

Golden Gardens eNews

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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

As Convention 2024 quickly approaches, it occurs to me that it is almost one year since I took my oath as your CGCI president. It has been a busy and exciting year, filled with many firsts and many travel opportunities to districts and clubs around the state. I have traveled from Humboldt District to Palomar District and several places in between. Most recently, I completed Course 4 of NGC's Environmental School which was held in Modesto and sponsored by Ceres Garden Club. I also attended Roadrunner District's April meeting in Hesperia, where I learned how to grow mushrooms from a local business owner.

Following the Roadrunner District meeting, I again traveled to Palomar District for Poway Valley Garden Club's Standard Flower Show. I entered an Exhibition Table Design. Not only was the design awarded first place (my first blue ribbon), but it also won the Table Artistry Award! I was honored and humbled by winning, and I cannot wait to return next year and try for another blue ribbon. While at the Flower Show, I was interviewed by the local newspaper – another first!

Being the President of this large organization brings new adventures and sometimes new challenges, but at the end of the day, I love being among the members and learning why they joined a garden club and what they are most passionate about. I have made so many new friends these past eleven months, and my list of places to visit continues to grow.

With the Convention only a few weeks away, I hope many of you will join me in Sacramento at the Wyndham Hotel, May 20-22, for our 92nd Annual Convention. The theme of this year's Convention is "Bloom and Grow." The volunteers from Golden Foothills District, along with District Director Annette Choate and Convention Chairman Sue Bennet, have planned wonderful workshops and programs for you to enjoy. If you attend as a delegate from your club, you will have the opportunity to attend the business meetings, ask questions, and vote. You might even want to be interviewed for a position on the CGCI Board of Directors – that is how it all started for me when I attended the 2017 Convention in San Luis Obispo where I learned so much and made many friends. Please join me so we can all "Bloom and Grow" together.

It is not too late to register for the Convention! For Convention information, please [click here](#). I hope to see many familiar faces and many new ones at Convention 2024!



Carol Vallens & Exhibition Table Design Entry at Poway Valley Garden Club's Standard Flower Show

Safe travels,

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

- May 20-22, **CGCI Convention**, Wyndham Hotel, Sacramento. Host: Golden Foothills District. Chairman: [Sue Bennett](#)
- May 23-24, **Flower Show Symposium**. Wyndham Hotel, Sacramento. Chairman: [Jan Goehring](#). [Brochure & Registration Form](#).
- June 2-5, **NGC Convention**, Denver, Colorado
- June 21-22, **Landscape Design School**, Course 1, North Hills. Sponsor: So. California Garden Club. Chairman: [Alexis Slafer](#)
- July 12-13, **Landscape Design School**, Course 2, North Hills. Sponsor: So. California Garden Club. Chairman: [Alexis Slafer](#)
- July 26-27, **Landscape Design School**, Course 3, North Hills. Sponsor: So. California Garden Club. Chairman: [Alexis Slafer](#).
- August 9-10, **Landscape Design School**, Course 4, North Hills. Sponsor: So. California Garden Club. Chairman: [Alexis Slafer](#).
- August 21-23, **PRGC Convention**, Anchorage, Alaska
- September 8-11, **CGCI Fall Board Meeting**, Harris Ranch, Coalinga
- September 24, **NGC Fall Board Meeting** — Virtual
- September TBA, **Flower Show School**, Course 2, Red Bluff. Co-Chairmen: [Dottie Renstrom](#) and [Joie Raymond](#)

2025

- January 27-29, 2025, **CGCI Winter Board Meeting** — Virtual
- April 29-May 1, 2025, **PRGC Convention**, Tempe, AZ
- May-June, 2025, **CGCI Convention** — TBA
- May 19-23, 2025, **NGC Convention**, Omaha, NE

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

PLAN AHEAD

- June 20 — National Bald Eagle Day
- June 20 — First Day of Summer
- July 1-7 — Clean Beaches Week
- July 2 — National Wildland Firefighter Day
- July 4 — Independence Day
- July 7 — Build a Scarecrow Day
- July 16 — National Cherry Day
- July 20-28 — National Moth Week
- July 28 — World Nature Conservation Day
- July 31 — National Avocado Day

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2024 CONVENTION IN SACRAMENTO, MAY 20-22, 2024



Wyndham Hotel Sacramento

The "Call to Convention" was sent to all board members and club and associate plant society presidents in late March. All CGCI members are welcome. If you are planning to attend, please note the postmark deadline to register for late registration: **May 3, 2024**.

Please find the registration form, tentative schedule and all other documents on the [CGCI website](#). The event will take place at the Wyndham Hotel Sacramento (5321 Date Avenue, Sacramento, California 95841), conveniently located off I-80, 18 miles from the Sacramento International Airport. Golden Foothills District is the host with [Sue Bennett](#) as the Convention Chairman.

A **Flower Show Symposium** will take place at the same hotel following the convention — Chairman: [Jan Goehring](#). [Brochure & Registration Form](#).

2024 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS (Tentative) (see [CGCI Official Calendar](#) for full agenda)

* = closed meeting

Monday, May 20, 2024

Workshops:

- **10:00 to 11:00 am** -- Kids Growing Strong Director Sue Bennett, "Kids Growing Strong 2.0"
- **11:00 to Noon** -- Group Tax Exemption Program Chairman Sue Bennett, "GTEP Questions & Answers"
- **1:00 to 2:00 pm** -- Retired Publications Editor Deb Arrington, "Garden Trends for 2024 and Beyond"
- **2:00 to 3:00 pm** -- NGC Flower Show Judge Jan Goehring, Hands-on workshop "Making Hats"
- **3:00 to 4:00 pm** -- "Pressed Flowers"

2:00 to 4:00 pm -- California Consultants Council (CCC) Meeting.*
Speaker: Alice Cantelow on "The New California Landscape."

5:00 to 6:00 pm -- No Host Reception

6:00 to 9:00 pm -- Dinner honoring CGCI Life Members followed by a Fashion Show entitled "100 Years of Garden Clubbing, 1920s-2020s"

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Workshop:

- **9:45 to 11:00 am** -- Owner of Morningsun Herb Farm, Rose Loweall, "Herbal Allstars"
- 8:30 to 9:30 am** -- District Directors Forum
9:45 to 11:15 am -- Chairmen's Forum
11:15 am to 12:45 pm -- Lunch honoring CGCI Projects Chairmen with a program on the CGCI Project "Black Point Historic Garden" with speaker Natalie Korengold from Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

1:00 to 3:00 pm -- Pre-Convention Board Meeting

3:00 to 3:30 pm -- Convention Ceremonial Opening

3:30 to 5:30 pm -- Convention Business Meeting #1

5:30 to 6:30 pm -- No Host Reception

6:30 to 9:00 pm -- Awards Banquet honoring Award Sponsors with Awards Presentation by Awards Chairman Pat Claves

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Workshop:

- **7:45 to 8:45 am** -- Liability Insurance Chairman Launa Gould & Parliamentarian Greg Pokorski, "Insurance & Parliamentary Questions & Answers"
- 9:00 to 11:30 am** -- Convention Business Meeting #2
Noon to 1:30 pm -- Lunch on your own
2:00 to 4:15 pm -- Convention Business Meeting #3
4:15 to 5:15 pm -- Judges Council Meeting*
5:00 to 6:00 pm -- No Host Reception
6:00 pm to 10:00 pm -- Judges Council Banquet honoring Judges Council Members with program "Eye-Catching Designs: A Passion for Unusual Materials" with speaker OFAD 3rd Vice President and Webmaster Brad Welles

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Post Convention Tour of American Rose Society Members' gardens. Maps and addresses will be given at Convention. Gardens owners are: Linda Knowles (Roseville); Charlotte Owendyk (Roseville); Cindy Phipps (Fair Oaks); and Sue Bennett (Granite Bay).

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS

CLUBS: WHO ARE YOUR OFFICIAL CONVENTION REPRESENTATIVES?

By [Greg Pokorski](#), Parliamentarian & Convention Credentials Chairman

The Call to Convention was distributed to club presidents on March 29 and can be found on the [CGCI website](#). Every CGCI garden club and associate plant society is entitled to representation at the CGCI annual meeting (convention). This is your opportunity to see how your organization is being run and to participate in its administration, and an opportunity to network with fellow members from all over California, learn from the workshops and programs provided, and get ideas from other clubs. Member organizations are entitled to representation by their presidents (or the president's alternate) and by delegates (the number of official delegates is based on the size of the membership of each club as specified in CGCI's bylaws). The bylaws are contained in the *Yearbook, Manual & Roster* (pages 53-71) which is sent to all club presidents, and they are on the [CGCI website](#). (Continued on Page 4)

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS (Continued from Page 3)

Delegates should be elected by each club – or at the least, be appointed (usually by the president). Club members cannot just fill out registration forms designating themselves as delegates. For every registration form that indicates the attendee is a president, alternate or delegate there needs to be a credentials form from that club verifying this information. See instructions on the Registration Form and submit one online Credentials Form (by May 6), usually submitted by the club president on behalf of each club that is sending representatives. Delegates should be those who plan to attend convention business sessions where they have the opportunity to vote on behalf of their club.

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

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP DUES & UPDATED INFORMATION

By [Nina Blonski](#), 3rd VP-Membership Chairman

There are three simple things that Clubs and Associate Plant Societies need to do at this time of the year:

- 1) **Update** your organization's contact information online each May -- Email addresses and telephone numbers change. Your president's and treasurer's information is needed for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The information can be updated any time of the year on the CGCI website on the Contact Information Form, but May is when it must be done for the new fiscal year. The form can be found on the CGCI website under "Membership."
- 2) **Complete** the [Contact Information Form](#) online.
- 3) **Complete** the [Annual Dues form](#). Print two copies; click on the submit button and mail one copy with check payable to CGCI for membership dues to the CGCI Membership Chairman using mailing address on the form. Keep one copy for club records. **The due date for your club to pay CGCI membership dues is July 1, 2024.**



Please note that CGCI does not send any forms for membership renewals via the USPS. However, CGCI will send email reminders to district directors, presidents, and treasurers. That is why it is important to update your club's contact information. Look for reminders and information in *Golden Gardens eNews*. If dues are not paid in a timely manner, your club may not have correct contact information listed in the 2024-2025 CGCI *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*. In addition, do not jeopardize your eligibility for the [General Liability Insurance Plan](#) or the [Group Tax Exemption Program](#) (GTEP) and participation in the [Awards Program](#).

If your club president and/or treasurer do not have computers, find a member in your club to be responsible for getting membership dues and other state and federal filings done. Remember that libraries have computers and assistants to help.

All clubs must belong to a district (Article IX, Sec. 1 of CGCI Bylaws); most districts require dues from their member clubs. Check with your district director or district treasurer when and how to pay the district dues if not contacted directly by the district.

The sooner you, as a club member, pay your club dues to your club treasurer when requested, the easier it is for your club treasurer.

2024 AWARDS PROGRAM UPDATE

AWARDS MANUAL — The "new and improved" 2024 [Awards Manual](#) is on the [website](#), as well as updated forms, examples, and information. The Awards Manual also contains information about Youth Contests and California Consultants Council Awards. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Awards Chairman [Pat Clayes](#).

AWARD JUDGES — Award Judges are needed to judge the following awards: #1. Community Impact Award; #6. Memorial Planting Award; #11. Achievement for Single Event Award; and #19. National Garden Week Award. If you would like to judge any of these award entries, please contact the Awards Chairman.



2023-2025 PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

By [Terri Taylor](#), President's Project Chairman



Summer will soon be here. Students are approaching graduation and others are hoping to continue next year. Let's pitch in and make sure they can finish what they started.

I was standing in line at my bank with my very heavy scholarship fundraising can (piggy bank) waiting for the teller to call me up. It was a long line and my arms were tired. This wasn't the soup can, it was the large peanut can size. I placed the can on the counter and pushed it along as I moved forward. Before I knew it, others who were standing alongside me were looking at the can, wondering what it was about. I began to tell them what I was doing. "I am a member of California Garden Clubs, Inc., and I am the President's Project Chairman. We are receiving donations for scholarships for students in like-minded studies!"

Before I knew it, people were smiling, and a gal came close and asked if she could take a photo of the can. She told me that she was a student at Cal-State Northridge and was so happy to know we are working to help students. I finally reached the teller, and she kindly took the rolled coins and some loose change. She also heard the story, as did a few other bank executives. There was a good feeling all about the room as I left.

I want to thank all of you for donating and working so hard to help with the [President's Project](#). I look forward to seeing you at convention. I will have our Giving Tree with me and hope to receive some of the spare change that you have been saving if you have not already sent it by check. Every penny counts!



Recent Donors:

Cynthia Frederick
Cher and Ward Habriel
Eduardo Juarez
Marlene Kinney
Jane McKee

Martha Smyser
Jean and George Speer
Terri Taylor
Carol Vallens
Lake Oroville Area Garden Club
Paradise Garden Club
Patterson Garden Club

Red Bluff Garden Club
Cascade District
Desert Empire District
Diablo Foothills District
Golden Foothills District
Palomar District
CGCI in memory of Joelle Holford

CGCI in memory of Pat York
Floral Design Syndicate
Jalisco Taqueria
Over The Rainbow Hair Salon

LEGISLATION/GOVERNMENT

INVESTING IN AMERICA INITIATIVE PROVIDES \$18 MILLION TO ENHANCE NATIVE SEED SUPPLY

By [Nancy Compton](#), Legislation/Government Chairman

During the most recent National Native Seed Conference, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced that \$18 million will be made available to ensure an abundant and reliable source of native seeds which will serve to combat climate change and restore our public lands for future generations.

Native plant ecosystems are being lost daily due to climate-related events such as wildfire seasons and other extreme weather actions, as well as human causes like unchecked development. As these native ecosystems are lost, the risk of erosion increases, as does the resulting proliferation of non-native and invasive species in the landscape.

Critical to restoring native vegetation on public lands depends upon the collecting, procuring, and storing of native seeds. The funding for the newly launched native seed initiative is a component of the President's "Investing in America" agenda which has earmarked over \$2 billion over five years toward this native seed project which will put people to work restoring our nation's lands and waters.

In addition to planting native seeds on our nation's public lands, this ambitious initiative is focused on assisting farmers to transition from high-water crops to low-water native plant crops and investing in restoration projects. These include restoring white bark pine trees, converting 500 acres of degraded rangelands in Colorado to short grass prairie and sage shrubland, and collaborating with native tribes in Montana to expand greenhouse facilities for the growing of native seedlings for restoration efforts.



Bureau of Land Management Director Tracy Stone-Manning said, "Nature has spent thousands of years designing plants that fit in specific places, so we cannot do better than that as we embark on restoration efforts. Native seeds stand a better chance of long-term success."

BLACK POINT HISTORIC GARDENS PROJECT

By [Julie West](#), Chairman

**GOLDEN GATE
NATIONAL
PARKS
CONSERVANCY**

Black Point Historic Gardens is a one-acre garden encompassing the hillside overlooking Aquatic Park, strategically located near Fisherman's Wharf in the heart of San Francisco's tourist district. It was approved as a state project in 2021 in partnership with Golden Gate National

Parks Conservancy (GGNPC) for five years. As a historic site in a highly-visited area of San Francisco, restoration of the gardens aims to showcase pollinator-friendly, low-water plants to the public in creative and educational ways. Donations support recreating the historical strolling garden and designing crucial urban wildlife corridors.

Since the passing of the former Black Point Chairman and CGCI President Shane Looper, \$8,369.95 has been received in Shane's memory from twenty-three individuals, twenty-two clubs and associate plant societies, four districts, and one judges council. In addition, \$1,000 was donated from five clubs to the general project, and one district donated in memory of

Dolores Moffat. CGCI appreciates their generosity and support that total \$9,369.95! Thank you for all that you have contributed to the Black Point Historic Gardens!

Did you know that you can volunteer to work stewarding this restoration project? Activities include weeding, pruning, and planting. There is still a lot of work to do to make this special space feel like a garden again. Contact **Natalie Korengold**, GGNPC Program Manager (415-561-3524) for current volunteer hours and registration required. You may also contact Natalie to arrange a group tour of five or more that require special arrangements and must be confirmed in advance. Don't forget to monitor the native wildflower bloom at Black Point — typical peak bloom is in May! Attend CGCI's convention to meet Natalie who is CGCI's guest speaker at lunch on May 21, 2024 and learn more about this restoration project in partnership with CGCI.

If you would like to donate "in honor of" or "in memory of" or support the project in general, [click here](#) for the link to CGCI's website and the donation page. Donations of any amount are welcome, and your support is deeply appreciated!

SCHOLARSHIPS

By [Martha Smyser](#), [Scholarship](#) Chairman



The Scholarship Committee met virtually on January 24, 2024 to review the five applications received. The scholarship winners are:

- The \$2,000 Robert L. Gordon Scholarship goes to **Cheyenne Macagno**, a junior majoring in Environmental Management and Protection at Cal Poly – San Luis Obispo. She is evaluating how large solar fields influence soil composition and the response of native plants. Cheyenne plans to attend graduate school to deepen her knowledge and expand her impact as an Environmental Scientist after graduation in June 2025.
- The \$2,000 Lynne Batchelor Scholarship is awarded to **Maranda Hawkins**, a junior attending the University of San Diego majoring in Environmental and Ocean Sciences. She served as an intern with ECOLIFE Conservation as an Aquaponics Technician and volunteer at the San Diego Zoo & Safari Park. Her occupational objective after graduation in May 2025 is to pursue advocacy and outreach in environmental and conservation research.
- The \$2,000 Alberta Thiry Memorial Scholarship is for **Tatum Jo Gongga**, a sophomore from Lodi, California attending the University of Nevada – Reno. Tatum is in a dual degree program through the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources. She works part-time as a florist in Reno and won the American Future Farmers of America Degree, their highest honor. Upon graduation in 2026, Tatum's degrees in Agriculture Sciences and Economics will help her pursue a career in Agriculture Education.
- The \$2,000 Glenn & Anne Capes Memorial Scholarship goes to **Jordan Dino Santia**, a junior attending Cal Poly – Humboldt. Dino's major is Rangeland Resource Science. In his spare time, he has made two successful ascents of El Capitan in Yosemite Valley. After graduation in May 2025, Dino wants to be a Rangeland Resource Specialist or Native Plant Nursery Manager.

The committee meet again on February 15 to review NGC and PRGC applicants. Applications were sent to NGC and PRGC. Results will be announced soon.



CONSERVATION

TREE RINGS TELL MANY STORIES

By Diane Lerner, Member of Southern California Garden Club

We believe that trees chatter with one another by means of an underground network. Suzanne Simard, ecologist and author of *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest* says that trees are “social creatures” that communicate with each other in cooperative ways. What do trees tell us?

We have been told that a tree’s age can be determined by its rings, but did you know they give us a snapshot of past climate conditions? The core of a tree is like reading a history book about a certain time period. The width, color and pattern of tree rings can tell us whether the tree was struggling or thriving. Each ring tells us what the weather was like during each year of the tree’s life. The broadest rings on a tree indicate a balance of lots of rain and sunshine. The tree was able to grow a lot during these years. Narrow rings reveal dry years. Scientists compare historical events to the condition of the rings. Hurricanes and shipwrecks coincide with the weather information to be found in the core of a tree.

Dendrochronology is the science or technique of dating events, climate and atmospheric conditions, environmental change,

and archaeological artifacts by using the characteristics of patterns of annual growth rings in timber and tree trunks. Drought, disease, and extreme temperatures are revealed in tree rings. This helps scientists understand how the climate may be changing and affecting ecosystems. The total number of dark rings represents the age of the tree in years.

In 1964, Donald Rusk Currey killed the oldest tree ever recorded. He didn’t mean to kill it. The tree was a gnarly, little gnome compared to the majestic California Redwood. It was a Great Basin Bristlecone Pine, not more than 20 feet tall. The bristlecone pines are some of the longest living trees in the world, and this one took the prize. Can you imagine - the tree he felled by accident was nearly 5,000 years old? Before he started counting the rings, he had no idea what he had done. Incredible: a 5000-year-old tree!

Sometimes trees are referred to as the “Silent Bystanders.” Think about what trees contribute to our lives. They clean the air, water and soil, bring us beauty, and they educate us.

NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Do not miss the opportunity to learn how to create your dream garden or to make areas more pleasing and enjoyable. Southern California Garden Club is offering four NGC courses in landscape design this summer in North Hills.

Course 1: June 21 & 22 covers the basics of landscape design, design planning, color, environment and history.

Course 2: July 12 & 13 covers the design process, including design for pollinators and wildlife, therapeutic gardens, plants, structures, redesigning and historical preservation.

Course 3: July 26 & 27 continues the design process with woody plants, herbaceous materials, and maintenance.

Course 4: August 9 & 10 covers contemporary design trends, community gardens, and evaluation of landscape designs.

You do not have to take all four courses. Members of CGCI member organizations and the public are welcome to attend.

The [Registration Form](#) for all four courses is on the CGCI website under [Official Calendar](#). Questions? Contact Landscape Design Schools Chairman [Alexis Slafer](#).

BLUE STAR/GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIALS

Memorial Day this year is celebrated on **May 27**. According to Wikipedia.com, it is a “federal holiday for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30. Since 1971, it is observed on the last Monday of May.” May 27 would be a great day to visit some of our [California Blue Star/Gold Star Families Memorials](#). **The Blue Star Memorials are a tribute to the United States Armed Forces.** The Blue Star became an icon in World War II and was seen on flags and banners in homes for sons and daughters away at war, as well as in churches and businesses. The program continues today. **Gold Star Families Memorial Markers** -- The Gold Star seen on flags and banners signifies a family member lost in service to the country. The Gold Star Families Memorial Markers is an adjunct to the Blue Star project and follows the same guidelines. The Blue Star on the memorial is replaced with a Gold Star.

For a listing of Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Markers, [click here](#). Questions, contact [George Unrine](#) (Southern California) or [Maria Krenek](#) (Northern California).

HORTICULTURE

MOTHER OF THOUSANDS

By [Ellyn Meikle](#), Cactus & Succulent Chairman with Contributor Phyllis DeCrescenzo

Photo Credit: WaterWise Garden Center Archives

Kalanchoe genus / various varieties**Common names:** Mother of Millions, Alligator Plant, Mexican Hat Plant, Pink Butterfly

What makes Mother of Thousands plants unique are the tiny plantlets that occur along the edges of the leaves. Thousands of them can occur on a single plant.



Photo Credit: Savvy Gardening



Photo Credit: Canva

Mother of Thousands is of the *Kalanchoe* genus and considered a succulent plant. They flower in winter with pink, red, and orange trumpet-like hanging flowers. Plants can reach around 3 feet tall but usually stay smaller when it is grown as a houseplant. A drought-tolerant plant native to Madagascar, their leaves can grow 6–8 inches long. They are unique-looking plants that grow silky green, or with zebra-like stripes, with green or pink plantlets.



Photo Credit: US Garden

Although they can be attractive, Mother of Thousands plants are typically considered a weed and are very invasive when grown outside. Nurseries are hesitant to include these because a slight breeze will blow the plantlets into other plantings, and they will pop up everywhere. It is toxic to humans and pets. It is deadly for cows and horses out in pastures. It is illegal in Australia, New Zealand and parts of the United States, and it is considered an invasive plant throughout the world. It is recommended that this type of succulent plant be grown indoors so it will not be invasive outdoors. It has been noted that the Pink Butterfly variety is more difficult to reproduce than others.

It is recommended that this type of succulent plant be grown indoors so it will not be invasive outdoors. It has been noted that the Pink Butterfly variety is more difficult to reproduce than others.

A Mother of Thousands type succulent will make this potted plant a nice indoor gift that enjoys bright indirect sunlight.

WILL THIS GORGEOUS PLANT DO WELL IN MY YARD?

By M. Karin Matray of Red Bluff Garden Club

Spring has arrived and with the warmer, dryer days come beautiful plants and flowers. On a recent visit to a big box nursery, I bought a few gorgeous growing specimens for the garden and yard. Oh, how seductive they were! My brain had to click in to remind me that, as beautiful as many of these plants are, some are destined for short lives in our Northern California climate.

While our soil can be rich and our rainfall generous some years, the reality of our summer and early fall seasons should remind us that we get hot – too hot for some plants. How can you determine whether that gorgeous plant will do well in your yard? Part of the answer requires a bit of time dedicated to observing how the sun moves across your yard. Plants have unique needs for sunlight, humidity, and soil moisture. For success, preplanting may be in order.

If you are buying, check the nursery plant tag (pictured right). It will provide important information on the level of sunlight a plant will tolerate. Plant tags also include water tolerance amounts and cold temperature ranges. While browsing through that big box store, I noticed that plant tags have entered the

smartphone age and now also include QR codes, websites, and text numbers for additional information about the plant under consideration. I also noticed store signage providing a plant's sun tolerance – 6 hours of sun, 2 hours of sun, etc. This can be tricky when planting, however, because afternoon sun is more brutal to some plants than morning sun so, again, it is best to know how the sun works in your yard.



Nursery Tag

Continued on Page 9

HORTICULTURE

WHY DO WE GIVE FLOWERS?

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



Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, birthday, congratulations, get well – all are occasions for which we give and receive flowers. Flowers can say so much, way beyond the beauty and color of the bouquet. They can say I love you, I'm thinking about you, I'm proud of your achievement, or I am so sorry for your loss. Floral bouquets can brighten a cheerless hospital room, become the centerpiece of a party, or bring a smile on the face of someone in need of a hug.

Beyond the flowers themselves, it is the emotion connected with the bouquet that says it all. Whether joy, affection, appreciation, sympathy, romance, or apology, the giving of flowers communicates the deepest of feelings in a graceful and elegant manner.

The giving of flowers has a long tradition and may be traced all the way back to the Ancient Greeks who associated flowers with the gods and brought floral offerings to their places of worship. Over time, this tradition expanded into the giving of flowers to pretty women or earthly goddesses. Because floral offerings seemed to bring so much joy, the Greeks began exchanging flowers to show affection for or to thank one another.

The emotional high attached to receiving flowers may be explained by the fact that dopamine is released throughout our bodies, and this substance resides within each of us for the sole purpose of making us happy. *(If you prefer a more technical explanation of this phenomenon, be prepared to understand the terms "monoamine neurotransmitters" and "decarboxylation".)*

The tradition of giving flowers continued throughout the Middle Ages, especially among the English and French. During the Victorian era, you can be sure there were lots of rules and regulations attached to the giving of flowers. For example, if someone brought a lovely bouquet, but presented it to the recipient upside down, this meant that the giver was angry or unhappy. Well, I suppose so! Who would even accept such a gift? One can imagine an upside-down presentation being met with a well-slammed door.

The field of psychology teaches us that flowers have a long-term positive effect on our mood. At the end of a long-term study, participants reported feeling less depressed and anxious after receiving flowers. They also reported a higher sense of life satisfaction. In fact, studies have shown that flowers can induce creative energy and positive vibes, ultimately making us feel better.

If you are wondering if roses are the most popular flower in the world, then you just won the prize. Symbolizing everything from deep romance to joy and friendship, roses are a true charmer that come in a dazzling array of gorgeous colors. Throughout the ages, women have reported the rose as their favorite flower, and it has been on top of their list seemingly since the beginning of time.

Even if the flowers you give to another are cut from your backyard garden, even if your bouquet includes dandelions or stalks of plain greenery, you will make someone feel special and grateful, knowing that you are thinking of them, and wishing them well. And that is the power of flowers.

WILL THIS GORGEOUS PLANT DO WELL IN MY YARD? (Continued from Page 8)

Gardeners also have a valuable and well-recognized source of plant cold tolerance in the US Department of Agriculture plant hardiness system. Check out the hardiness zone maps. These maps are now interactive, making them very user-friendly. Tehama County is in zone 9b where plants can tolerate cold temperatures from 25 to 30 degrees Fahrenheit. While that may be reassuring for our area, please know that temperature range can be affected by humidity levels. For example, a plant may survive at 25 degrees Fahrenheit under typical conditions, but if humidity levels are low and the cold lingers for a long period, the plant may suffer. Additionally, the guidelines in the hardiness maps are based on historically typical weather conditions for that area. They may not be accurate to current conditions.

Lastly, and perhaps the least scientific indicator of how well a plant might do in your yard, is to pay attention to what plants are doing well in neighbor's yard. If a plant thrives in your neighbor's yard, it may very well adapt nicely to yours. Again, pay attention to where the plant is in relation to how the sun moves across the yard and notice irrigation sources and plant proximity to the more extreme summer heat that can be generated by sidewalks, driveways, and patios.

I confess to knowing firsthand how disappointing and downright maddening it can be to spend good money for a plant that is beautiful in a plant nursery only to watch it struggle and die once planted in my yard. As with so many of life's adventures, gardening success can depend on the time and attention invested upfront – before you plant. Enjoy this beautiful spring and happy planting!



PENNY PINES PROGRAM

By [Terry Sampson](#), Penny Pines Chairman

PENNY PINES DONATIONS — APRIL 2024 REPORT

Total Donations to Date: \$11,900

THANK YOU to all of the CGCI organizations and individuals who have purchased Penny Pines Plantations. As you may know, the US Forest Service needs your donations to *inter alia*, plant pine trees, beautification of our forests, etc. Beautification includes clearing of areas so more plants will grow as well as making sure all dead wood is removed to prevent forest fires. The US Forest Service will sometimes do “controlled burns” to prevent future destructive wildfires.

Did you know that there are 145 National Forests, and they are located in 41 out of 50 states?

BAY BRIDGES DISTRICT

H: Dianne Hill \$68
Berkeley Garden Club
 H: Patti Singer \$68
 H: Larry Singer \$68
Eden Garden Club
 H: Bonnie Remigio \$68
 H: Sue Bogue \$68
 H: Sam McCormick \$68
 H: Richard Johnson \$68
 H: Karen Misenhimer \$68
Hillside Gardeners of Montclair
 H: Porter Poirier \$68
 H: Catherine Burns \$68
 H: Casper Curto & Daryl Ducharme \$68
 H: Tracy Johnston & Jon Carroll \$68
 H: Arthur Bloch \$68
 H: Jon Kaplan & Julie Billings \$68
 H: Raul Zumba \$68
 H: Kristina Swafford \$68
 H: Katie Klein \$68
 H: Pat Kantor \$68
 H: Elisabeth Hansell \$68

BAY OCEAN DISTRICT

BUTTES DISTRICT
Friendly Garden Club
 M: Neilia Benson \$68
 M: Erna Garton \$68
Lake Oroville Area Garden Club
 H: Vivian Cody \$68

CHANNEL ISLANDS DISTRICT

Pleasant Valley Garden Club \$68

DIABLO FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Discovery Bay Garden Club
 M: Eleanor Stanaland \$68

GOLDEN FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Chicago Park Garden Club
 M: Leah Rotermond \$68
Divide Garden Club \$136

LUTHER BURBANK DISTRICT

Petaluma Garden Club \$68
MENDO-LAKE DISTRICT
Clearlake Trowel & Trellis GC
 H: Marilyn Schnabl Guenther \$68
MONTANA DE ORO DISTRICT
Cayucos Garden Club
 M: Sierra McLees \$68
 M: Sierra McLees \$68

ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT

Lake Forest Garden Club \$68
 M: Ro Armstrong \$68
Naples Islands Garden Club
 M: Ginny Clark \$68
 M: Carolyn Marchi \$68
 M: Judy Taylor \$68

PALOMAR DISTRICT

Bernardo Gardeners Club
 H: Cathleen Cervin \$68
 M: Eletha Norling \$68
Fallbrook Garden Club
 M: Jean Kennison \$68
 M: Nancy Wilshire \$68
 H: Jim Lyle \$68
 H: Ken Derry \$68
 H: Village Copy Center \$68
La Jolla Garden Club
 H: Pam Filley \$68
 H: Claudia Chan-Shaffer \$68
 M: Barbara Kamasar \$68
Paradise Gardeners
 M: Jasper \$68
Temecula Valley Garden Club
 M: Cheryl Torres \$68
 H: Susan Corey \$68
 H: Marie Clark \$68
 H: Marlene Rivas \$68
 H: Janet Monroe \$68
 H: Nancy August \$68
 H: Harry Clyde \$68
 H: Ronna Kivisto \$68

ROADRUNNER DISTRICT

Hesperia Garden Club
 M: Berl & Luella McGuire, \$68
 Robert McGuire, Bryan
 Hensch, Renee Hahn,
 Elvan Hensch
 H: Jaclyn Winters, Linda \$68
 Smetzer, Sharon Cook,
 Rick Redwine
 H: Judy Barajas \$68

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DISTRICT

Burbank Valley Garden Club
 M: Ray Law \$68
 M: Grace Davis \$68
 M: Charlene Gallagher \$68
 M: Steve List \$68
 M: Robin Gemmill \$68
Southern California Garden Club
 H: Derek Forbes \$68
 H: Maria Gomez \$68
 H: Wayne Neal \$68

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT

Green Thumb GC of Milpitas
 H: Patricia Ruth \$68
 H: Pat Velasco \$68

SEQUOIA FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Sequoia Garden Club
 H: Donna McKeel \$68

VALLEY LODE DISTRICT

H: Carol Mann \$68
 H: Bob Searls \$68
Ceres Garden Club
 H: Corrine Velazquez \$68
Escalon/Farmington GC
 M: John Robie \$68
 M: Jon T. Williams \$68
 M: Angie Rumano \$68
 M: Benny Acoba \$68
 M: Bengt G. Sternberg \$68
 M: Dorothy Carlson \$68
Lodi Garden Club
 H: Marsha Griffith \$68

H: Esther Kreth \$68
 H: Sonia Chun \$68
 H: Joyce Saco \$68
 H: Peg Wentz \$68
 H: Alyce Peterson \$68
 H: Elaine Galli \$68
 H: Kathy Mettler \$68
 H: Ron Mettler \$68
 H: Anna Scholzen \$68
 H: Laurie Rossetti \$68
 H: Denise Reich \$68
 H: Janice Vaughn \$68
 H: Lisa Knight \$68
 H: Lenore Donato \$68
 H: Jeanne Vetter \$68
 H: Micke Grove Regional Park \$68
 M: Brenda Peterson \$68
Manteca Garden Club
 H: Barbara Stoner \$68
Newman Garden Club
 M: Kathryn Reyes \$68
Patterson Garden Club
 M: Helen Castro \$68
Ripon Garden Club
 M: Lisa Mora \$68
 M: Robert White \$68
 M: Ruth Thurman \$68
 H: Carol Mann \$68
 H: Darryl Bartels \$68
 M: Ronald M. Alexander \$68
 M: Bobby Orlando \$68
 H: Kathy Anderson \$68
 H: Judy Butterman \$68
 H: Martha Hawkins \$68
 H: Shannon Kuhn \$68
 H: Linda Sawdey \$68
 H: Kathy Stuart \$68

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

Thank you



The next meeting of the [California Consultants Council](#) will take place on Monday, May 20, 2024 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the CGCI Convention in Sacramento. Please note that this will be a closed meeting for Council members only. The speaker will be Alice Cantelow. Topic: “The New California Landscape.” The Council meeting will take place immediately after the speaker’s program.

FLORAL DESIGN

By [Brad Welles](#), OFAD Webmaster



Help OFAD, the Organization of Floral Art Designers, celebrate its 10th anniversary this August. This must-see event is held over four days, August 1-4, 2024, at the Embassy Suites, minutes from the San Francisco International Airport in South San Francisco.

OFAD Seminar, brainchild of the late Shane Looper, longtime CGCI Board Member and 2019-21 President, is an event where floral design enthusiasts from beginners to professionals representing a wide variety of styles meet and exchange ideas and techniques. This is one of the few venues in the country where you can experience speakers from NGC, Ikebana, AIFD and event designers all on one stage. This year's lineup of eight speakers gives attendees the chance to gain valuable insight, design strategies and best practices from true luminaries of the field.



Program Speaker



Workshop Participants
Adele Kelly & Carol Vallens

OFAD offers nine exciting new workshops this year where you can learn the techniques, materials and the know-how needed to construct your own amazing designs. Explore new unconventional materials, structure construction, paper as a design element, plus much more.

Don't miss OFAD's anniversary event where you will discover new ideas, networking and immerse yourself in the thrill of personal growth. OFAD promises to be an unforgettable experience and offers a quick way to reinvigorate your passion for floral design.

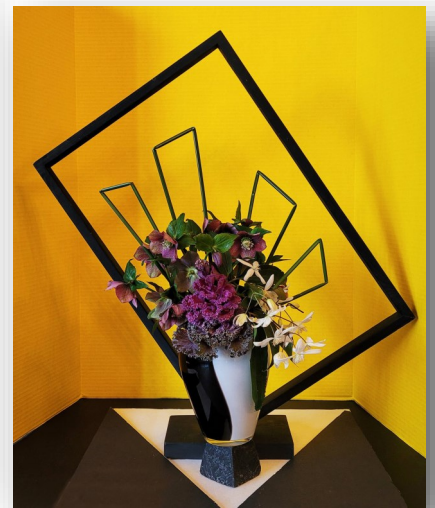
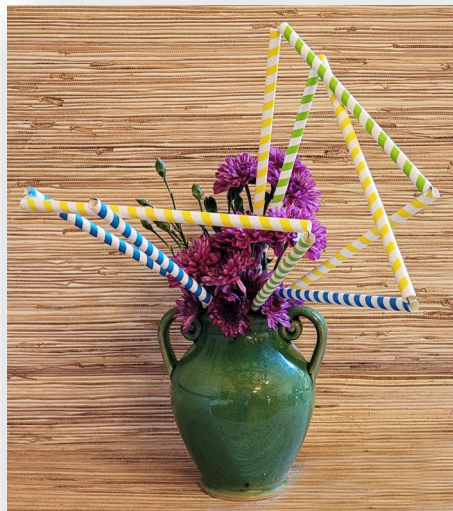
OFAD is a proud member of CGCI's Bay Ocean District. For more information about OFAD Seminar 2024, visit its [website](#) or scan this QR code with your cell phone.



ANGULAR DESIGN

According to NGC's [Handbook for Flower Shows](#) (Revised 2017, 2nd Edition), an angular design "is a creative design emphasizing strong angles that may be acute, obtuse, reflect, right angles or a combination of angles."

Below are examples of angular designs from the [Bidwell Designers Guild's](#) March 2024 meeting in Chico:



YOUTH

Eighty-Six Youth Contest Prizes Are Available!

By [Lisa Cosand](#), Youth Activities Chairman



Through the generous support of our sponsors, CGCI offers eighty-six monetary prizes ranging from \$10 to \$25 to our youth contest winners. This is a **\$1,265.00** value! For the 2023 awards year, CGCI only awarded \$190 which left \$1,175 on the table. We would love to see greater participation in the contests so we can give away more prizes.

The Contests:

- **#60—Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest.** To encourage youth to learn about fire prevention by creating a poster depicting either Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl. The contest is open to youth in Grades 1-5.
- **#61—Youth Sculpture Contest.** To encourage youth to keep our planet green by practicing the three Rs: “Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose” by building a structure of recycled, reused, or repurposed items and then taking photos of the structure. The contest is open to youth in Grades 4-8.
- **#62—Youth Poetry Contest.** To help fight hunger by sharing vegetables from our gardens by writing a poem with the theme “My garden has vegetables to spare that I can share.” The contest is open to youth in Grades K-9.
- **#63—Youth Pollinator Poster Contest.** To encourage youth to take a personal role in conserving and promoting pollinator habitat and awareness, as well as the importance of caring for our environment, by creating a poster highlighting pollinators in action. The contest is open to youth in Grade K-6.
- **#64—Junior Essay Contest.** To encourage youth to learn about horticulture by writing an essay with the title “Vegetables I Would Like to Grow.” The contest is open to youth in Grades 1-5.

Please review the Youth Contest Section of the [Awards Manual](#) that is on the website for the details. Yes, the entries are not due until December 1, 2024, but don't wait — send them early. Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl posters must be received by January 24, 2025. Do your part by presenting these opportunities to your children and youth groups. Help put a smile on the faces of our youth!

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest First Place Winners at CGCI Level

By [Charlotte Tucker](#), Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman

<p>First Grade Folsom Garden Club</p>	<p>Second Grade Tuolumne County Garden Club</p> <p>Third Grade Folsom Garden Club</p>	<p>Fourth Grade Folsom Garden Club</p>	<p>Fifth Grade Folsom Garden Club</p>

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



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

June 2-8, 2024

Celebrate National Garden Week in Your Community! This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.



Join NGC clubs across the country to celebrate National Garden Week, June 2–8, 2024. NGC will be celebrating National Garden Week this year beginning on Sunday, June 2 and continuing until Saturday, June 8, 2024. According to NGC's website, "This is a time to celebrate the projects clubs have done throughout the year; a time to inform others on the hard work our clubs pour into our communities; and a time to educate everyone else on the benefits of gardening, beautification and environmental awareness."

Ideas to consider (from NGC's website):

- Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden or garden center.
- Sponsor a hands-on "How Do You Select Flowers/Shrubs for Your Garden" workshop at an area nursery.
- Plan a garden tour. This is a great time to share your knowledge of growing while sharing ideas.
- Beautify a manageable blighted area or enhance an existing garden. This would be a good opportunity to work with other groups.
- Plan an activity with a youth group or school students.
- Place a plant or flower arrangement at public facilities, along with one of the beautiful National Garden Week posters.

History of National Garden Week:

In January 1981, National Garden Week was introduced jointly by a bill in the House of Representatives and Senate in Washington, D.C. The bill was passed by both the House and the Senate, and President Reagan signed the Proclamation on April 18, 1986. This Proclamation can be found on [NGC's website](#).

Also on NGC's website, you can find the NGC Proclamation and ways in which clubs have celebrated the week. Download the National Garden Week [poster](#). Download the [National Garden Week fillable poster](#) and add your club's information.

2025 VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDAR

Have you obtained your 2025 *Vision of Beauty Calendar* yet? If not, you can order one directly from NGC's Store. The calendars are #2025, and the price is only \$10.00. See [NGC's website](#) for more information.

While you are visiting the [NGC Store](#), check out the other items that NGC sells, which include flower show awards and supplies, jewelry, books and gifts. NGC also has a category for "New and Sale Items."



Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

Did you know that the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. (PRGC) is made up of the following eight states: Washington, Arizona, California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Alaska, Hawaii? Did you know that the official publication of PRGC is the *WACONIAH*? The current and past issues of the publication can be found on the [PRGC website](#).

You are cordially invited to attend the PRGC 2024 Convention "Into the Wild" that will take place on August 21-23, 2024 in Anchorage, Alaska. For more information, tentative schedule, registration form, and more, please visit the [PRGC website](#).