

PRESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

** Former Pacific Region Director / *** Former NGC (NCSGC) President

1931-1935 (Slosson **/***)

California Garden Club Federation organized December 5, 1931 at Santa Maria Inn with 23 charter clubs. Annual dues 15 cents per capita. Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson elected state president. Admitted to membership in National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., December 5, 1932. First issue of state magazine, Golden Gardens, appeared October 1932 (4 pages, 50 cents per year), Miss Charlotte M. Hoak, Editor. Lending library established with books donated by Las Jardineras G.C. (Los Angeles). Seventeen active chairmen in the state organization. First Flower Show school.

1935-1936 (Kirkley)

Incorporated May 18, 1936, under name of California Garden Clubs, Inc. Hosted the sixth annual meeting of National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

1936-1939 (Guiberson **)

Opposed billboards along highways. Junior garden clubs reported.

1939-1940 (Page)

Beauty In The Garden With Flowers. Conservation activities and billboard control stressed. Admitted nineteen new clubs to membership.

1940-1943 (Scatena **)

Alice Eastwood Herbarium started Life Membership Drive. Civic beautification stressed.

1943-1944 (Wyman)

Campaign against scorched earth policy. Stressed planting of native plants to promote beauty.

1944-1945 (Adams)

Travel restrictions prohibited annual meeting. Officers elected by mail. Tree planting urged.

1945-1947 (Brendel)

Blue Star Memorial Highway program of NCSGC adopted and California Highways 40 and 99 were set aside for the placing of markers. First World Gardening effort.

1947-1949 (Shearer)

California Garden Club Day at the State Fair established. Forty-acre redwood grove purchased with adjacent forty acre grove acquired by National Council commemorating its 20th Anniversary. Life Membership Endowment Fund established.

1949-1951 (England **)

Hosted Pacific Coast Region meeting. Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson, Founder-President elected president of National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. State per capita dues increased to 25 cents. Pygmy Forest acquisition adjoining Van Damme State Park in Mendocino County.

1951-1953 (Harton)

Junior Gardening program reactivated. Award to juniors for civic beautification. Hosted the annual convention of National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

1953-1954 (Walker)

Achievement through Unity. State Bylaws underwent complete revision setting up Managing Board of Golden Gardens and providing for division of districts.

1954-1956 (Gallagher **)

Supported State Chamber of Commerce program for Roadside Rests. First California Flower Arrangement Book published.

1956-1958 (Henry)

We Grow as We Give. Purchased bench for the 60 acre Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden in Springfield, Illinois. Repository for files, records and state lending library books established at Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. First yearbook since

1932 issued. Penny Pines reforestation program stressed. First CGCI Flower Show, held in conjunction with garden tour, 1958 Convention, Hotel Del Coronado, San Diego.

1958-1960 (Hunter)

Together - A Member For A Member - The Best Is Yet To Be. Adopted descriptive names instead of numbers for the 22 districts. Purchased Slosson Memorial Redwood Grove. First Landscape Design Series. First Flower Show Judges Symposium.

1960-1962 (Scott)

A Better Tomorrow Through Gardening. First Standard Junior Flower Show staged at annual convention. Per capita dues increased to 50 cents. Flower Show School Revolving Fund established. High School Gardener Units established. Hosted conventions of both NCSGC and Pacific Region.

1962-1964 (Read)

Step Through the Garden Gate. Brochures and history book published. Policy book and procedure kit for District Directors compiled. Flower Show and Junior Gardener policies established. Two Bird Sanctuaries dedicated.

1964-1966 (Winship)

Celebrate with Color. First Junior Gardening Manual published. Symposium Fund created. Landscape Design Council formed. Procedure Manual for state conventions and board meetings compiled. Bylaws amended to change terms of offices to two year terms.

1966-1968 (Gilchrist)

We Shall Make The Land Sing With Living Color. First Pacific Regional Conference for Landscape Design Critics. Radio and TV booklet compiled.

1968-1970 (Bell)

Pathway to Beauty. Permanent Files reorganized and indexed. Tax change to 501 (c) (3). Memorial donations established. CGCI Pins and charm adopted. New CGCI banner. Pygmy Forest honoring Charlotte Hoak dedicated and donated to state of California as part of state park system.

1970-1972 (Dolezal **)

Together - Learn More - Do More. Handbook for Youth Leaders compiled. Poppy Preserve established in Antelope Valley. Anza-Borrego Project adopted. Second CGCI Flower Show held. Sempervirens Fund Project approved.

1972-1974 (Fehrer ***)

Keep the Dream of a Clean, Green Beautiful State. Stressed Education, Conservation, Horticulture with home gardening, native flora and tree planting. CGCI Emblem seals produced. Green Conservation and Gold Honor Books established. Native Flora booklets distributed.

1974-1976 (Hirsch)

Create - Conserve - Commend the Beautiful. Environmental workshop sponsored by Standard Oil, Shell Oil Companies and the U.S. Forest Service. Library named "Alice Hilton Memorial Library." CGCI Membership pamphlet. President's pin designed. Third CGCI Flower Show held.

1976-1978 (Woesner)

Growing with Gardening. Dedication of 10 acre Conservation Education Redwood Grove. Sixty acres of native azaleas known as Stagecoach Hill adopted as conservation project.

1978-1980 (Busher)

Showing Ever Growing Concern For All Things - All People. Presented Golden Circle of Trees to NCSGC honoring its 50th anniversary.

1980-1982 (Daiber)

Commitment + Action = Progress. Permanent quarters for files established at C.S.U. at Long Beach, First Historical Preservation Landscape Design Conference. May Belle Brendel scholarship established. FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY celebrated.

1982-1984 (Tebo **)

Creativity, Gardening, Conservation, Involvement. Added sister club in San Salvador and twin club in England. New life membership and district director pins. Yearbook changed to computer typesetting. Hosted 1984 Pacific Region Convention.

1984-1985 (Hughes-Clark)

Perspectives In Place. One year presidency bringing CGCI in line with NCSGC. Published bird book, Wings Over Our Gardens. EE Penny Pines Conference. EE Youth Workshop at SCION. Major revision of bylaws completed. Fourth CGCI Flower Show held.

1985-1987 (Nicholson)

Cherish the Land. First Wildflower Conference held. Area Groups formed for Gardening Study Consultants. By-Way marker at historic Santa Maria Inn, site of Celebration of our Beginning board meeting. Civic Development Conference. New Policy book printed.

1987-1989 (Hedtke)

A Fresh Wind Blowing. The first statewide liability insurance policy established. Plant societies accepted into full club membership. Manual prepared to help organize new clubs. CGCI logo recognition signs were developed for clubs to display at city entrances. Grants were established for partial funding of new Flower Show, Gardening Study and Landscape Design schools.

1989-1991 (Nielsen)

For Everything There Is A Season. Watsonville Earthquake Fund established. Adopted California Hall-of-Flowers, Cosumnes River Preserve, The Friendship Garden, National Garden Week Proclamation, First Solid Waste Conference. Gardening Study Course Seminar established. Formed Gardening Consultants Councils.

1991-1993 (Van Deventer-Goodwin)

Color California Beautiful Celebrated 60th Anniversary with a History Book. Floriade Tour to Holland and France contributed to the \$10,000 gift for the Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden. Hosted Pacific Region Convention. First Yearbook and Pamphlet by the Landscape Design Critics Council. New Logo watches and signs for clubs.

1993-1995 (Gould)

The Challenge - Expanding Our Horizons. Landscape Design Conference held in the wine country, Wildflower Conference in Death Valley. Permanent files removed from C.S.U. Long Beach. Revision of financial system. Fifty year member certificates awarded. Handbook For Youth Leaders reprinted. 22% increase in membership.

1995-1997 (Northon)

Share, Care and Enjoy. Established mutually beneficial relationship with Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden which was initiated with the President's project. Organized first Landscape Design Conference in conjunction with a convention. Started Environmental Study School Courses. Increased computer use for state business. Compiled procedure book for garden club presidents. Continued to increase membership.

1997-1999 (Brune **)

Our Garden Path to the Future. Fifth CGCI Flower Show held. Hosted 1999 Pacific Region Convention using PETALS grant for UC Davis program. Supported Conejo Valley Botanic Garden. Supported the National Garden and purchased a paver. CGCI website created. Ten-acre Conservation Education Redwood Grove dedicated.

1999-2001 (Roton)

Communication, Commitment, Concern - Bridges for Growth. Sixth CGCI Flower Show held as part of 2000 San Francisco Home & Garden Show. Hosted 2000 NCSGC Annual Convention, A Virtual Reality, in conjunction with International Flower Show, Time In Bloom, San Diego. President's Project, California Living Museum in Bakersfield, received PETALS grant. Purchased paver for National Garden, Washington, D.C. to honor California youth. Increased youth gardeners to 95 groups. Free website donated enabling website expansion. Purchased computer for recording secretary.

2001-2003 (Bennetts)

Ideas for Progress. CGCI Flower Show held at the 2001 San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. President's Project, signage for The Gardens at Heather Farm, received \$1,000 grant from PETALS. Won NGC Violet N. Gose Silver Trophy for greatest increase in membership and \$1,000 from PETALS for best overall state participation in PETALS projects. Dedicated five new and refurbished nine old Blue Star Memorial markers. Published Youth Manual, Floral Journal and California Poppy Note Cards, artwork by Mary Hall. Held nine NGC schools, all disciplines. Added 28 clubs, 2,300 new members.

2003-2005 (Gordon)

On the Wheels of a Dream. President's Project, Garden Restoration at Hearst Castle raised \$21,000. Two garden/theatre trips - New York, London. Design tour 2003 Flowers for Each Hour of the Day; combined design/horticulture tour 2005, Butterflies. Hosted Waterwise Tour for NGC. Formed District Clusters for fundraising events and presidential visits, and Cabinet for better communication with members. Tested Golden Gardens in color with new format. Circle of Poppies established.

2005-2007 (Tufo)

Sharing the Pleasures of Gardening. President's Project – Jubilee Grants, \$10,200 shared by 22 clubs, 2 districts for landscaping projects with native plants. Celebrated 75th Anniversary with year-long Jubilee - included tour to Washington D.C., mutual-benefit partnerships with nurseries state-wide, inter-district competitions. Planted Patriotic Trees, honoring California's firefighters, and Jubilee Trees at each meeting. Grove #10 approved at Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Hosted NGC Executive Board Meeting Glendale January 2006; Pacific Region Convention Burbank April 2007. Wildflower Conference, Bishop May 2007. Seventeen Blue Star Memorials dedicated. IRS 501(c)(3) Group Tax Exemption Program approved. Dues increase of \$1 (to \$2.25) per capita approved.

2007-2009 (Pokorski)

Garden Club: A Natural Place to Grow. President's Project – Trail of Trees at Conejo Valley Botanic Garden, raised \$33,500. Offered parliamentary workshops at each meeting; Three tri-refreshers; NGC award-winning, full-color 3-ring binder yearbook; partnership with Principal Financial Group funding \$2,000 of Blue Star grants and membership cards; 21 Blue Star dedications; district director workshop; 37 Landscape Design Council awards presented; 6'x2' vinyl banners expanded to clubs, districts, councils, etc.; The Diamond Years, a 75-Year History of CGCI; 75 Years of Inspiration from Golden Gardens; and Installation Ideas Vol. III published.

2009-2011 (Lucas)

California Garden Clubs... where excitement is growing! President's Project: Kids Growing Strong raised \$27,000+. Won NGC membership contest, rewarded with naming of new African violet - California Victory. Initiated electronic newsletter, toll-free telephone number and Member Award of Distinction honor with pin. Restructured website to allow items to be posted directly. Established planned giving program with two endowment funds - Scholarship and Endowment. Introduced line codes in budget. Held flower show in Sacramento, two tri-refreshers, three flower show symposia and courses in all NGC schools. Distributed \$6,000+ in Easy Grants for club projects.

2011-2013 (West)

Conservation, Gardening, Creativity, Inspiration - Explore the Possibilities. President's Project: Permanent signage at Sonoma State U. Native Plant Garden, \$22,500 raised. Project Mission Blue adopted. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park project adopted. Wildflower Conference, Palmdale, April 2012. Pacific Region Convention, Santa Rosa, April 2013. Redwood tree honoring 2000-2010 Presidents dedicated, Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Fundraising Cruise L.A. to Vancouver, May 2013. \$11,075 in donations/matching funds to Memorial Garden of the Fallen, Delaware FGC. Smokey Bear Grand Prize winner 2013. Two NGC Awards of Excellence 2013: #23 to W. McNamara, Quarryhill Botanical Garden; #24 for Project Mission Blue, with \$500. Eight Blue Star Markers dedicated. Golden Legacy Society established. Permanent address secured. Insect tile purchased for UC Davis Arboretum. California Consultants Council established. Courses in all NGC schools, bi-refresher, 2 symposia.

2013-2015 (Desilets)

Growing Together. President's Project: Habitat for Humanity Landscaping raised nearly \$9,000 and provided five landscaping grants. Adopted 5-year project in partnership with the CA Native Plant Society, The Rare Plant Treasure Hunt. Continued support for Project Mission Blue and Anza Borrego Desert State Park Project. Wildflower Conference, Tehachapi, April 2014. The Colors of Fall, a 10-day cruise from New York to Quebec, Oct. 2014 raised \$2,450. Complete update of the CGCI Website, including introduction of fillable forms and viewing on all formats. Golden Gardens eNews became the official publication.

2015-17 (Bennett)

Growing Minds, Planting Seeds. President's Project – Encouraging Future Gardeners, raised in excel of \$17,000 to distribute 14,000 gardening kits to children throughout California; kits included seeds, pot, instructions, ecological ideas and information which promoted NGC and CGCI. The project generated media interest nationwide. Project Mission Blue extended for 5 years. Stagecoach Hill Azalea Propagation Project, 2 projects in Sequoia National Forest and 1 in Stanislaus National Forest adopted. Partnership with North American Butterfly Assn to create garden habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. Appointed Task Force to update the Awards Program and created the Exploratory Organization Study Committee to align more with NGC. Wildflower Conference, Kernville, March 2017. Schools held in all disciplines except Environmental; also tri-refresher and symposium. Two Blue Star Memorials dedicated. Three NGC Scholarship winners and NGC award for GTEP Handbook.

2017-19 (Migliore)

Plant America-California Style. President's Project – Sustainable and Ever Growing Scholarships realized \$11,868 and raised awareness of the Scholarship program; five CGCI scholarships, four NGC scholarships awarded. Standard Flower Show held at 2018 Convention, Tuolumne. Environmental school, two symposia and two tri-refreshers held. Continued support of Anza Borrego Desert State park, Project Mission Blue Phase II, Rare Plant Treasure Hunt, Stagecoach Hill Azalea Propagation Project extend to 2023. Seven Blue Star, two Gold Star Families Memorial Markers dedicated. Six NGC Plant America Community Grants awarded to CGCI clubs. Hosted Pacific Region Convention, Van Nuys, April 2019. Membership booth at San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, Sacramento.

2019-21 (Looper)

Plant America – Plant Parks. President’s Project – San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden raised more than \$23,000. Due to Covid 19 only two state meetings were held in person – Fall Board 2019 and Winter Board 202 aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach. The remaining four meetings were held electronically via Zoom. A fund of \$8,050 was established for the restoration of 16 Blue Star Markers; members donated a further \$8,650 enabling restoration of 13 more. \$15,000 plus \$10,000 from members was donated to the Big Basin Recovery Fund established by Big Basin Redwood State Park following the CZU Lightning Complex Wildfire. Eight Blue Star Markers, one Gold Star Families Memorial Marker dedicated. Three NGC scholarships, one PRGC scholarship awarded. A Gardening School and tri-refresher held. COVID 19 PANDEMIC: government mandated shut-down for all but essential services. Executive Committee met monthly, determined that CGCI would run as normally as possible. Selected Zoom for telecommunication, organized small team to host Zoom meetings, amended bylaws to accommodate electronic communication, hosted four virtual state meetings. Golden Gardens eNews reported meetings of groups throughout the state, many creative ideas shared. Abbreviated Yearbook, Manual & Roster published.

2021-23 (Batchelor)

Celebrate! Cultivate! Commemorate! President’s Project – San Diego River Center at Grant Park established a sensory garden with signage. Member donations totaled nearly \$45,000 and were matched by an anonymous donor. Executive Committee meetings were held monthly via Zoom; the method of selecting the Nominating Committee was changed; established two new scholarships; invited club presidents and treasurers to attend board meetings with targeted workshops for them; updated the CGCI website making it ADA compliant and provided guidance for clubs for ADA website compliance. Sponsored state flower show, symposium, Landscape Design and Environmental schools. Provided training on liability insurance, group tax exemption parliamentary procedure and leadership. CGCI planted official Arbor Day Tree, club planted approximately 5000 trees and purchased almost 400 Penny Pines Plantations.