

Golden Gardens eNews

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January-February 2024, Vol. 4-16



[California Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)

a member of

[National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)

and

[Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Can you believe that **2024** is already here. The older I get, the faster the years appear to go by. It seems like yesterday that I was just the CGCI Penny Pines Chairman and now look at me, I am the state president. Like all our former presidents, we have dreams and ideas of how to improve our organization, how to increase membership and board participation, and visit as many of our clubs and districts as possible during our terms. Six months have already gone by, and I have visited several districts and clubs and attended a few events including three holiday parties in December. One holiday party hosted by San Clemente Garden Club, another hosted by Westlake Village Garden Club, and the last one I attended was my home club, Southern California Garden Club. Each event was different and fun in their own way. Both San Clemente and Westlake Village collected toys for children in need, and Westlake Village even had firemen there to collect the toys and take pictures with us. All had raffle options, things to buy, great food and fun was had by all who attended. See the photo taken at my home club meeting of thirteen out of seventeen Southern California Garden Club members who serve on the 2023-2025 CGCI Board.



The end of January is time for our annual CGCI Winter Board Meeting. During my term, I decided to hold our Winter Board Meetings via Zoom. Travel is much more difficult during the winter months and the cost of food, lodging and hosting an in-person meeting has become so costly that I decided to try holding our Winter Board Meetings on Zoom to reduce the cost for all those attending. There are going to be two special workshops for club presidents and treasurers. I encourage all of our club presidents and treasurers to attend, and they are also welcome to attend the business meetings (no voice / no vote). The workshops will have information that will help club members will learn about some of the many benefits that CGCI offers. All attendees must register so that they can receive the Zoom links.

I will be traveling to Modesto this month for Course Two of the Environmental School sponsored by Ceres Garden Club (Berni Hendrix, Chairman). For more information, please refer to the CGCI website. In February, I will be attending Course Three of the Environmental School in Modesto, and I will also be attending San Fernando Valley District's meeting and Palomar District's meeting, as well as several club meetings and Zoom committee meetings in both January and February.

I am always available by email and by phone if you have a question, a concern, a great idea, or you would like more information about becoming a board member.

Fondly,
Carol

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.

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](#)
- March 6-8, **Flower Show School**, Course 1, Red Bluff. Co-Chairmen: [Dottie Renstrom](#) and [Joie Raymond](#)
- May 19-22, **CGCI Convention**, Wyndham Hotel, Sacramento, Host: Golden Foothills District. Chairman: [Sue Bennett](#).
- May 23-24, **Flower Show Symposium**. More information to follow.
- June 2-5, **NGC Convention**, Denver, 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, Loleta. Chairman: Ellin Beltz. Host: Humboldt District
- September TBA, **Flower Show School**, Course 2, Red Bluff. Co-Chairmen: [Dottie Renstrom](#) and [Joie Raymond](#)
- 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: [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

February 5 — California Western Monarch Day

March 7 — Luther Burbank's Birthday

March 7-14—California Arbor Week

March 22 — World Water Day

April 6 — California Poppy Day

April 22 — Earth Day

April 26 — National Arbor Day

June 2-8 — National Garden Week

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WINTER BOARD MEETING

The 2024 Winter Board Meeting will take place on January 29 — 31 via Zoom.

All documents regarding the Board Meeting have been placed on the [website](#) ([Letter from President Carol Vallens](#), [Tentative Schedule](#), and [Registration Form](#)).

Excerpts from the Call to California Garden Clubs, Inc. 2024 Winter Board Meeting, January 29-31, 2024 — Hosted Virtually

It is time for our CGCI Winter Board meeting! As most of you know, our Winter Board Meetings are virtual, which means that you can Zoom right in from the comfort of your own home and your own desk.

I am inviting club presidents and treasurers to attend two very special workshops specifically designed for them and welcome them to sit in on any of the three business meetings (no voice / no vote). My hope is that this will help them understand what we do at the state level and some, I hope, will want more information about joining the CGCI Board.

To all my wonderful Board Members, remember that attendance is required so we can conduct the business of the organization. CGCI depends on all of us. If you are unable to attend, please contact me by email to be excused. Please note that ALL ATTENDEES must complete the registration form and send it to our registrar, [Robin Pokorski](#). For this meeting, we are charging a very small fee of \$10.00 to offset some of the additional expenses we will incur running these Zoom meetings. Since I am now the CGCI President, I can no longer be the CGCI Zoom Queen, so we will require a change in who runs the technical parts of the meetings. This requires more than just me hosting, but instead several hosts to help the meetings run smoothly which will require additional Zoom software. Thank you all for your understanding and participation.

[Carol Vallens](#), CGCI President 2023-2025

2023-2025 PRESIDENT’S PROJECT

By [Terri Taylor](#), Chairman

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



To all who have donated to the President’s Project this year, we are extremely grateful and send our sincere thanks. It is our hope that you will continue to support this effort to donate in 2024 for the young adults who are trying to complete their education. One scholarship recipient said this about her career choice: “My ultimate goal is to make a difference for future generations. To achieve this, I find that I must pursue environmental protection and conservation in my career.” One of my favorite quotes is: “Think globally, act locally — a degree in environmental management opens the door to a life full of acting locally and working within the context of our global community.”

By the way, we need to add a lot more leaves to the Giving Tree. Let’s see if it can be full by convention. To donate, [click here](#).

We are happy to announce the total amount donated to date is \$11,845.00. The new donors are:

Juarez, Eduardo
Kinney, Martha
Smyser, Martha
Taylor, Terri
Travis, Linda and Tom
Welles, Brad

Ceres Garden Club
Eureka Sequoia Garden Club
Fallbrook Garden Club
Fortuna Garden Club
Green Thumb Garden Club of Milpitas
Hesperia Garden Club

Poway Valley Garden Club
Southern Humboldt Garden Club
Cascade District
Humboldt District

BLUE RIBBON CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT



Attn: Club Presidents — Do not forget to complete the [score sheet](#) for Award #10 — **BLUE RIBBON CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT**. If your club scores 100 out of 200 points, send the score sheet to your District Director by January 10, so your club can be titled as a **Blue Ribbon Club**.

Attn: District Directors — Please send all qualifying club names to the [CGCI Awards Chairman](#) by January 25 via email. Extensions can be granted, but please do not delay.



LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

By [Linda Travis](#), Chairman

A new president of one of our garden clubs recently contacted me asking about the CGCI Life Membership Program. To summarize our telephone conversations:

Q: What would the \$100 Life Membership donation to CGCI go toward?

A: Donations go toward scholarships for college students planning careers in botany, conservation, entomology, floriculture, forestry, horticulture, landscape architecture, plant biology and/or plant genetics, urban planning, or research in allied fields.

Q: Where do the scholarships go?

A: Scholarships are available to juniors, seniors and graduate students pursuing a master's degree. Sophomores may make application for their junior year. The college/university must be accredited and listed on the official website of the U.S. Department of Education. More details and applicants' eligibility requirements are on the CGCI [web-site](#). Currently, there are four (4) \$2,000 scholarships available.

Q: What would the recipient get from receiving a CGCI Life Membership?

A: Recipients are ratified by the CGCI Board, receive CGCI Life Membership pins, certificates, and their clubs' public recognition via scholarship donations in their names.

Q: Why should a club support the Life Membership Program?

A: Garden clubs consider it important to invest in the future via educational scholarships.

Q: Who pays the dues of the club member?

A: Club members continue to pay dues to their respective garden clubs even if they become CGCI Life Members.

Q: My garden club already has a Life Membership Program which consists of the club honoring a valued member with a lifetime payment of their dues. What's the difference between my club's Life Membership Program and CGCI's Life Membership Program?

A: The CGCI Life Membership Program promotes scholarships and has nothing to do with dues.

Q: Should our club's support for the CGCI Life Membership Program be included in our by-laws?

A: By-laws (by the *Wikipedia* definition) "is a set of rules or laws established by an organization or community so as to regulate itself, as allowed or provided for by some higher authority." It is my opinion that the better place to insure a garden club's focus on supporting CGCI's Life Membership Program and supporting scholarships is as a budget line item which can be more easily amended as necessary.

Please especially note that **the 2023-2025 CGCI President's Project is not the same or related to the CGCI Life Membership Program**. It just so happens that Carol Vallens' President Project is supporting scholarships. One of our clubs heard that when you donate to the President's Project that you automatically get a free CGCI Life Membership certificate. This is **not** correct. I think the confusion may have been that both programs deal with scholarship support. The funding of scholarships in either the President's Project or the CGCI Life Membership Program are totally separate.

HELPFUL TIPS

Before submitting a [Life Membership application](#), please ensure that all information is correct on the form. It is a good idea to verify the information with the recipient. If the Life Membership is a surprise, review the application with a club member or officer who knows the recipient.

Cost of a CGCI Life Membership: Visit the website and click on "Membership and Dues" and then "Life Membership." Select "CGCI." Once you have done that, you will see the cost, the contact, and the mailing address all listed at the bottom of the form. If you select one of the other options (PRGC or NGC), the appropriate cost and contact information will be there, as well.

Mr., Mrs., Ms.? We only use first names and surnames (plus, Jr. or Sr.) on the Life Membership certificates. However, when the certificate is being mailed directly to the recipient and the person has a gender neutral name, like "Pat" or "Jamie," please include the title that I should use for addressing the envelope.

Mailing Time: Make sure to factor in USPS time to make sure your LM certificate arrives in time for a presentation.

Please continue to reach out to me with your questions or experiences with the CGCI Life Membership Program which is an investment in the future of what garden clubs support and our world. Recognizing members' contributions by donating (in their names) to a scholarship program is a pretty powerful message about how garden clubs see their role in the bigger picture.

CONGRATULATIONS to our newest CGCI Life Membership recipient **RUTH BROOKER** of Costa Verde District (San Pedro Garden Club). And, **CONGRATULATIONS** to **NINA BLONSKI** of Golden Foothills District (Auburn Arrangers Guild and Divide Garden Club), our newest NGC Life Membership recipient.



PENNY PINES PROGRAM

PENNY PINES DONATIONS — DECEMBER 2023 REPORT

Total Donations to Date: \$31,724.00

By [Terry Sampson](#), Chairman

H = In Honor of / M = In Memory of

BAY BRIDGES DISTRICT

Pinole Garden Club

M: Pat Borders \$68
M: Rose Unfried \$136
H: Aurora Bobos \$68

BUTTES DISTRICT

Paradise Garden Club

H: Paradise Garden Club \$204

CASCADE DISTRICT

Red Bluff Garden Club

M: Charles (Chuck) Franklin \$136
M: Chris Kitahara \$68

DESERT EMPIRE DISTRICT

Oasis Garden Club of IWV

H: Rich & Marilyn Toborg \$68

DIABLO FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Discovery Bay Garden Club

M: Rick Snyder \$68
M: Floyd McBeth \$68

GOLDEN FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Chicago Park Garden Club

M: Calvin Wayman Jang \$68

LUTHER BURBANK DISTRICT

Petaluma Garden Club

H: Petaluma Garden Club \$68

PALOMAR DISTRICT

Bridge and Bay Garden Club

H: Bridge & Bay Garden Club \$340

Fallbrook Garden Club, Inc.

H: Fallbrook Historical Society \$68

La Jolla Garden Club

M: Sherry Geer, Marilyn Barrett \$136

Poway Valley Garden Club

M: Verna Albright \$272

San Dieguito Garden Club

H: Carolyn Jones, Carolyn Cope \$136

Village Garden Club of La Jolla

H: Village Garden Club of La Jolla \$952

Vista Garden Club

H: Vista Garden Club \$136

H: Carolyn Anderson \$68

ROADRUNNER DISTRICT

Hesperia Garden Club

M: Renee Hahn \$68

SACRAMENTO RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT

Arden Park Garden Club

M: Jackie Matson \$68

Fairfield Garden Club

H: Kevin Jones \$68

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DISTRICT

Burbank Valley Garden Club

\$340

H: Ray Law, Grace Davis, Charlene

Gallagher, Steve List, Robin Gemmill

Southern California Garden Club

M: Sarah Jean Taylor \$68

M: Linda Strand \$68

H: Travis Babuscio \$68

M: David Eberhardt \$68

H: Sandor Rosenfield's 90th \$68

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT

Green Thumb Garden Club of Milpitas

M: Robert Lulich \$68

VALLEY LODGE DISTRICT

Linden Community Garden Club

M: Tillie Marugliano \$136

H: Jackie Hamilton, John Williams, Bengt Sternberg \$204

Manteca Garden Club

H: Tom Powell \$68

Newman Garden Club

H: Mike Yorks \$68

Ripon Garden Club

M: Grace Hogan \$68

MISCELLANEOUS

Faye Gibbs \$136

M: Harrison Lee Gibbs

To see more information about the Penny Pines Program, [click here](#).

Thank You

BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIALS PROJECT

By [George Urnine](#), Co-Chairman



Marker in Los Angeles National Cemetery

Our Blue Star and Gold Star Markers are manufactured by Sewah Studios under an exclusive agreement with National Garden Clubs, Inc. Like many businesses, they have struggled since COVID with increased costs for materials and difficulty attracting employees all while orders for our markers and their other products have been increasing.

To cover rising costs and to build fifty percent more manufacturing capacity, Sewah has announced an increase in marker prices shown in the table. The new pricing will be effective January 1, 2024.

Large Marker w/ 7 ft post	\$2350
Large Marker w/ 10 ft post	\$2460
Small Byway Marker	\$750
Replacement 7 ft post	\$375
Replacement 10 ft post	\$475
Refurbish Large Marker	\$1200
Refurbish Large Marker including Cap Repair	\$1450
Shipping Charge to California	\$300

The last order placed in 2023 had an estimated delivery time of five to six months. Keep that in mind when planning to sponsor a marker. The long lead time may not change until after the company's planned expansion is online. [Click here](#) for more information.

CONSERVATION

WORLDWIDE WETLANDS DAY CELEBRATED

By [Nancy Compton](#), Writer-at-Large



Unbeknownst to most of us, February 2 is not only Groundhog Day, it is Worldwide Wetlands Day—a day to learn more about this landform that is so critical to the health of our planet. February 2 commemorates the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in Ramsar, Iran in 1971. Since 1997, Worldwide Wetlands Day has been used to raise public awareness of the value and benefits of wetlands and to promote their preservation.

Wetlands are areas of our landscape where water covers the soil or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year. Essentially, a wetlands area is a stretch of land saturated with water that serves a crucial role in our ecosystem. Think of wetlands as nature's kidneys, as they serve to filter pesticides, sediment, and heavy metals that degrade water quality.

Wetlands often form along the shallow margins of lakes, estuaries, rivers, and areas with high ground water such as springs, wet meadows, ponds, and freshwater, as well as tidal marshes where they provide habitat for thousands of species of aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals, including a massive number of water birds, birds of prey, otters, deer, and a wealth of fish species.

Although California has lost nearly 90% of its historical wetlands, the remaining 2.9 million acres serve not only as critical habitat for plants and animals and a filter for water purification, they also help with flood control, shoreline stabilization, habitat enhancement, and water supply.

Prior to the 1848 discovery of gold that resulted in a stampede of humanity into California, the Central Valley was endowed with a watery landscape, now difficult to comprehend, with

dense riparian forests, swampy marshes, and vast grasslands, all crowded with birds, fish, and mammals, including elk and pronghorns. In the southern region of the Central Valley between Bakersfield and Visalia stood Tulare Lake, considered a freshwater lake and wetland complex and the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River. The surface of this lake was four times the surface area of Lake Tahoe. During wet years, it was possible to sail all the way to San Francisco.

A century and a half later with groundwater pumping and 1,526 dams cutting off its tributaries, Tulare Lake is but a memory. Today the largest wetlands in California is the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, a sprawling delta and estuary complex that supplies clean drinking water to 25 million Californians. It also serves as a habitat for an enormous number of bird species, including waterfowl and sandhill cranes. Anyone interested in seeing the sandhill crane migration in early November will be in awe of these stately birds noisily darkening the evening skies as they skillfully land in the marshy waters. The town of Lodi honors these majestic birds with a three-day festival that includes tours, talks given by ornithologists, an art show, children's activities, an exhibit hall, and merchandise sales.

Wetlands throughout the state are in danger of disappearing due to human activity. Approximately 90% or 454,000 acres of nonagricultural wetlands have been drained, mostly for agricultural purposes, but also filled in for development, or disturbed for modification to the wetlands, such as dams or water diversions.

So, what can we, as CGCI members do? Our mission statement includes the fact that we promote environmental responsibility. With our state's remaining wetlands in danger, we can step up and learn more about this valuable piece of our environment. Find a wetlands area near you. Determine if there is a visitors' center, and then go and visit. If not, learn what public agency oversees the wetlands. Invite a naturalist to speak at one of your club meetings. If warranted, write letters to elected officials to voice your concern. CGCI is an organization with 16,866 members. Imagine the impact we can make if we ensure that all our voices are heard.

This is an issue critical to the health of our planet. Let's be informed; let's be proactive; let's make a difference!

Why are roses given on St. Valentine's Day?



According to the *Reader's Digest*, "A huge reason giving roses for Valentine's Day has persisted as a tradition is 'simply because roses are beautiful, fabulous-smelling flowers that happen to travel really well,' says Sara Cleto, PhD. 'Flowers are usually shipped over long distances, and roses are both gorgeous and hardy, so that's a huge part of why this practice has continued.'"

ECOLOGY

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

HOW TO HELP OVERWINTER INSECTS THIS WINTER

Winter arrived on December 21. Some insects die during the winter, others stay active, and still others overwinter, a.k.a hibernate. No matter how the surviving ones spend the winter, they could use a little help.

Five Things You Can Do Right Now:

1) Leave some weeds

You may be tempted to prune as many plants as you can and to pull the weeds. Resist this temptation. Dead foliage protects the living parts of the plant from freezing temperatures. In addition, weeds, perennials and grasses all provide shelter for beneficial bugs, including pollinators, during the winter. Some native bees lay their eggs in hollowed-out plant stalks and stems. The eggs develop into larvae in these safe confines, emerging as adults, ready to pollinate in the spring. If you have already started to prune, leave cut stems in place or stack them in a pile to decompose over the winter, so that they can continue to provide habitats for insects living inside.

2) Plant for pollinators all season long

Be sure to include late blooming cold weather plants and trees to provide essential pollen, nectar, and even insect prey for hardy insects to use to stay fueled throughout the chillier months. If winters are mild where you live, bees may be foraging outside their homes if you planted a four season (or nearly four season) pollinator garden.

3) Give them shelter

Most native bees are ground dwellers, so provide some loose soil covered by leaf litter to provide shelter through the winter. Building or purchasing an insect hotel also provides homes for pollinators who do not like roommates. Ladybugs do not survive



freezing temperatures, so they may find attractive options under tree bark, in crevices, or in your home. They hibernate in large, dead-appearing clusters, but most will awaken ready to devour aphids and other invaders as soon as it warms up.

4) Leave the leaves

Resist the urge to rake and, if you must, do not bag them. Besides reducing plastic in the landfill, leaving 1-2 inches of leaf litter on the ground can make a big difference for insects throughout their life cycle. The caterpillars seeking shelter in these decomposing leaves will emerge as the first butterflies that you will see in the spring. Do leaves on the ground look too messy? Move the leaves into piles around the yard or deposit them on top of the flower beds instead.

5) Avoid pesticides whenever possible and read labels before use

The prevalence of insects during the winter is lower than other times of the year. Avoid treating outdoor pests during the winter as you may inadvertently kill beneficial insects which keep the less desirable ones in check. Keep in mind that there are more beneficial insects than harmful ones on your property. With a little effort, your resident pollinators and other beneficial insects, along with your ornamentals and edibles, will thank you for your efforts come spring.



AWARDS PROGRAM UPDATE

CGCI has received many awards with the December 1 deadline. These are awards that go on to NGC and/or PRGC for further judging. The final deadline to apply for awards is **January 10**. These awards with a January 10 deadline are CGCI Awards that do not go on to PRGC or NGC for further judging. Check the [Awards Section](#) on the CGCI website to view the *Awards Manual* that lists all awards and deadlines.

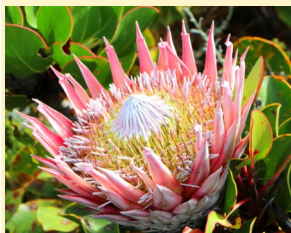
Entries for CGCI's Special Awards are also due on January 10. These awards are: Lifetime Achievement; Lifetime Service; Person of the Year; Gardener of the Year; Youth Leader of the Year; Awards of Merit; Consultant of the Year. CGCI Member Award of Honor was due on December 1.

Questions? Contact the [Awards Chairman](#).

HORTICULTURE

PROTEA

By [Judy Unrine](#), Horticulture Committee Member



An outstanding addition to flowers that brighten a winter day are the exotic Proteas, members of the *Proteaceae* family. California-grown, Proteas are available in several colors including pink, red, white, orange, yellow, lavender, and green. Shape and size are no problem when creating a floral design as there are 136 species of flowering shrubs and trees. The King Protea, *Protea cynaroides*, is one of the largest and resembles a crown. It is the national flower of South Africa.

Proteas are named after the Greek God Proteus, the son of Poseidon, who was the sea god who had the power to know all things past, present, and future. Dating back 300 million years, they were present at the same time as the dinosaurs. Originating on the African and Australian continents, they are also called sugarbushes due to the copious amounts of nectar they produce. Proteas are an important source of nectar for pollinators.

Many home gardeners enjoy collecting different varieties. Protea make useful landscape plants because they thrive in different climates and soils and have a root system which allows them to survive in soil with few nutrients. They prefer well-drained soil and definitely need a sunny location. Pruning is no problem either. When a stem or branch is needed for a flora design or bouquet, it is an opportunity to shape the plant and encourage new growth. It is best to prune during and after flowering. Plants bloom annually after the second year.



*Floral design created
by Diana Ray of
Resendez Brothers
Protea Growers at
Palomar District's
Floral Design Forum*

A MEMORY FOR VALENTINE'S DAY — A TRUE STORY

By [Natalie Bloxham](#), Roses Chairman



Rosa 'Mr. Lincoln'

The temperature had reached 102 degrees on a blazing, hot July day in Southern California. I had not yet installed drip irrigation, so I spent hours hand-watering my garden of over 170 roses. They were suffering. All their beautiful blooms of April, May, and June were blown and tired,

and a sea of petals lay in the ground at their feet. My gardener said, "Leave the petals. They are good for the soil," reminding me that roses have been with us since the early 1800s. They are hardy and will survive this momentary setback of a heat wave. After several hours of watering, I was as wilted as they were and on the verge of heat stroke. I know the symptoms: flushed face, headache, and green vision. The green vision precedes collapse from heat prostration.

This happened to me when I was just 12 years old. Mom and dad had gone to work, and I stayed home with many chores to keep me busy and out of trouble. Among the chores was washing the clothes and then hanging them to dry on clotheslines. Our back garden had four long clotheslines before dryers were even thought of. It was one of those hot San Fernando Valley days in North Hollywood. I was hanging the bed linens, specifically white sheets. Everything went green, and I had a sense of

falling. I do not know how long I lay on the ground. I remember trying to get up and falling again. I never told my parents what happened that day, but I learned a lesson. I have been brought to the brink several times in my life. Watering the roses on this day was one of those times.

Later that evening, my husband walked into the garden, trying to cool off after a hard day fixing overheated Jaguar cars, our business. He came running in to tell me that our neighbor over the back garden wall must have planted a rose as the smell was terrific, wafting in the heavy and humid hot air that had cooled to somewhere in the 90s.

We walked out together to the area where he experienced the fragrance. We were standing between a Key Lime tree and the side of our garage with no roses in sight. I told him to close his eyes and trust me. I guided him across the garden to the gazebo under a large Australian Brush-Cherry Tree that needed trimming as it provided too much shade for the rose growing near it. I asked him to bend slightly forward to see if this was the smell he had experienced. He opened his eyes in delight. In front of him was a large and perfect 'Mr. Lincoln' bloom, growing happily in the shade of the tree.

My husband has passed on, but I will never forget the joy on his face as, engulfed by its fragrance, he opened his eyes to the blood-red rose he had given me long ago on Valentine's Day.

HORTICULTURE

THE COLOR OF SUCCULENTS IN WINTER

by [Ellyn Meikle](#), Cactus and Succulent Chairman



Aloe
Photo Credit: Mike Short

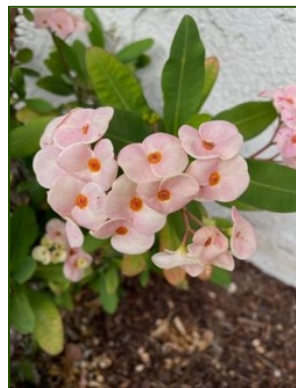
Succulents make a great addition to your home or garden, especially in the winter. This is when many succulents are at their most beautiful with flowers and spikes of color.

Aloe is a genus with over 300 species. Their blooms are tubular, often yellow, orange, pink, or red, and are clustered and hanging downward at the spike of a branched, leafless stems.

Jade Plant (*Crassula ovata*) is a prolific winter bloomer. The mass amounts of white or pink star-like flowers are magnificent during the cooler months. The difference in temperatures during the days and nights encourage the jade plant to flower.



Jade Plant
Photo Credit: Ellyn Meikle



Crown of Thorns
Photo Credit: Ellyn Meikle

Crown of Thorns (*Euphorbia milii*) has several variations. The flowers are small, connected by a pair of petal-like bracts, usually red, pink or white, that bloom in clusters from tall, thorny stems. In mild climates it will bloom through the year. In cooler temperatures they can be moved inside.

Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera*) is a small genus of cacti which are cultivars rather than species, with flowers in white, pink, yellow, orange, red or purple. They bloom when they are exposed to cooler temperatures at night. They are different from most other cacti since they grow on trees or rocks as an epiphytic cactus.

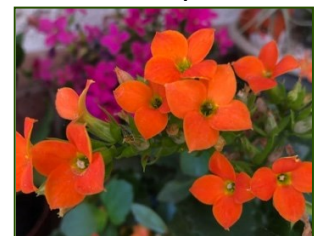


Christmas Cactus
Photo Credit: Ellyn Meikle



Sticks on Fire
Photo Credit: Left: Kessler's Cactus & Things
Right: Ellyn Meikle

Kalanchoe blossfeldiana is a commonly cultivated house plant. It is known by the common name Flaming Katy. *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* naturally flowers in late autumn to early winter. Each flower has four petals, and their blooms come in a variety of colors, from the dark reds and pinks to oranges, golds and whites. It is cultivated throughout the year where they are sold in many nurseries and markets.



Kalanchoe blossfeldiana
Photo Credit: Ellyn Meikle

Sticks on Fire (*Euphorbia tirucalli*) have pencil thin stems and display a bright reddish-orange-gold color which can fade to yellow shades in summer before changing back to redder tones in winter. When the reddish tones become dull in color, spray with cool water to encourage their bright colors to display. At times they produce teeny-tiny flowers that are barely noticed unless you are looking closely. The yellow flowers are at the ends the branches.

When the weather becomes cool, succulents add color to your home or garden without spending on water as they are waterwise plants!

GROUNDHOG DAY IS FEBRUARY 2



Groundhog Day takes place each year on February 2. Since the 16th century, people in the United States and Canada have been celebrating Groundhog Day! On this day, it is the belief by some that if a groundhog emerges from its winter burrow and sees its shadow, it is predicted that six more weeks of winter will follow. Will the famous groundhog from Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, Punxsutawney Phil, see his shadow this year?

SEMPERVIRENS FUND PROJECT

By [Judy Unrine](#) and [Kathy Taylor de Murillo](#), Co-Chairmen



During the last months of 2023, we celebrated major festivals and holidays. You may have even honored someone with a donation to the Sempervirens Fund. Now we would like to suggest that you take time for a celebration hike -- a hike to celebrate nature. Some of us long for a simpler time, a less complicated time, a quiet time. Some

might see a Jane Austin film or read one of the author's books. We would like to suggest that you go out into a forest. You will find colorful leaves and berries; sparkling creeks; animals and birds that you do not often see; and pollinators -- so beautiful

and essential. Breathe in the uncomplicated, primitive beauty of the forests you have helped preserve.

In appreciation for all you have done to preserve and protect our land and our forests this last year, we would like to thank you. We would also like to give a very big thank you to the **GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB OF MILPITAS** for its very generous donation to the Sempervirens Fund. The club's continued support of the Sempervirens Fund is a reminder of how important it is to support our Redwood forests.

If you would like to donate to the Sempervirens Fund that supports Big Basin Redwoods State Park in the Santa Cruz Mountains, please see the [donation form](#) that is on the CGCI website.

FROM OUR CLUBS

Chicago Park Garden Club's Centennial Celebrated at Victorian Tea Event: "100 Years of Garden Clubbing"

By Cherie Oliver, Chicago Park Garden Club Vice President



CPGC President Winnie Zeppieri and Vice President/Show Producer Cherie Oliver with models

Chicago Park Garden Club (CPGC) celebrated its centennial with an appropriate theme at its 19th Annual Victorian Tea Affaire fundraiser on November 3, 2023 — "100 Years of Garden Clubbing."

The first Victorian Tea was held at Grace Lutheran Church in 2004, but soon moved to the larger Peace Lutheran Church, and then in 2014 moved to the Nevada City Elks Lodge as the event gained in popularity and growing crowds required larger and larger spaces. Member Carlotta Wixon said that at the first Tea, "The then CGCI President Bob Gordon was our first floral designer. At my invitation, he came all the way from San Luis Obispo, and supplied all the flowers, accessories, etc." Part of its

appeal lay in the details of the Victorian Tea – home-made tea treats, vintage teapots and teacups, and servers dressed in "Victorian" long black skirts with white aprons and mob caps. Another part is the opportunity to purchase hand-crafted items, vintage home décor, and baked goods from the craft sales area, as well as several generously-sized raffle baskets, gift certificates and silent-auction offerings (this year including a one-week stay at a luxury condo in Hawaii!). Guests enjoy the chance to "start their holiday shopping with us."

Certainly one big draw is the entertainment program. Originally this was a demonstration of flower arranging with different arrangers from local florists to out-of-town arranging superstars. But starting in 2013, the entertainment has been provided by Fashions of Yesteryear Sierra, run by a CPGC member. Each year the "historic vintage fashion show" has taken on a different theme, such as "Flowers in Fashion," "Women of the Gold Country," "The Fashionable Bride," and "Suffragettes to Flappers," each concentrating on local and women's history. This year's show featured the history of the garden club movement in general and particularly Chicago Park's garden club, its beginnings in 1923, prominent members, activities and anecdotes. Models wore fashions from each decade from the 1920s through the 2000s. And long-time members were especially honored for their contributions to the CPGC.

Proceeds from the Victorian Tea Affaire allow CPGC to fund not only its local community activities, such as the Community Meditation Garden and the Junior Arrangers Program, but also other local gardening-based groups such as the North Star House Historical Garden and Empire Mine Heritage Rose Program. Other funds go to CGCI's President's Project and Golden Foothills District activities such as our recent hosting of its annual Garden Party. Aside from the financial benefits, the event is a yearly highlight for the local community and a way of involving all thirty-eight CPGC members in creating a beautiful, successful, well-considered event. It's a lot of work; but even after 20 years, it's still worthwhile!

FLORAL DESIGN

Information Compiled by [Pat Claves](#), NGC FS Judge Emeritus

PARALLEL DESIGN

National Garden Clubs, Inc.'s *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Revised 2023, describes a parallel design as a "Creative Design* consisting of three or more groupings of plant material and optional components with a strong parallel placement in a single container and/or base. Multiple containers/bases may be used if combined to appear as one unit. Parallel direction may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal within the allotted space. The overall effect must appear parallel. Groupings need not be equidistant from each other. A connective/s may be used at the base of the design."

*According to NGC's *Handbook for Flower Shows*, the Creative Design "is not bound by traditional patterns or styles." To read more about Creative Designs, download the latest revised edition of the [Handbook for Flower Shows](#) from the [NGC website](#) and see pages 71-72. The *Handbook* is free to download.

EXAMPLES OF PARALLEL DESIGNS FROM A RECENT CASCADE ARRANGERS GUILD MEETING

Class Title: Going Together



NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Course 1

March 6-8, 2024

Location: First United Methodist Church
525 David Avenue, Red Bluff

Sponsor: Red Bluff Garden Club

Co-Chairmen: [Dottie Renstrom](#) and
[Joie Raymond](#)

NGC Instructors: Pam Braun and Cathy
Waitinas from Tennessee

[Brochure & Registration Form](#)

When do Camellias Bloom in California?



According to Luis' Nursey in Visalia, "Bloom times vary depending on the variety you choose. Sasanquas varieties bloom from mid-fall to early winter, Japonicas from mid-winter to spring, and hybrids can be either depending on variety." Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena lists its camellias as blooming "E: Early (Mid-September-November), M: Mid-Season (December-February), and L: Late (March-April).

So, plant a mixture of all types that will extend your enjoyment of the blooms throughout the season.

Sources: <http://luisnurseries.com> and <https://www.nucciosnurseries.com>

YOUTH

San Clemente Garden Club's Junior Gardening & Garden Therapy Programs



Butterfly Bill* (Bill Schafer, San Clemente Garden Club's very own butterfly expert) at a pre-school with students.

Two objectives of the San Clemente Garden Club (SCGC) are to provide opportunities for members to share the love of nature and gardening through its Junior Gardening Program as well as in various community organizations through its Garden Therapy program.

Currently, SCGC School Gardens number ten, in both elementary and middle schools. The chairperson and club members, along with principals, teachers and parent volunteers set up weekly and/or monthly activities. Weeding, planting, watering, and harvesting give the students a "hands-on" experience in nature. Students also learn about composting, worms and the bugs and butterflies that visit their gardens. From garden to table, tomatoes, cilantro, and green onions become a yummy salsa for all to enjoy.



Student learning while working in a school garden.



Students making dream catchers at a Garden Therapy Program with a CD disc as a base, various colors of yarn and hanging beads and feathers.

During Earth Week, one of the parent volunteers planned different activities for every day of the week. She had a five senses table, where the students could come and touch, smell, taste, hear, and see all the different plants growing and living in the garden. Working with the schools and helping them understand the importance of learning through nature is the goal of this worthy program, which is supported by annual grant monies.

Garden Therapy is a monthly program for SCGC members to cultivate friendships and promote the love of nature within their community. SCGC volunteers have worked with the RIO Adult Day Health Care Center, senior citizens, and schools. This year, the Boys and Girls Club of San Clemente is the focus of Garden Therapy. The Boys and Girls Club provides positive after-school activities for scores of local students. The Chairperson and volunteers assist the students in creating projects that combine nature and recyclables. The SCGC provides the materials for these projects that students proudly share with their families. Holiday crafts bring lots of smiles from students as well as volunteers, a win-win for everyone!



Student making a turkey using pinecones and recycled wine corks at a Garden Therapy Program.

**Butterfly Bill* - Book. \$10.00 (s/h included). *Butterfly Bill* is the star of this book by Diane Cheek. Dedicated to Bill Schafer, San Clemente Garden Club's very own butterfly expert, and to butterfly enthusiasts everywhere. Geared towards children of all ages, this book will clearly explain the life cycle of the butterfly. To order, [click here](#).

SMOKEY BEAR POSTER CONTEST

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

The next meeting of the California Consultants Council will take place on Monday, **January 29, 2024** from 2:30 to 4:30 pm via Zoom. Questions? Contact the CCC Chairman [Sue Bennett](#).

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

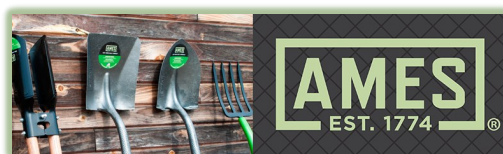


National Garden Clubs, Inc.

AMES TOOL GRANT

Applications Accepted January 1 - March 1, 2024

Garden tools with a total retail value of \$4,500 are available for NGC gardening projects. Gardening programs performed or supported by NGC local member clubs and scheduled to be carried out March 1 through September 30, 2024 are eligible. Projects may be a joint venture with another organization, however the garden club applying must be a member of NGC. Awarded tools will be shipped to the successful applicants in May.



NGC local member clubs may apply by sending an application and tool selection list to the NGC Ames Tool Grant Manager by the deadline of **March 1**. The application form includes contact information of individuals who may be interviewed by NGC or Ames about their project, how specific tools are going to be used or were used, and to obtain related helpful gardening tips. Any club may apply for tools with a total retail value of no more than \$250. For selection of the Ames Tool Grant, consideration will be given to the following: Value of the project to the community / Level of club member participation / Need and planned usage of the tools requested / Uniqueness of the project.

All successful applicants must deliver a completed Final Report no later than 45 days after project completion. Please include the following: A short, 1-page report describing the project, including any special tips about how the Ames tools were used; brief final financial report showing sources and uses of funds; copies of any project publicity generated by the applicant; AMES Companies Confirmation of Charitable Goods Receipt; Photos, which must include: the tools received from Ames being used; before and after photos of the area planted; the garden in bloom, if appropriate; and names and release forms (permission to use photos) of individuals in photos; both the NGC Photo Release and the Ames Photo Release forms are required.

More information can be found on the [NGC website](#). [Grant Application Form](#) [Item Selection Sheet](#)

Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.



PRGC 2024

VIRTUAL PHOTO CONTEST

PRGC Photo Contest Chairman [Tanja Swanson](#) said that the 2023 "photo contest was a success! We changed a few things: You will be able to enter each category in color or black and white! They will be judged together. We changed the categories a bit and of course there is a new category for the PRGC Director Carol Norquist! This year we have a little more time to enter since the Convention won't be until August."

You can find the entry form and rules on the PRGC website. The winner in each category will receive \$25, and the Best of Show wins \$100.

The categories are:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------|
| 1) Landscapes/Gardens | 2) Birds/Animals | 3) Insects |
| 4) Floral | 5) Director's Choice - "Down the Primrose Path" (a photo incorporating primrose/s). | |

Complete an Entry Form for each entry and mail it with the \$5 entry fee (or 5 entries for \$20) to Tanja Swanson, 227 Ewauna Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97601- 3131. Checks are to be made payable to PRGC. Deadline for receipt of entry forms and digital files is July 1, 2024. Photos must have been taken by a current PRGC member in good standing. PRGC will display the winning photos entered in each category on its website. All rights to the photo entry will remain with the photographer. The entry form release will allow PRGC to display the photo entries as per the release.