGCI website under [Forms and Publications](#).

CGCI MEMBER AWARD OF DISTINCTION

By [Judy Bates](#), Certificates Chairman



The CGCI Member Award of Distinction is a great way for clubs and districts to honor a member for exemplary service and commitment. The award is printed on heavy gold embossed 8.5" x 11" certificate paper, includes a gold CGCI seal and is affixed inside a matching jacket accompanied by a CGCI pin. The honoree will be listed in the *Golden Gardens eNews*. The application form should be completed and mailed to this chairman along with a \$50 check (payable to CGCI).

Please allow four weeks for receipt. Proceeds benefit the CGCI Educational Publications Fund. [Click here](#) for the application form.

2023-2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following will serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2023-2025 term:

[Milly Benson](#), [Jana Dudley](#), [Jeanne Johnson](#), [Robin Pokorski](#), [Alexis Slafer](#), [Charlotte Tucker](#) with Chairman [Lynne Batchelor](#) and Alternate [George Speer](#).

If you would like to serve on the 2025-2027 Executive Committee, contact a member of the Nominating Committee and complete a [Personnel Form](#). If you would like to nominate someone, please see the website for more information and the [Nomination Form](#).



ADVICE FROM A PUMPKIN

Be well-rounded. Get plenty of sunshine. Give thanks for life's bounty. Have thick skin. Keep growing. Be outstanding in your field. Think big.



CGCI PRESIDENT'S PROJECT 2023-2025

By [Terri Taylor](#), Life Membership Chairman



BUILDING THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND — PLANTING THE SEEDS OF TOMORROW, TODAY

The purpose of the President's Project 2023-2025 is to raise funds to increase the scholarship dollar amount awarded per recipient and/or to increase the number of scholarships awarded beginning in 2024. The cost of attending a four-year college full time, including tuition, fees, and room and board, has increased 180% annually since 1978. CGCI has seen an increase in applications from well-qualified and worthy students than funding available for the scholarship program. The project will add to the Scholarship Donations/Life Membership Fund (Line Code 31513) and correct the imbalance between the growing need and CGCI's ability to meet the need. [Click here](#) to donate.

Please give a round of applause and appreciation to our fifteen scholarship donors thus far. This chairman has created a life size "Giving Tree" so as you donate, a leaf will be added to the tree with your name. Please help fill all the branches and more.

Donations through 8/31/23 total **\$2400.00**. Here is a huge SHOUT OUT to all who have given:

Christine Arneaud
Sue Bennett
Steven Brown
Rita Desilets
Cheryl and Ward Habriel

Adele Kelly
Shirley Lipa
Sherry Molinari
Carolyn Pohlner
Robin and Greg Pokorski

Crystal Salapatas
Carol Vallens
Julie West
Santa Clara Valley District
Southern California Garden Club

GROUP TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM (GTEP) ANNUAL RENEWAL

by [Sue Bennett](#), GTEP Chairman

As of August 31, **GTEP Annual Renewal** notices were emailed to the email addresses on file for club treasurers and presidents/directors as of September 8. It does not come from this chairman's personal email but from California Garden Clubs, Inc. To ensure receipt, add cgci@cagardenclubs.org to your address book or create a filter to accept all mail from this address. If you have not received an email containing GTEP paperwork by now, send an email to this [chairman](#). Also check your spam and trash folders.

The Annual Renewal Form had a few changes. Do **NOT** change the dates on the form. In an effort for CGCI to comply with IRS and FTB dates, CGCI must work a year in advance. You are sending information for the year you just finished; however, you are paying to be in the program in the future. Fee remains the same: **Nonrefundable Fees — Renewal: Postmarked prior to February 1, 2024, \$15.00. Renewal Late Fee: Postmarked after February 1, 2024, an additional \$15.00.**

All GTEP information and forms are available on the [website](#). On that page you will find links to the **GTEP Handbook, Renewal Forms, List of GTEP member clubs, all California charity-related guidelines and forms (Registration Renewal Fee Report-RRF-1, Annual Treasurer's Report-CT-TR-1, Raffle Registration-CT-NRP-1, Raffle Report-CT-NRP-2), IRS guidelines and webpages.**

NOTE: The application fee to register raffles has increased to \$30. **The raffle year has been changed to January 1–December 31 with reports due February 1.** For specific questions, work directly with your accountant.

And do not forget that your annual filings are due **November 15**.

Thank you to numerous clubs and districts for being part of GTEP!

GROUP TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM HANDBOOK

The Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP) is an opportunity for member garden clubs and districts to obtain tax-exempt status under the CGCI exemption umbrella. The *GTEP Handbook* for 2023-2025 has been updated by Chairman Sue Bennett and placed on the website. [Click here](#) to view or download the *GTEP Handbook*.

If you have any questions, please contact the GTEP Chairman [Sue Bennett](#).





LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

By [Linda Travis](#), Life Membership Chairman

Changes to the Life Membership Submittal Process on CGCI's Website

They say the only constant in life is change. This Chairman is happy to report that CGCI has made a great change on the website: the process for submitting Life Memberships (LM) has been updated and streamlined. Check it out on the [website](#).

Once on the website, a form will be produced where you select one of three options: CGCI, PRGC or NGC and then you complete the form with the requested information. The main change to this process is that your printed applications/checks for the PRGC and NGC LMs should be sent directly to the PRGC LM Chair (Martha Smyser) or NGC (the addresses are on the applications). Only the CGCI LM printed application/check should be sent to me, your CGCI LM Chair. This will help expedite your PRGC and NGC applications, as I would normally receive these from you and then just forward them to PRGC and NGC without adding any value to the process. The system will give an automatic notice to me of all LM applications that are sent (for tracking purposes only). The CGCI form content has also been updated, aligning it with the current one on NGC's

website (which requires a summary of activities that the applicant has supported). I hope this will make things easier and quicker for all of the clubs and districts and encourage support of the scholarship program. Thank you for all you do for the scholarship program and CGCI.

CGCI New Life Members — June 2023 to August 2023

Mendo-Lake District

- Kathleen Holmes (FBGC)

Sequoia Foothills District

- Lori Witt (GC of Porterville)

Judges Council of Southern California

- Marilyn Hafermalz (formerly GFAG, Palms to Pines District)
- Kreg Hill (SCGC, San Fernando Valley District)
- Martha Hunt (LAGC, Greater Los Angeles District)
- Linda Lang (RSBCOS, Palms to Pines District)
- Ron Lang (RSBCOS, Palms to Pines District)
- Monica Lewis (formerly GFAG, Palms to Pines District)
- MargaretAnn McCay (SCGC, San Fernando Valley District)

AWARDS PROGRAM UPDATE

By [Pat Claves](#), Awards Chairman

Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. has changed its due date for receiving entries for the **Member Award of Honor** to January 1. So, the CGCI Awards Chairman must receive your entries via email by **December 1**. This award is given to a club member whose volunteer efforts over five or more years have made outstanding contributions to club and community in one or more of the following areas: civic development, horticulture therapy, youth activities, conservation, landscape design, floral design, horticulture, or all-around excellence. CGCI offers other Special Awards like the Member Award of Honor. These include the **Lifetime Achievement Award, Lifetime Service Award, Person of the Year Award, Gardener of the Year Award, Youth Leader of the Year Award, Awards of Merit, and Consultant of the Year Award**. Entries for these awards must be emailed by **January 10** to the Awards Chairman. Please see the [Awards Manual](#) for more information.

There are two new awards this year:

38. FLORAL DESIGN PROGRAM AWARD. First Place is \$50. Second Place is \$25. To individual club members, clubs, group of clubs and districts. Email Deadline is December 1 to Flower Show Awards Chairman [Emily Troxell](#). Given for the most outstanding program or workshop (exclusive of NGC Schools and Symposiums) teaching floral design to club members and/or the public.

65. ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH GARDEN CLUB. First Place is \$50 in each class. To Clubs. Email Deadline is December 1 to Awards Chairman [Pat Claves](#). Class A: Grades 1-3; Class B: Grades 4-6; Class C: Grades 7-9; Class D: Other. Given to a club sponsor of a youth club which has been most successful in promoting all phases of garden club work with youth.

All awards information is on the [website](#). A listing of all awards is in the 2023-2024 *Yearbook, Manual & Roster* that each club president and district director receives. Please contact this chairman if you have any questions.



When black cats prowl and pumpkins gleam,
may luck be yours on Halloween!





PENNY PINES

PENNY PINES DONATIONS AUGUST 2023 REPORT

Total donations to date: \$22,780.00

H = In Honor of / M = In Memory of

By [Terry Sampson](#), Chairman



ARBORETUM DISTRICT

Year Around Garden Club

H: Eleanor Costello, Mario Flores, Lupe Pedraza, Evelyn Ade, Suzie LePrince \$340
 H: Debbie Hatrick, Erika Timmons, 3 for Imgard Siglinde Williams, David Twing, Miranda Espinosa \$476

BAY BRIDGES DISTRICT

Eden Garden Club

H: Patrick E & Caroline A. Flores, Robert & Ruth Koehler \$136

BAY OCEAN DISTRICT

Pacifica Garden Club

H: Pacifica Garden Club \$68
 H: Patricia Lee & Lynda Golden \$68

CASCADE DISTRICT

Cottonwood Garden Club

H: LaSaine Ware \$68

Red Bluff Garden Club

M: LaSaine Ware \$68
 M: Carl Michael Jackson \$68

COSTA VERDE DISTRICT

Long Beach Garden Club

H: Long Beach Garden Club \$204

DIABLO FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Livermore-Amador Valley GC

M: Ross Anton Graves \$68

GOLDEN FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Colfax Garden Club

M: Les Outman \$68

Divide Garden Club

M: Jeanine Eley \$68

GREATER LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

Los Angeles Garden Club

H: Mark Stong \$68

MENDO LAKE DISTRICT

Clearlake Trowel & Trellis GC

M: Ann Blue \$136

M: James M Noonan MD \$68

H: Carol & Hans Dobusch \$68

ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT

Lake Forest Garden Club

M: Bob Winchell \$68

PALOMAR DISTRICT

Fallbrook Garden Club, Inc.

M: Jennifer Lyle \$68

ROADRUNNER DISTRICT

Desert Crossroads GC

M: Rick Piercy \$68

Hesperia Garden Club

M: Stanley Tufo \$68

SACRAMENTO RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT

Vaca Valley Garden Club

H: Vaca Valley GC \$136

VALLEY LODE DISTRICT

H: Berni Hendrix \$136

Calaveras County Garden Club

M: Catherine Moore \$68

Ceres Garden Club

H: Berni Hendricks \$68

Lodi Garden Club

M: Rosemary Regello \$68

Modesto Garden Club

H: Dan Yockey \$68

M: Sue Cabassi, Penny Binney, Joyce Smith, Bev Oldershaw \$272

Ripon Garden Club

M: Daneen Pederson \$68

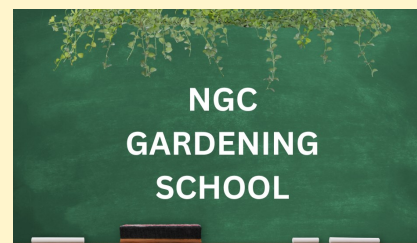
M: Chris Noonan \$68



GARDENING SCHOOL UPDATE

By [Greg Pokorski](#), Gardening Schools Chairman

Several California Gardening Consultants have refreshed their Consultant status this year by taking a Zoom Gardening School course for credit. Congratulations! Nine of our Gardening Consultants will lapse if they do not refresh by December 31. There is a Zoom opportunity for them to avoid that. Oklahoma is offering a Course 1 on November 4 & 11. See the NGC [website](#) for details. Click on the tabs for Course 1. Get information about registration from the listed contact person. Let me know if you register. I will provide the required NGC Form 7 to you.



Consultants may take refresher courses for credit as often as once each calendar year and must refresh at least once every five years. Any Gardening Consultant who has not already refreshed this year can take advantage of one of these opportunities. Anyone interested in the subject matter, especially those wanting to take all four Gardening School courses to become an NGC Gardening Consultant, may also take these courses. Club and District leaders are encouraged to take these courses in order to explore the possibility of your club or district sponsoring and conducting a school – in the classroom or by Zoom. This can be a great team educational project for your club or district. Please contact this CGCI chairman for more information.

HORTICULTURE

SUCCULENTS

By [Ellyn Meikle](#), Cactus & Succulent Chairman



Aloe

Light: Succulents prefer bright daylight. Watch the leaves for indications that the light level is correct. Some species will scorch if suddenly exposed to direct sunlight. The leaves will turn brown or white as the plant bleaches out and the soft tissues are destroyed. Alternatively, an underlit succulent will begin to stretch, with an elongated stem and widely spaced leaves. Some succulents will thrive indoors with bright daylight.

Temperature: Ideally, succulents prefer daytime temperatures between 70°F and about 85°F and nighttime temperatures between 50°F and 55°F.

Water: Succulents should be watered generously in the summer. The potting mix should be allowed to dry between waterings, but do not underwater. During the winter when the plants go dormant, cut watering back to once every other month. Overwatering and ensuing plant rot is the single most common cause of plant failure. Be aware that an overwatered succulent might at first plump up and look very healthy. However, the cause of death may have already set in underground with rot spreading upward from the root system. A succulent should never be allowed to sit in water. The following are signs of under- or overwatering:

- **Overwatering:** Overwatered plants are soft and discolored. The leaves may be yellow or white and lose their color. A plant in this condition may be beyond repair, but you can still remove it from its pot and inspect the roots. If they are brown and rotted, cut away dead roots and repot into drier potting media, or take a cutting and propagate the parent plant.
- **Underwatering:** Succulents prefer generous water during the growing season (spring and summer). An underwatered plant will first stop growing, then begin to shed leaves. Alternatively, the plant may develop brown spots on the leaves.

Potting Soils: Succulents should be potted in a fast-draining mixture that is designed for cacti and succulents. If you do not have access to a specialized mix, consider modifying a normal potting mix with an inorganic agent like perlite to increase aeration and drainage. These plants generally have shallow roots that form a dense mat just under the soil surface. The former WaterWise Garden Center's standard soil recipe was 50% cactus mix + 50% perlite.

Fertilizer: During the summer growing season, fertilize as you would with other plants. Stop fertilizing entirely during the winter.



Agave



Dish Gardens

CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT

JOSHUA TREE PROTECTION

California lawmakers recently passed the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act, permanently protecting the iconic imperiled trees. It bans unpermitted tree killing and removal, creates a fund to protect the species, and more.

The Western Joshua Tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) can be seen in the Mojave Desert, especially in Lost Horse Canyon in the Joshua Tree National Park (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties). Real estate developers have been active recently in some areas of the desert, and there have been instances of unpermitted Joshua Tree destruction. For more information, [click here](#).



WANT TO CURE THE PLANET? PLANT AN ACORN

By [Donna Payton](#), Insect & Pollinator Chairman



Oaks are not just another tree. Entomologist, professor, and best selling author Dr. Doug Tallamy writes in his latest book, *The Nature of Oaks*, that “oaks support more life forms and more fascinating interactions than any other tree genus in North America. They are essential members of the food web on which all life depends.”

How do oaks support life? First of all, oaks make acorns. Many animals including deer, bears, squirrels, titmice, blue jays, acorn woodpeckers, and others rely on acorns for food. When storing acorns, scrub jays and squirrels inadvertently plant oak because they often forget where they buried them! Feed wild-life by leaving acorns in place.

Oak leaves are food too. Oaks are great hosts. Scrub oak trees (*Quercus berberidifolia*), for example, are host plants for over 160 butterfly and moth species. Butterflies and moths lay eggs on the host plant leaves, and the caterpillars that hatch munch on some of the leaves of the host plant. These colorful, fuzzy, sometimes beautiful caterpillars are an essential food source

for baby birds, even birds that are seed eaters as adults, such as goldfinches. Caterpillars are so nutritious, they could be called “fat and protein filled sausages.” There is an added bonus. They are soft, so less apt to hurt a nestling’s esophagus when mama pushes it down with vigor. Oaks host the most caterpillars, so there are more birds nesting in oaks and foraging for caterpillars in them.

Pesticides upset the ecological balance, killing beneficial insects and predatory spiders which keep the harmful insects in check. Oaks are very hardy and can tolerate leaf munching by caterpillars. Ditch the pesticides. Let nature take its course.

Leaf litter is a valuable commodity. Many caterpillars pupate (transform into adult butterflies and moths) in oak leaf litter. Countless organisms live off of the leaf litter too, turning it into humus (organic matter), enriching the soil. So, instead of tidying up, leave the leaves in their place, at least through the winter. Better yet, remove grass under your oak and replace it with mulch.

Oaks reduce runoff and filter water, protecting our watersheds. Oaks capture atmospheric carbon through photosynthesis. Because they are longer lived than the average tree, they capture carbon for many more years. Oaks are drought tolerant, preferring almost no supplemental water, even in summer.



HERBIE THE HERBALIST

Common herbs that can be planted in the fall that grow in cooler temperatures include: basil, chamomile, chives, cilantro, dill, fennel, lemon balm, marjoram, mint, oregano, parsley, rosemary, and tarragon.

FLORAL DESIGN — HIGHLIGHTS FROM OFAD

By **Brad Welles**, OFAD Third Vice President



Haruko Takeichi

OFAD, The Organization of Floral Art Designers, a member Bay Ocean District, held its annual seminar the first week in August in South San Francisco. This “must see” four-day event was attended by floral designers, both amateur and professional, from all over the country with members representing 23 different states and Canada. All attendees also gained the necessary CGCI membership to attend the event.



Kaye Vosburgh

OFAD was the brainchild of Past CGCI President **Shane Looper**, **Dolores Moffat** and others. They saw a need for floral designers to be exposed to more than just their own school of flower arranging. So OFAD has always tried to have program speakers representing a wide array of floral design styles, as this year’s lineup will attest. The NGC Creative Design Styles were covered by **Kaye Vosburgh** of Boston and **Hetty Shurtleff** of Santa Barbara. **Soho Sakai** from the Bay Area and **Haruko Takeichi** of Los Angeles, both top level “Riji” instructors, demonstrated Sogetsu Ikebana, and Florida’s **Varito Vasquez** AIFD amazed the audience with his florist/event style skills.



Hetty Shurtleff

In addition to the five program speakers, OFAD offered ten workshops this year covering a wide range of topics from new unconventional materials to bamboo container construction and botanical arts. OFAD members decorated the lobby and hallways of the host hotel with floral creations of their own making. Referred to as the “OFAD Gallery,” regular patrons of the hotel are constantly amazed by the originality of the displays.



CGCI President Carol Vallens & Soho Sakai

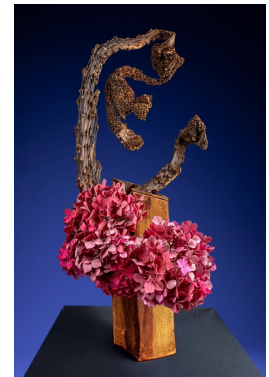
Over two hundred additional photos from this year’s OFAD Seminar 2023 are available on OFAD’s website www.OFAD.design. OFAD also hosts a popular [Pinterest](#) page and [YouTube Channel](#).

OFAD’s annual seminar is held the first week in August in South San Francisco in a hotel near the San Francisco Airport for easy access and is open to anyone interested in floral design.



Former CGCI President Julie West & Varito Vasquez

Designs below were made by (L to R): **Brad Welles**, **Debbie Spiller**, **Pennie Chwalowski**, **Susi Gillum**, and **Lynn MacFarland**.



CLUB PROJECTS

Pinole Garden Club's Blue Star Memorial Marker Beautification Project

Pinole Garden Club's original Blue Star Marker was purchased in 1992 and stolen immediately thereafter. The club purchased another marker and maintained the area through 1997. It is located at the I-80 East Freeway onramp and is highly visible. Due to the annual planting of bulbs, the area became known as Daffodil Hill. The marker sits on property owned by Caltrans, and the heavily manned maintenance fell to Caltrans for brush removal and weed abatement. The sprinklers became nonoperational, and then the area became blighted and trash-filled over the years.

With a revitalized club membership, the area was cleaned of brush and weeds. A request for donated materials was posted on the club's social media sites. The refurbishment was completed at no cost with 100% of the materials donated by an appreciative community. Materials were chosen for easy maintenance and durability and consisted of weed barrier fabric, gravel, mulch, bricks, lumber, soil, and a variety of succulents. It is now a source of pride for Veterans, the community, and the club. Monthly work parties are held in conjunction with the nearby Welcome Wall so that maintenance and appearance is assured for the future.

The club won CGCI and PRGC first place awards and a Certificate of Appreciation from NGC.



Before

After

Los Osos Valley Garden Club's Garden Therapy Project



Finished Pumpkin

Last fall, Los Osos Valley Garden Club held Succulent Pumpkin Workshops for members of two 55+ mobile home communities in Los Osos where several residents are disabled and cannot travel far to attend club events.

The workshops were free to attend, and the club provided all materials except for the pumpkins – the attendees could bring their own or purchase a pumpkin from the club for a reasonable price.

Before the workshops took place, club members gathered all materials needed, such as a wide variety of succulents (donated to the club), pumpkins, decorations, glue guns, adhesive spray glue, moss, and other materials.



Materials Used

Several club members led the workshops and gave demonstrations on how to complete the pumpkins. Then the participants chose their items, made their decorated pumpkins and were assisted as needed. Ten residents participated in each of the two workshops, and each resident completed a pumpkin. After that, they were asked to create more succulent pumpkins for the club's fundraiser using the club's pumpkins. Many decided to stay and complete one or two more. They enjoyed the task and felt good being able to contribute to the garden club. Club members were pleased that the residents could share in the holiday spirit of working together with plants to create beautiful decorations.

Some decorated pumpkins were given to the mobile home park residents who were unable to leave their homes due to health concerns. The rest of the creations were used as a holiday fundraiser for the club. The club's cost for all materials was approximately \$400.

The club won first place awards at CGCI and PRGC for the 2022 awards year!



Finished Pumpkins



Succulents & Scissors

YOUTH



Has your Youth Group completed the [CGCI Renewal Form](#) for the 2023-2024 year?

For new Youth Groups: Youth Groups can be organized in schools, churches, recreational and after-school programs, Scouts, 4-H, FFA, FHA, Campfire, and similar groups. Each category of youth gardeners must be sponsored by a CGCI garden club or district and must be registered annually with the CGCI Youth Activities Chairman [Lisa Cosand](#). Please see the [Youth Section](#) of the website for more information.

YOUTH CONTESTS — IMPORTANT DATES

December 1, 2023 — Postmark deadline for the following youth contest, entry to be received by the Youth Awards Chairman [Lisa Cosand](#):

- Sculpture Contest — [Entry form](#).
- Poetry Contest Theme: “I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE, SOMETHING GREEN OUTSIDE — CELEBRATING OUR GREEN WORLD” — [Entry form](#).
- Pollinator Poster Contest — [Entry form](#).
- Junior Essay Contest Title: “THE LIVES OF PLANTS” — [Entry form](#).

January 24, 2024 — Deadline for **Smokey Bear** posters to be received by the CGCI Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman [Charlotte Tucker](#). **Remember, only posters depicting Smokey Bear will be accepted this awards year.** [Entry form](#).



CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL

OUTSTANDING PRIVATE GARDEN AWARD

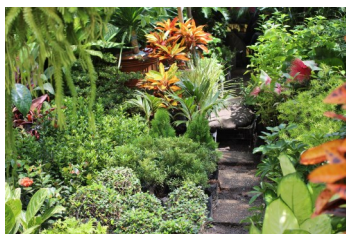


Did you know that the California Consultants Council offers the OUTSTANDING PRIVATE GARDEN AWARD?

A Certificate of Recognition may be given to an individual who is not a Gardening Consultant but who has demonstrated outstanding skill in gardening, as demonstrated by their private garden, and supported the Gardening School Program of CGCI/NGC. This award may be given at the discretion of the CCC Chairman or upon the written recommendation of any consultant or garden club member. A brief description of the garden should state name, address and owner of the garden and include photographs. See additional

information required on the [CCC Application Form](#) for this award.

To nominate an individual or group for this award, complete the application form with the required attachments listed and send to the CCC Gardening Consultants Chairman [Launa Gould](#). NOTE: photos and/or site plan or drawing are not returned. Maximum four (4) pages including captioned photos. Please submit request at least one (1) month prior to the desired presentation date. For award to be presented at convention, the request must be received by February 1. Please do not schedule an award presentation or publicize the proposed award until the CCC Gardening Consultants Chairman advises that the requested award has been approved by the Council.



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. & PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

OPERATION WILDFLOWER/NATIVE PLANT EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OR WORKSHOP GRANTS

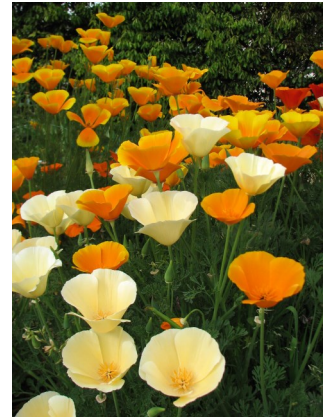
A grant of up to \$500 is available to be used towards direct expenses for an educational program on the subject of native plants and wildflowers. State garden clubs, districts, councils and individual garden clubs may co-sponsor a symposium with state agencies, arboreta, native plant societies, or similar organizations. Gardeners are eager for information on native plants; state highway or transportation departments need publicity and support for their planting programs. Try to schedule the date when wildflowers are in bloom in your location.

What to Include:

- One or more topics on native flora: endangered species, plants for butterflies, plants for special habitats, identification using keys, invasive species management, etc.
- Public planting: state highways, rest areas, preservation of community natural areas.
- Propagation of wildflowers.
- Designing native plant gardens or developing nature trails.
- Native plants and wildflower awards information.

How to Apply:

- At least two months in advance, send two copies of the tentative program and a copy of the proposed budget to the NGC Chairman [Christine Wood](#).
- If approved, half of the grant requested will be sent by NGC.
- At the conclusion of the workshop, within two months, send a short report, including a financial statement and the number of people in attendance, two copies of the final program, and any publicity.



Check the [NGC website](#) for more information and the application form.

Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

NEW PRGC AWARD

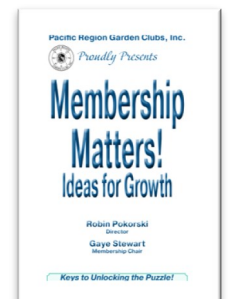


PRGC Award #22 — Arbor Day Program — will be given for the best overall promotion of Arbor Day. Entry must show community awareness throughout the entire week and include local and/or state proclamations. 22A is for a club; 22B is for a plant society, council or guild; 22C is for a district.

As there is no CGCI corresponding award, please apply for this award using a PRGC cover sheet. When completing this cover sheet, ([application form](#)), you may use up to three sheets of paper (front sides only)) to describe the project, include proclamations and other items deemed necessary. Send entry to the [CGCI Awards Chairman](#) via email by December 1. See additional information on the [PRGC website](#) under “Membership” and “Awards.”

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS — IDEAS FOR GROWTH

Have you downloaded *Membership Matters — Ideas for Growth* yet from the PRGC website? It's free. This little book of ideas, to build and retain members in your clubs, districts and state, is just the beginning of growing your membership! You are encouraged to read the successful ideas presented here, choose several to “try out,” develop a plan for implementing them and involve club members at each step. This will build ownership for the growth and success of your club. [Click here](#) to read or download.



ATTACHMENT

Environmental School

AIR WATER LAND

Accredited Environmental School
National Garden Clubs, Inc.



www.gardenclub.org



Interrelationships
between plants,
animals, insects
and people

4 WEEKEND COURSES

Course 1: Nov 4, 5, 2023

Course 2: Jan 6, 7, 2024

Course 3: Feb 3, 4, 2024

Course 4: Mar 2, 3, 2024

Stanislaus Ag Center

Tuition: \$90 per Course

Maintain and renew
an energy efficient
and sustainable
environment

A two-hour Nature Discovery field trip to investigate AIR, LAND and WATER included with each course.

Understand the problems, the solutions, and the role you play. Understand how man is inseparable from the environment.

Register early. Space is limited. For more information: schoolsvld@gmail.com

Sponsored by: Ceres Garden Club, Valley Lode District, California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Berni Hendrix, Local School Chairman: 209-402-2351