

Golden Gardens

Official Publication of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

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"Bug in a Rug" — Ladybug the Dog and California Poppies
by Jill Cruz of the Cascade Arrangers Guild

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CGCI PROJECTS

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 See 2025-26 *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*

Golden Gardens

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- Distributed electronically—FREE. To subscribe or view past issues, visit: <https://www.californiagardenclubs.com/newsletters>
- Submit articles to the [Editor](#) by the 20th of the month: **December** (for January-February issue); **February** (for March-April issue); **April** (for May-June issue), **June** (July-August issue); **August** (September-October); **October** (November-December issue).

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OFFICIAL CALENDAR

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

2026

May 4-6, NGC Convention, St. Louis, MO
May 11-14, CGCI Convention, Handlery Hotel, San Diego. Host: Palomar District. Chairman: [Diana Drummey](#)
Aug. TBA, Flower Show School Symposium, Fresno. For more information, contact FS Schools Chairman [Jennifer Waite](#)
Aug. 31-Sept. 2, CGCI Fall Board Meeting, Harris Ranch, Coalinga. Host: Hermosa Garden Club
Sept. 17, NGC Fall Board Meeting, Virtual
Sept. 24-26, Flower Show School, Course 4, Poway. Sponsor: Southwestern Judges Council. [Updated brochure](#)
Oct. 12-14, PRGC Convention, Thousand Oaks, California. Chairman: [Robin Pokorski](#). See Attachments for information and registration form.

2027

Jan. 25-27, CGCI Winter Board Meeting, Virtual
TBA May/June 2027, CGCI Convention
May 13-17, NGC 96th Convention, Madison, WI

CGCI DUES — REMINDER

Don't forget that dues for the 2026-27 year are due **JULY 1**, and the payment deadline is now **JULY 15 (no longer October 1)**. The renewal forms were sent to organizations on May 1. Payments submitted after July 15 will incur a \$25 late fee.

California Consultants Council's
Council Thymes Newsletter — read the latest issue! [CLICK HERE](#).

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

They say time flies when you're having fun, but in the world of gardening and leadership, it seems to move at the speed of a zucchini crop in August! It is hard to believe that my two-year term is already nearly half over.

One of the greatest joys of this role has been the opportunity to hit the road. My travels to several of our districts have been a highlight of my term so far. From the solemn and moving Blue Star Memorial Marker dedications that honor those who serve, to the elegance of a lovely annual tea, every stop has been a reminder of the vibrant spirit that defines CGCI.

Most importantly, I have had the privilege of meeting so many of our dedicated members. Whether we were chatting over lunch or walking through a garden, I have been continually impressed by your passion and the incredible work being done at the local level. You are all doing a terrific job, and your commitment to our mission is truly inspiring.

I am so thrilled to share some wonderful news regarding the President's Project: Abraxas High School Garden - Abraxas Orchard. I am pleased to announce that we have officially met more than half of our \$30,000 goal! This project is a testament to what we can achieve when we plant seeds for the future together. A huge "thank you" goes out to our President's Project Chairman, Barbara Weiler, for keeping us moving toward the finish line. We are making a tangible difference for the students at Abraxas, and I couldn't be prouder of our progress.

The next big milestone on our calendar is fast approaching! I am eagerly looking forward to seeing many of you at our 94th Annual Convention in San Diego, taking place from May 11 to May 14. Our hosts from the Palomar District, led by Chairman Diana Drummey, have been working hard to ensure this event is both educational and memorable. It will be a fantastic time to reunite, share our successes, and continue growing our organization.

Thank you for everything you do. See you in San Diego.

Warmly,
Adele Kelly
 2025-2027 President

WELCOME NEW CLUB

Somerset Garden Club, Golden Foothills District, 16 Members
 Mailing Address: PO BOX 421 Somerset CA 95684
 Co-Presidents: Michele Blomberg & Jane Taylor

FEATURED ARTICLE

TO ROSE OR NOT TO ROSE

By [Dyanna Madro](#), Rose Chairman

My first experience with roses was in 1992 when my husband and I moved into our new house in Escondido. Five beautiful rose bushes were located right outside the bedroom slider. They were quite large and had many blooms. Skip ahead a few years, and a new backyard project meant that the roses had to go. By go, I mean moved. I chose to rehome them beside a row of orange trees lining the driveway. Although it seemed like a good idea at the time, they did not get much sun and rarely bloomed. Unfortunately, that idea was not going to work. Who wants roses that do not bloom?

I thought, can they be moved again? Yes, and they were moved to the top of the property where they received all-day sun. I could see there were major gopher mounds everywhere, so the roses were planted in half wine barrels. The roses were doing so well in the barrels that I decided to add a few more to the rose garden. When the garden was finished, there were over 80 roses. I had so many flowers that I purchased a used refrigerator, refrigerated them every day after picking, and made floral arrangements on Sundays to take to my coworkers on Mondays.

Barrels

Trial and error have taught me several things about deterring gophers from roses in barrels. To stop them from coming up through the bottom of the barrel, I lay a half-inch grid wire on the ground and place the barrel on top of it. I use square pieces of wire and cover them with bark. Then the barrels are filled halfway with soil, the rose is planted, and more soil is added, of course, with amendments. The barrels are then finished with a layer of mulch on top. And yes, I have seen a gopher pull an entire rose through the bottom of the barrel when wire was not used. I watched it happen!

Gladiolas

Gladiola bulbs are planted after the first rose pruning in January -- 8 to 10 bulbs per barrel. Adding a starter fertilizer to the bulb hole at planting gives them a good start, as well as fertilizer for the rose. As the flower stalks grow and mature, the rose canes will help the Gladiolas to stand upright and not flop over. After the Gladiolas are done blooming, I remove them, so the roses are not crowded for the rest of the growing season. Give this a try; it works really well!



Pruning

Roses need a lot of pruning. I do the first pruning in early January. Most of the roses are Hybrid Teas, so I like to leave 3 to 5 canes, depending on their size. "Thumb Pruning" is done just as the buds are emerging, so you can determine what direction you want the branches to go. Eliminate buds that are too low on the canes and the buds that are facing inward. This will allow the inside of the rose to have good air circulation and eliminate places for pests and diseases to hide. When the roses begin to show buds, trim any branches without buds, as they are taking resources from the plant. Cut them out all the way to the cane. I have comically named them "Notin' Honey" branches, as they literally do nothing! As the roses bloom for the second time, I begin to remove green leaves from the bottom of the plant, not many, just a few, maybe 3 to 4 inches up the canes. This is where the disease will start. When you water or feed, always remove any discolored leaves.

Fertilization

Roses like a lot of food. I use one or two of the following fertilizers every other week. A starter fertilizer; fish emulsion; Grow-Power; and a standard granular rose food. This sounds excessive, but remember there are holes in the bottom of the barrels, which means everything you put in eventually drains out to the ground below. Roses perform well with Fish Emulsion, and it is not very expensive.

(Continued on next page)

FEATURED ARTICLE

(continued from previous page)

Watering

When roses are planted in wine barrels, they need extra water as they dry out faster than they would if planted in the ground. In the winter/spring when rains come, the roses are watered twice a month. As it warms up and gets over 90 degrees in the summer, the roses are watered twice a week.

Disease / Pests

Before becoming a Master Gardener in 2005, I admit I used pesticides regularly. Yikes, so sorry to confess that! Once I learned that there are good bugs (beneficials) and bad bugs, I let nature take care of that problem. In January, as the roses begin to leaf out and set buds for flowers, the pesky aphids arrive. I walk the rows and either flick the aphids off with my fingers, squish them (yes, I know it is gross) or, on watering days, I will use a strong water spray to wash them off. The aphids usually last 3 to 4 weeks, and then the good bugs arrive to take care of any leftover aphids. Lady beetles, green Lacewings, Aphid parasites, and Minute Pirate bugs are some of the good bugs. For a complete list of beneficials and pests for roses, See Pest Notes Publication 7466, which can be found at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu>.

Mulch

After the roses are pruned in January, I remove the old layer of mulch from the barrels and apply new mulch. This removes any disease or pests from the prior year. The mulch also helps to keep the soil moist in the hot summer.

Rose of the Year

The UK has officially announced 'Coral Gardens' as the Rose of the Year® 2026. This standout variety impressed judges with its remarkable beauty and resilience, making it a worthy winner of the coveted title.

A stunning shrub rose with upright growth reaching approximately 80 cm in height and 50 cm in width, producing elegant dark coral buds that open into an exquisite blend of pink-coral petals, gradually softening to hues of apricot-salmon. Its scent is delicate and fruity. Its dark green, glossy foliage offers exceptional disease resistance.



Photo: www.worldofroses.com



Photo: www.brecks.com

My Favorite Roses

'Lasting Love'

'Lasting Love' is a hardy plant that can handle the heat. This jumbo-sized Hybrid Tea rose is a stunner. Color is dusky dark red and deep pink with large 4-5" blooms. These blooms become redder in milder temperatures. True to its name, Lasting Love blooms all season long. Her glossy petals almost seem unreal, set across dark green foliage with hints of burgundy. Plant this rose for her stunning color and be wowed by her deep, unrelenting fragrance.

'Sedona'

The 'Sedona' rose has beautiful, sculpted petals with a pear fragrance. The exhibition-quality blooms develop richer shades of red in warmer climates, with coral and pink hues dominating in cooler climates. Flushes of healthy 5-inch blooms appear throughout the season. The unique qualities make Sedona popular for borders and cut gardens.



Photo: www.jacksonandperkins.com

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERS ONLY SECTION – 2026-27 ANNUAL RENEWALS

By [Rita Desilets](#), Membership Chairman &
[Jane McKee](#), Website Advisor/Members Only Database Administrator



REMINDER: The annual renewal notice was sent on May 1, 2026. Effective this year, Dues are due and payable on **July 1**. The payment deadline is **JULY 15 (NOT OCTOBER 1)**. Dues received

- Submit the form electronically. A confirmation page will be automatically generated to print and mail with your check. **NOTE: Forms submitted after July 15 will automatically include the \$25 late fee.**
- Send a copy of the form with an initial dues payment covering the **number of members paid to that point** for the upcoming year.
- Make check payable to “CGCI” and mail to the CGCI Membership Chairman (as listed on the form).

after July 15 will incur a \$25 late fee. The late fee will automatically be added to the total amount due on forms submitted July 16 or later.

Clubs & Associate Plant Societies (APS) pay \$2.75 per capita. Clubs and APSs do not need to wait until every renewing member is paid. Submit an initial payment in July to avoid the possibility of becoming delinquent. If dues are not paid in a timely fashion, clubs and APSs become ineligible to apply for CGCI’s liability insurance, the CGCI Group Tax Exemption Program (GTEP), or to participate in the CGCI awards program.

Here is what the organization’s president or treasurer needs to do:

LOG IN to the MEMBERS ONLY Section of the CGCI website.

- Complete and submit the Annual Renewal Form

For members joining YOUR organization after your initial payment:

- Submit periodic supplemental payments as the members pay their dues.
- Use the **Additional Members’ Dues Form (in the MEMBERS ONLY Section)**.
- Payments can be made monthly or quarterly, whichever is most convenient for you.

To access the record, go to the login link on the CGCI website home page:

[Members Only Login](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Rita Desilets, Membership Chairman or Jane McKee, Website Advisor/Members Only Database Administrator.

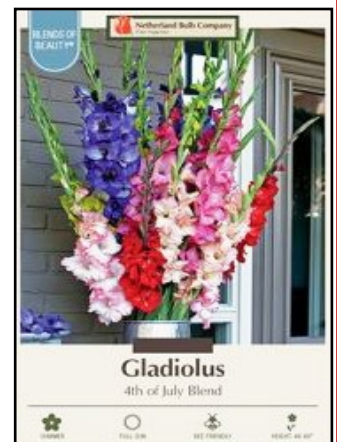
Make California Red, White & Blue

By [Sue Bennett](#), CGCI Webmaster & NGC Plant America:
Land, Soil, and Water Conservation Chairman

NGC President Donna Donnelly’s 2025-2027 Administration Theme is PLANT AMERICA For the next 100 years. As we get ready to mark the 250th anniversary of the United States, all regions, states, and garden clubs are encouraged to join this momentous project by PLANTing AMERICA in red, white, and blue. Whether or not your club has applied for a grant, everyone is welcome to participate in what could become the country’s biggest patriotic display on July 4th.

The message is clear: plant America in red, white and blue – not just Blue and Gold Star Memorials - but what about your yard and your neighborhood? Now is a great time to ask folks to join in on the moment. Consider requesting that local nurseries grow more red, white, and blue flowers, and check if your grocery store or shopping mall, friends, neighbors, etc. would be open to planting them. Your creativity serves as the palette for these patriotic colors. One thing I have learned in life is that it does not hurt to ask; all they can say is no.

Excerpts from NGC’s *The National Gardener* (Spring 2026), rewritten with permission from NGC President Donna Donnelly.



Gladiolus, 4th of July Blend, found at Home Depot

2025-2027 PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

CULTIVATING THE ROOTS OF SUCCESS

ABRAXAS HIGH SCHOOL GARDEN — ABRAXAS ORCHARD

By Barbara Weiler, Chairman

We hope to see you at the CGCI convention in San Diego. On Wednesday, May 13, Bob Luticken (Biology, Agriculture, and Aquaponics Teacher) and Courtney Merritt (Culinary Arts Teacher) from Abraxas High School will be the luncheon speakers. They will update us on the progress of the Abraxas Orchard and the farm-to-table culinary program, which teaches students to use what they grow. Visit the President's Project Table in the Crystal Ballroom, where we will have many items for sale and silent auctions to help raise funds for the Abraxas Orchard.



We are deeply grateful for the generous support from the following donors:

Cheryl K. Carmichael

Nancy Compton

Susan Hernandez

Neil & M.J. Kelly

Janette Vine

Modesto Garden Club

Ripon Garden Club

Shibui Arrangers Guild

Sacramento River Valley District

TO DONATE TO THE CGCI PRESIDENT'S PROJECT, SEE THE CGCI WEBSITE AND LOOK UNDER THE "[PROJECTS](#)" TAB.

BLUE STAR MEMORIALS

By Maria Krenek, Blue Star Memorial Co-Chairman (North)



Thank you to those who have cared for, cleaned, polished, and planted their Blue Star Markers over the years. Thank you also to club members and district directors who have researched historic archives, scrapbooks, member memories, and dove into overgrown plantings and dug into soil to search for Blue Star markers dedicated years ago and nearly lost but now found. Thank you for reporting markers found, locations, histories, and conditions to [George Unrine](#). George has reached out to you for help to catalog and update the record on the Blue Stars in California. Thank you to those who have sought new Blue Stars for new areas for all of us to see. It seems we still care. The Blue Star still means something. It is so very good to know.

Please continue the process of finding your Blue Star Markers. What a great reason for a road trip! Once found, assess their condition and decide whether refurbishment is possible. George has outlined a process for refurbishment that you can find on the [CGCI website](#). If the marker has been badly damaged, replacement might be necessary. Replacement follows the same process as pursuing a new marker. Re-dedication is a very special opportunity for celebrating. Check the [CGCI](#) and [NGC](#) websites for more information. George and I are happy to help in any way we can.

So take a moment to remember your Blue Stars, old and new, that are there to honor those in our armed services who have served, are serving, and will serve.

YOUTH CONTESTS

SMOKEY BEAR/WOOSY OWL POSTER CONTEST

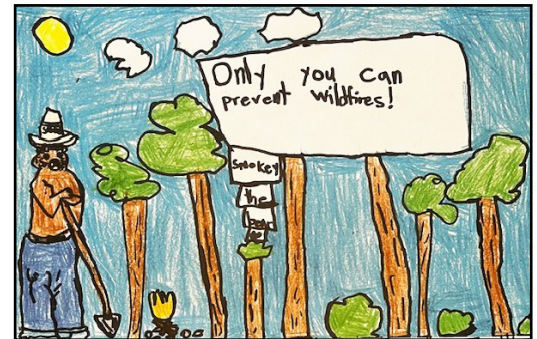
By [Michelle Blomberg](#), Chairman

The 2026 California Smokey Bear/Woosy Owl Poster Contest judging took place on February 2, 2026, at the Stanislaus National Forest Service Supervisor's office in Sonora. Representatives from Cal Fire, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Tuolumne County Garden Club attended the event. Valley Lode District Director Paula Elias, along with Charlotte and Carl Tucker, were present to offer their assistance.

Students who placed first in their grade, from first to fifth grade, at the state level attended regional judging on March 16. California had two posters that advanced to national judging. The NGC chairman is still waiting to hear the results.

Club participation has increased this year, and I am hopeful that interest will continue to grow. I plan to visit a few clubs in early fall that are interested in participating in the poster contest. Any clubs that are interested should contact me.

For more information about the Smokey Bear/Woosy Owl Poster Contest, see the [Youth Activities Section](#) of the CGCI website and look for the Youth Contest Tab (a revised 2026 Youth Contest Manual is coming soon).



FIRST GRADE — Child from Clear Lake Trowel & Trellis Garden Club



SECOND GRADE — Child from Southern California Garden Club



THIRD GRADE — Child from San Diego County Garden Club & FIRST PLACE AT PRGC



FOURTH GRADE — Child from Clear Lake Trowel & Trellis Garden Club



FIFTH GRADE — Child from Tuolumne County Garden Club & FIRST PLACE AT PRGC



INSTAGRAM

By [Pat Claves](#), Social Media Chairman



CHECK OUT CGCI'S NEW INSTAGRAM PAGE!

<https://www.instagram.com/californiagardenclubs>

Newly created, CGCI's Instagram page already has over 40 followers! If you would like to place a photo (with a description) on CGCI's page, please send your submission to the [Social Media Chairman](#).

Instagram is a great way to promote your club and district (and the objectives of CGCI, PRGC and NGC)!



According to [Reader's Digest](#), "Instagram is more than just a photo-sharing app. It's a digital scrapbook mixed with a never-ending reality show, where celebrities and everyday folks alike come to share their lives in a phone-shaped frame."

"Instagram brings you closer to the people and things you love."

AWARDS PROGRAM

By [Pat Claves](#), Chairman



CGCI is excited to announce a new member of the Awards Committee: **SHIRLEY LIPA**. Starting with the 2026 Awards Year, Shirley will be responsible for Award #10 — The Blue Ribbon Certificate of Achievement.

The updated [Awards Manual](#) for the 2026 awards year has just been placed on the website. There are a few changes, so please take a look at each award description before you apply for an award.

the Awards Chairman, **Pat Claves**. See Awards Manual for mailing addresses.

Regarding yearbooks, please carefully proofread and self judge your yearbook (by using the scoring rubric located in the Awards Manual under the award numbers (#54 and #55) before submitting it for an award. Any yearbook that scores below an 80 will not be considered for an award.

Please note that seventeen electronic award entries from California were placed in NGC's Dropbox for judging before its deadline of January 25. Twenty-nine PRGC award entries from California were sent by mail to the many PRGC judging chairmen before the PRGC deadline of March 1. Hopefully, CGCI will receive many awards from NGC and PRGC for the 2025 awards year!

The following awards have been eliminated based on an analysis of the entries from 2022 to 2025:

- #20 Backyard Habitat
- #26 Pollinator Education
- #30A & #30B California Standard and Small Standard Flower Shows

Hard copies of yearbooks (Awards #54 and #55) will now be required, as well as hard copies of publications (Award #51, Section 2, Classes A and B) — membership and non-membership. Yearbook entries are to be **mailed** to the Judging Chairman, **Carol Vallens**. The publications are to be mailed to

District Directors will receive award certificates, ribbons, checks, cover sheets, and rubric scoring sheet at the Awards Banquet at the Convention on May 12. If District Directors are unable to attend, they should appoint a representative to collect these for their districts.

The Excel sheet of award submissions with award winners will be posted on the website under the "Awards" Section after the Convention.

**"Every award is a chapter
in your success story."**



PENNY PINES PROGRAM

By Terry Sampson, ChairmanPENNY PINES DONATIONS — APRIL 2026 REPORT

2026 Donations to Date: \$9,452.00

H = In Honor
M = In MemoryBAY BRIDGES DISTRICT

Eden Garden Club	
H: Bonnie Remigio	\$68
Pinole Garden Club	
H: Jessilee Weir	\$68
H: Paula Fahey	\$68

BUTTES DISTRICT

Friendly Garden Club	
M: Jeanette Weddell	\$68
Paradise Garden Club	\$204

CASCADE DISTRICT

Anderson Valley Garden Club	\$68
Cottonwood Garden Club	
H: Russell Smith	\$68

CHANNEL ISLANDS DISTRICT

Pleasant Valley Garden Club	\$136
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DIABLO FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Blackhawk Bloomers Garden Club	
M: Judy Slinger	\$68
Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club	
M: John Despotakis	\$68
M: Peggy Despotakis	\$68

GOLDEN FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Chicago Park Garden Club	
M: Jane Powell	\$68
Roseville Better Gardens Club	
H: Barbara Lewis	\$68
H: Bev Wilkinson	\$68
H: Terri Hammond	\$68

LUTHER BURBANK DISTRICT

Petaluma Garden Club	\$68
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MONTANA DE ORO DISTRICT

Cayucos Garden Club	\$136
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ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT

Niguel Shores Garden Club	
M: Paul Strauss	\$68

PALOMAR DISTRICT

Carlsbad Garden Club	\$68
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SACRAMENTO RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT

River Valley Garden Club	
H: Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta	\$136
H: Jayne LaGrande	\$68
H: Barbara Zollner	\$68

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DISTRICT

Southern California Garden Club	
H: John Grimm	\$68

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT

Green Thumb Garden Club of Milpitas	
M: Lynette McGill	\$272

SEQUOIA FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Valley Oak Garden Club	
M: Astrid "Oz" Wagenschutz	\$68

VALLEY LODE DISTRICT

Escalon Farmington Community Garden Club	
H: Aldah Johnson	\$68
H: Dee Ann Blowers	\$68
Foothill Garden Club	
M: Durward Fowler	\$68

Ripon Garden Club

H: Brandon Oesterlie	\$68
H: Rhonda Lema	\$68
M: Joan Drowsky	\$68
H: Sherry Fisher	\$68
M: Granville "Hank" Welch	\$68
M: Joseph A. Rotolo	\$68
M: John Tacchini	\$68
M: Robert Wilson	\$68
H: Anita Floyd	\$68
H: Linda DeGroot	\$68
H: Linda Slayton King	\$68

The Lodi Garden Club

H: Lenore Donato	\$68
H: Diana Mattheis	\$68
H: Michiye Noda	\$68
H: Jeanne Vetter	\$68
H: Michelle Heminger	\$68
H: Ruth Heminger	\$68
H: Linda Underwood	\$68
H: Kathy Boore	\$68
H: Dena Rupert	\$68
H: Holly Stone	\$68
H: Judy King	\$68
H: Nada Metcalf	\$68
H: Pat Browning	\$68
H: Will Clark	\$68
H: Barbara Cooper	\$68
H: Cecelia Harbin	\$68

Tuolumne County Garden Club

H: Larissa Amayawood	\$68
H: Kiah Hull	\$68
H: Sonora Ford/Subaru Dealership	\$68

INFORMATION**The Jeffrey Pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*)**

Jeffrey Pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) is found in high elevations and can reach heights of 180-200 feet. It is known for its distinctive reddish-brown bark and a pleasant aroma reminiscent of vanilla or pineapple. It is closely related to *Pinus ponderosa* and is similar in appearance. One way to distinguish between them is by their cones. Each has barbs at the end of the scales. The sharp *P. jeffreyi* cone scale barbs point inward, so the cone feels smooth to the palm of one's hand when rubbed down the cone. *P. ponderosa* cone scale barbs point outward, so feel sharp and prickly to the palm of one's hands.

Source: Wikipedia.org / Photo Credit: <https://www.vdberk.com>

FLORAL DESIGN

CHICAGO PARK GARDEN CLUB'S ARRANGERS GROUP

The Chicago Park Garden Club has held monthly meetings since its inception in 1960. Meetings include educational programs featuring speakers from various fields and organizations who cover topics of interest to club members. In 2002, a subgroup called the "Arrangers Group" was formed. The purpose of this group is to promote interest in floral design, secure speakers, and present educational programs on the subject.

Members of the Arrangers Group study the fundamentals of flower arranging, focusing on the Principles of Design—balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, rhythm, and scale—and the Elements of Design—color, form, light, line, pattern, size, space, and texture. They utilize the NGC's flower show school curriculum and reference the NGC's *Handbook for Flower Shows*.

Under the leadership of Ann Wallace, an experienced and award-winning floral arranger, the Arrangers Group flourished into a vibrant and creative bunch. Members actively participated in club and community events by providing floral arrangements for the club's annual fundraiser and co-sponsored the annual Junior Flower Arranging Workshop for children ages 6 to 17 in collaboration with the Nevada County Fair. The workshop aims to encourage children to enter the floral competition at the Fair.

Last fall, members of the Arrangers Group sought to boost participation within their group. To achieve this, they decided to host a workshop for club members, similar to the one they hold for children.

Ann Wallace and two members of the group conducted the workshop called "Sharing the Joy of Fall Flowers." The workshop showcased a diverse range of design styles, primarily using homegrown flowers and other materials. It was attended by 25 members (out of 31). Less than \$30 was spent on the program to purchase seasonal asters, Gerbera daisies, baby's breath, and sunflowers. A great variety of greens and filler material was provided by the arrangers themselves, ranging from classic boxwood to red-berried Nandina, along with several sizes and shapes of containers, including a flat dish, a basket, a formal vase, a Tuscan pitcher, a Mason jar – even a tin can!



Ann Wallace's finished design

As a result of the program, the Arrangers Group's core of six members expanded to sixteen, comprised of individuals who can be called upon to assist with club and community activities.

To download NGC's *Handbook for Flower Shows*: [fs-hanbook-2025.pdf](#)

To learn more about NGC's Flower Show School: [Flower Show School | National Garden Clubs](#)



Designer Ann Wallace begins her design using a basket as the container.



Designer Marina Smith (right) with Member Sheila Atherstone who won a raffle prize.

CONSERVATION

TEN REASONS TO USE A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE

Reprinted from *Coachella Valley Water Counts*

Implementing sustainable habits into our daily lives is crucial to our futures and adopting small changes can create a significant impact. Carrying a reusable water bottle is one significant change that can make an impact. This change not only benefits the planet but also offers various personal advantages. Preventing plastic toxicity and pollution are often huge incentives to making the switch to reusable. Ten effective reasons to make reusable water bottles a part of your routine are listed below.



concentrations of plastic have been indicated in plastic water bottles, alarming many. These chemicals leach into the water and potentially put your health at risk throughout time. Stainless steel alternatives or BPA-free plastic are considered safe materials to ensure your water is free from contaminants.

Reducing Plastic Waste

Plastic waste generates an estimated 100 million tons of single-use plastic in landfills yearly and is a major environmental crisis that affects people, animals, and ecosystems around the world. Making a switch to reusable water bottles can provide a significant reduction to this pollution and benefit the planet for years to come.

Save Money

Purchased frequently, bottled water can add up over time and increase your expenses. However, investing in a reusable water bottle can alter your yearly finances positively. A reusable water bottle allows for refills, with either tap or filtered water, saving you money over time.

Hydration Anywhere

If in proximity to clean water, a reusable water bottle allows you the ability to store it and drink anywhere you go. This can be while traveling, working, exercising, and in most outdoor activities. Staying hydrated is essential to remaining focused, maintaining your energy, and taking care of yourself.

Environmental Conservation

Reusable water bottles made from materials such as stainless steel or glass provide a lower environmental footprint compared to plastic water bottles. These materials can be recycled or repurposed, promoting conservation efforts.

Healthier

Harmful chemicals are known to inhabit plastic water bottles, the most infamous is BPA (bisphenol A). BPA has been linked to various health concerns including infertility, hormone imbalance, and metabolic and cardiovascular diseases. High

Stylish

Reusable water bottles are offered in a variety of designs, shapes, colors, and sizes which make expressing yourself easy. Many find enjoyment in personalizing your bottle with stickers or engravings, turning it into a functional accessory.

Promotes Sustainable Living

Water bottles are a visible testament and commitment to sustainability which in turn encourages others to adopt eco-friendly habits. These actions can inspire your loved ones, colleagues, and peers to make similar lifestyle changes. Positive change will soon follow in a ripple effect in which sustainability shines through.

Convenience and Durability

Reusable water bottles are often designed for practicality with some remarkable features, like leak-proof lids, easy to carry handles, wide-openings, temperature preservation, and wide openings for cleaning and refilling. Daily wear and tear are ensured due to their durable construction, making them a reliable choice for years to come.

Multipurpose Use

Reusable water bottles are not just limited to water which makes them an efficient purchase. Many are designed to keep beverages cold or hot, perfect for coffee, tea, or even smoothies. The versatility these bottles provide ensures they meet any of your hydration needs.

Making an Impact

A reusable water bottle is an impactful way to advocate for sustainable living. Every refill replaces a single-use bottle, contributing to the reduction of waste. By taking this step, you are choosing to become part of the solution to the global environmental crisis.

Source: <https://cwwatercounts.com>

GARDENING

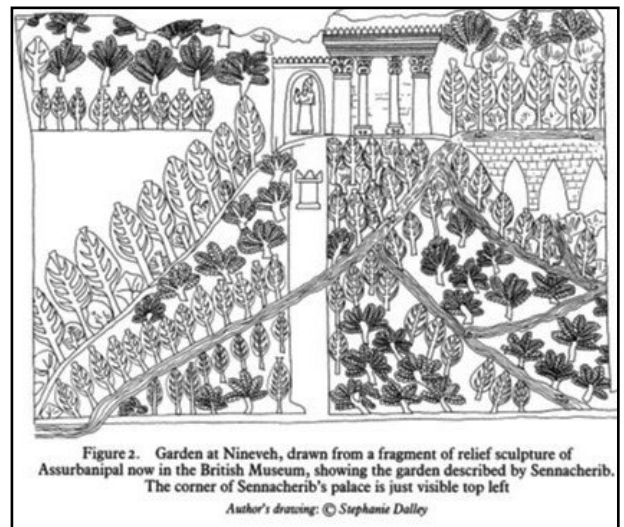
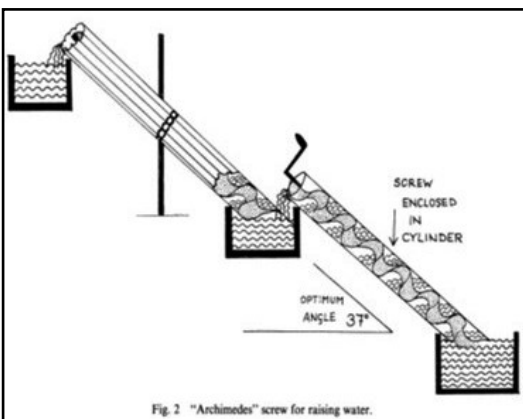
ANCIENT GARDENS — PART 4

By [Dr. Phillip V. Stanley](#), Professor Emeritus

In previous articles on the Hanging Gardens, one of the seven ancient wonders of the world, I indicated that it is the only wonder whose location is not actually known. While several ancient Roman authors, who never actually visited the gardens, place it in the city of Babylon, there is no evidence to support this contention. The Germans excavated the site and were unable to find any remains of these gardens. Recently, a British archaeologist, Stephanie Dalley, has reviewed the ancient evidence for the hanging gardens and has made a very tempting proposal, that the garden was really located in the Assyrian city, Nineveh. One ancient author, Quintus Curtius Rufus, reports that it was an Assyrian king, who conquered Babylon, built the famed hanging gardens. The Assyrian king who conquered Babylon and carried off the god of Babylon, Marduk, to his new capital, Nineveh, was

Sennacherib (705/704–681 BCE). The British excavated his palace in Nineveh, along with that of his grandson, Assurbanipal (668–627 BCE).

Sennacherib decorated the walls of his palace with large alabaster slabs on which were carved scenes, painted, and with the images was a lengthy inscription recounting his many accomplishments. Among these was the construction of a garden by his palace. The garden was terraced attempting to imitate mountains in Syria with plants on each level watered using Archimedean screws inside tubs. Sennacherib does not record how the Archimedean screws were turned. Water was brought via an aqueduct from a mountain stream and fed into cisterns. The levels were planted with various kinds of aromatic trees, and there were several pavilions, described as small palaces. Sennacherib closes by saying that the gardens were a wonder for the people to enjoy; they may perhaps have been open to the public of Nineveh to view, similar to our modern city parks like Central Park in New York or Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. A small relief sculpture in the British Museum from his grandson's palace represents the gardens.



The description of Sennacherib's gardens at Nineveh closely matches the descriptions provided by later Roman authors, who were describing the hanging gardens. However, are Sennacherib's gardens the famous wonder of the ancient world mentioned by several ancient author who place the gardens in Babylon? Some scholars believe they are, and others doubt it.

In my next set of articles, I want to examine how we know how to reconstruct ancient Roman gardens and their effect on modern gardens.

POLLINATORS

HELP BRING BACK THE POLLINATORS

By Maria Orefice, Member of Southern California Garden Club



Last September, I submitted a proposal to the Xerces Society in hopes of receiving a Southern California Backyard Habitat Kit. The Southern California Habitat Kit Program provides transplants of native, pollinator-friendly species to qualified Southern California resident gardeners interested in attracting more pollinators to their yards. I was shocked to learn that many of our beneficial pollinator populations in California, including bees and butterflies, are declining, and I really wanted to participate and help bring them back. The population of Western Monarch butterflies has declined by 95% since the 1980s. Eight of California's 25 bumblebee species are at risk. Habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change all contribute to the decrease in their populations. The Southern California Habitat Kit would enable me to help, even just a bit. After all, every little bit helps!

To qualify for the kit, I had to commit to planting all twenty transplants and caring for them, thereby creating a habitat for our native pollinator species by introducing additional flowering plants into my garden. While I already had many flowering plants and several native California plants, I wanted to increase biodiversity in my garden to attract a wider range of pollinators.

Lucky me! My application was accepted. I now have twenty new native plants in my garden. Xerces provides plenty of information to help me succeed, such as a planting guide and a list of additional plants that attract beneficial pollinators and insects. My local Xerces pollinator habitat specialist is available to assist. My responsibility is to submit photos, report a couple of times per year, and, of course, do my best to keep the plants alive and well. Accounting for my gardening success is a small request from Xerces; it is all very easy and worth the time and effort.

You too can help bring back pollinators without a Backyard Habitat Kit. It all begins with each of us adopting four simple steps: growing pollinator-friendly flowers, providing nest sites and shelter, avoiding pesticides, and spreading the word. With these core values, you can create conditions to support the entire life cycle of pollinators in any location, whether you tend an urban community garden or a suburban yard, work in a city park or on a farm. The Xerces Society counts on all of us to help. You can make a commitment to these four principles by signing their Pollinator Protection at Pledge Pollinator Protection Pledge (<https://www.xerces.org/bring-back-the-pollinators/pollinator-protection-pledge>).

To help spread the word, consider placing a pollinator habitat sign in your front yard. Signs are available for a donation at The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. Many helpful events and webinars are offered by the Xerces Society at <https://www.xerces.org/events>.



The Pollinator Protection Pledge

To Bring Back the Pollinators, I Pledge to:

1. Grow a variety of bee-friendly flowers that bloom from spring through fall.
2. Protect and provide bee nests and caterpillar host plants.
3. Avoid using pesticides, especially insecticides.
4. Talk to my neighbors about the importance of pollinators and their habitat.

FROM OUR CLUBS & DISTRICTS

TECHNOLOGY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE GARDEN

By M. Karin Matray of Red Bluff Garden Club



A quick Google search will give you many plant apps from which to choose. My installed app, PlantNet, appears to be both popular and accurate (hooray!). Another popular and accurate app is PictureThis (<https://www.picturethisai.com/>). PictureThis also has a feature to assist with diagnosis and prevention of plant diseases. Super cool! I also found an app that identifies all forms of nature – bugs, birds, snakes, spiders – as well as plants and trees. Uploads to iNaturalist contribute to a large community of international naturalists. The website also includes hints for using the app for classroom observations and data collection.

First disclosure – a real person (me) wrote this article, not Artificial Intelligence (AI). Second disclosure – I am not a technology expert. In fact, I often say that I was dragged kicking and screaming into the computer age, but . . .

It started at a public park. I was in Albuquerque visiting my daughter and her family. A new and beautiful little girl had just entered our family, and the excitement and fatigue registered a full 10 on a ten-point scale. We all went to the park. As my daughter and our new baby settled in on a shaded bench, I headed to the playground with our 3-year-old grandson. While Lucas and I played, I noticed my son-in-law slowly taking pictures of all the plants surrounding the playground. Later, I asked him about it. This smart dad told me that he was checking for plant toxicity and showed me an app he had installed on his phone called PlantNet (or Pl@ntNet at <https://plantnet.org/en/>). I was impressed! I immediately installed this free app on my phone.

Since that day, I have discovered multiple helpful garden and plant apps. Some identify plants, some identify plant disease, and some identify plant care needs. All these apps call upon a growing database of plant information on the web. Most are free, available for both Apple and Android phones, and super easy to use. You open the app and, using the camera feature on your phone, you take a quick photo. The app scans its database for a match, and up pops some comparison photos with identifying names. It's easy to match your plant with others that have been uploaded by other plant enthusiasts. Some apps allow you to save your plant within the app for future personal reference.

On a lark one day, I decided to check out ChatGPT (<https://chatgpt.com/>) and its knowledge base of plant and garden information. I typed in "Design a garden for Hardiness Zone 9B that attracts butterflies, bees, and birds," and oh my! In a matter of seconds, a response appeared on my computer screen that addressed:

- Garden design overview
- Plant list by category (with blooming season and notes included for the plant recommendations)
- Bird-friendly plants (with seasonal interests and benefits included with the recommendations)
- Structural features (water features, nesting boxes/shelters, and plant layering recommendations)
- Garden layout tips
- Maintenance tips
- And an offer to provide a sketch or image for the design

Wow! My own online landscape architect, and it was totally free! I have used ChatGPT for some professional tasks, such as article/book summaries and letters of recommendation. I have found it moderately helpful for this type of work. The text produced is more mechanical than my own composition, and it lacks the personality only a real person can provide.

So, here we are, becoming more deeply entrenched in a technologically complex world. I don't think kicking and screaming will be helpful, but it's worth a try.

*The technology you use impresses no one.
The experience you create with it is everything.*

– Sean Gerety

FROM OUR CLUBS & DISTRICTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUB CONTRIBUTES TO THE CSUN BOTANIC GARDEN



Rosemary Ecker, Bette Tang, Brenda Kanno,
Robin & Greg Pokorski

By Rosemary Ecker, Member of Southern California Garden Club

Last year, Southern California Garden Club (SCGC) donated funds for a kiosk to be placed in the California State University, Northridge (CSUN) Botanic Garden. The kiosk was recently installed, and a few club members visited on February 9 to see it. Club members met with Brenda Kanno and Ann Dorsey, Instructional Support Technicians at the Botanic Garden, and Tania Gabriel-Barca, Director of Development for the College of Science and Mathematics, and then toured the garden and greenhouses.

A botanic garden is a specialized, curated institution that maintains documented collections of living plants for scientific research, conservation, education and public display. Often the plants are arranged by habitat or species and the garden may include greenhouses and research areas.

Brenda and Tania explained the program's financial constraints. The Botanic Garden is trying to continue its mission with very few resources. Its budget has been limited for a long time, so progress toward securing much-needed tools, replacement plants, renewed hardscape, and labeling has progressed slowly; with the pandemic and university budget cutbacks, it's been a struggle -- all garden projects have been delayed.

The Botanic Garden also lacks volunteers to assist with removing weeds and plants no longer in top shape, and planting new native plants. In the past, the program provided the public with educational opportunities, and those opportunities have disappeared as well. The new kiosk now provides a communication and educational focal point in the garden. Some students have commented that they stop by to learn about a featured plant or activity. They are inspired to locate the featured plant and meet it in person. During our visit, the plants were blooming from the much-needed rain. Currently, the garden looks "natural" and needs some attention. Members gathered a list of essential supplies and projects along with estimated costs. SCGC will review these needs to determine if the club can provide funding.

CASCADE ARRANGERS GUILD/CASCADE DISTRICT'S FLOWER SHOW A SUCCESS!

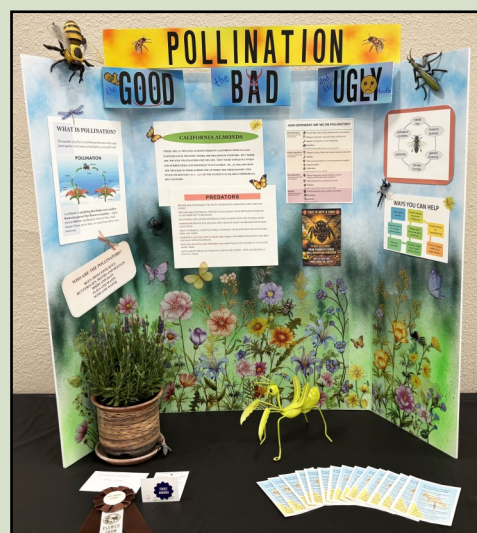
By Judy Paul, Cascade District Director



The Cascade Arrangers Guild and Cascade District sponsored a beautiful NGC Standard Flower Show on April 7 in Anderson.

The flower show theme, "Country Blooms & Barnyard Dreams," was evident throughout the show, featuring many classes of horticulture, design, educational exhibits, and photography. 43 people exhibited a total of 217 entries, making the room a buzz of excitement.

First-time exhibitors were recognized with cute badges, and every entry was given a ticket for a chance to win one of five generous gift baskets. Snacks and beverages were available, with much mingling and fun for all exhibitors and visitors. Many positive comments were heard.





NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

NGC Award #FD 1 Calendar Arranger of the Year

Due Date is **August 15**

FD-1 Calendar Arranger of the Year award recipients are selected by the NGC *Vision of Beauty Calendar* Committee from submitted digital photos. Photos may be of any type of design. The entry criteria and the entry form are in the current *Vision of Beauty Calendar* and on the NGC website in the "Forms Section."

NGC-affiliated club members are invited to submit photos for the *Vision of Beauty Calendar*. All types of designs are allowed (Traditional, Contemporary, Botanical Artistic Crafts, New Trends, and those for seasons or holidays). Photos that are also welcome: part of your garden such as a "pocket garden" or photos of a Display (a Display is a collection of horticulture specimens exhibited with a strong overall artistic effect).

REQUIREMENTS

- Complete the entry form and include a 30-word (or less) description of the design. The use of complete sentences (not just a list of materials) is required. The entry form is found on NGC's website in the Forms Library (<https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/fillable-vob-entry.pdf>) and in the current *Vision of Beauty Calendar*. The completed entry form must be mailed to the address provided along with a 5"x7" print of each design submitted. Calendar deadline for both mailed and emailed entries is **August 15**.
- In addition, a 5"x7" digital JPEG image in high resolution*, a minimum of 1 MB, must be emailed to the chairman (vob@gardenclub.org). *It is suggested adjusting the camera settings on your phone to the highest resolution or work with a professional photographer to ensure your sub-

mission meets the requirements. Most smart phone cameras meet or exceed the requirement.

- Vertical designs only are encouraged in keeping with the format of the calendar. Only quality photos are accepted. Send digital photos at full size. No screenshots.
- Designs must be photographed in front of a blank, seamless background, free of wrinkles, patterns, and creases between the background and underlay; showing pedestals, tables, and niches is not recommended. If dark backgrounds are used, sufficient lighting must be used to ensure the design is clear and crisp. Do not include pictures with flower show ribbons and entry cards.
- A maximum of five entries per person will be accepted.
- Only one background for each design.
- Do NOT put the designer's name on the back of the photo, just the title of the design. All entries will be judged by the same criteria used to judge NGC Flower Show designs. All decisions of the judges are final. Please see judging criteria found in the most recent edition of NGC's *Handbook for Flower Shows*.
- Once submitted, photos become the property of NGC. Notification will be given if used. No entries will be returned. NGC is not responsible for any loss, late, delayed or misdirected entries.



PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

PRGC CONVENTION

Please see the attachments (4 pages) that contains important information about the upcoming PRGC Convention that takes place on October 12-14, 2026 in Thousand Oaks, California.

PRGC'S FIREWISE COMMUNITIES WEBINARS

The final two webinars:

Monday, August 10, 2026, 2 pm - 3 pm, Firewise Webinar #4: Personal and Family Preparedness Before a Disaster. Todd Lando, President, Fire Safe Marin and Central Marin Battalion Chief. Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ahABCgwzTfeTFpu1c-MzvA>

Monday, September 14, 2026, 2 pm - 3 pm. Firewise Webinar #5: Organizing Your Neighbors (Firewise Communities). Joelle Frazier, Diablo Fire Safe Council, and Macy Cornell, Oakland's CABS Firewise Neighborhood. Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Hu32W-2nROmVkJUH_3pPdw

Come relax and enjoy California's

Palm Trees

'n'

Ocean Breeze



2026
Pacific Region
Garden Clubs
82nd Convention
Hosted by
California
Garden Clubs

October 12-14, 2026

The Palm Garden Hotel

495 N Ventu Park Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

Phone: (805) 716-42100

Room rate: \$129 incudes breakfast, free parking & Wi-Fi

ATTACHMENT B
PRGC CONVENTION INFORMATION, TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION FORM

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
82nd Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention
Palm Trees 'n' Ocean Breeze
Thousand Oaks, California – October 12-14, 2026

Hotel Information & Reservations

The Palm Garden Hotel
495 N Ventu Park Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

Call the hotel to make reservations at 805-716-4200. Our group rate is \$129 + local taxes and fees for a standard room and \$159 for a courtyard room. Parking is free. Breakfast is included each morning across the parking lot at Mikey's Restaurant (vouchers received at check-in). Our group rate is valid Friday, October 9 through Thursday, October 14.

Restaurant on site: Seattle Sorelle

*Sunday: 5pm-9pm, Monday: Closed, Tuesday: 5pm-9pm, Wednesday: 5pm-9pm,
Thursday: 5pm-9pm, Friday: 5pm-10pm, Saturday: 5pm-10pm*

Several other restaurants and fast food is available nearby.

Travel Information

Automobile: The hotel is located just off the US 101 North Freeway.

Airport: Burbank Airport (BUR) is 35 miles from the hotel. There is no shuttle to hotel. **

Amtrak: Disembark at the Moorpark Station (11 miles from the hotel) OR Simi Valley Station (15 miles from the hotel). **

** **Tammy Eacker, Transportation Chairman**, will do her best to arrange shuttle service from Burbank Airport, or the Amtrak Stations to the hotel. Eacker74@gmail.com or 818-400-3625

2026 Convention Highlights

Art in Design – floral displays

Raffle Baskets – Districts from all over California have provided raffle items to entice you to open your checkbook.

Saturday, Oct 10 – Tour: Strathearn Historical Park, The Hat, Moorpark Teaching Zoo

Sunday, Oct 11 – Tour: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Monday, Oct 12

Workshop Extravaganza – Enjoy a plethora of idea-laden workshops.

Fun & Games Evening Under the Stars – Enjoy the autumn evening reconnecting with friends and making new friends.

Tuesday, Oct 13

Lunch – Jorge Ochoa brings his live projected microscope to examine bugs up-close and personal.

Dinner – Celebrate our Pacific Region Life Members, welcome our newest Life Members and find out the winners of the Region awards.

Wednesday May 13

State Presidents Meeting – for Pacific Region state presidents

Round Table Discussions – for everyone else

Lunch – Nicholas Staddon will take us on a pictorial tour of Pacific Region flora.

Dinner – Enjoy our final evening together with a special Pacific Region Bingo.

THOSE REGISTERING BEFORE AUGUST 1
WILL BE ENTERED
IN A DRAWING FOR A FABULOUS PRIZE!

Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention

October 12-14, 2026

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 10, 2026 – Tour Strathearn Historical Park, The Hat (lunch), Moorpark Teaching Zoo

Sunday, October 11, 2026 – Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Monday, October 12, 2026

- 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Finance Committee meeting
- 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Organization Committee meeting
- 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Workshop Extravaganza
- 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Executive Committee meeting
- 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Reception – social hour
- 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Buffet dinner
- 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Fun and games

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

- 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Pre-convention Board of Directors Meeting
- 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Opening ceremony
- 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch w/speaker - Bugs
- 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Convention meeting (including Memorial Service)
- 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Reception – social hour
- 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Buffet dinner
- 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Life Membership / Awards presentation

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

- 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. State Presidents meeting / Round table discussion
- 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Round table discussion
- 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch w/speaker – Tour of Pacific Region Through Its Flora
- 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Convention meeting
- 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Reception – social hour
- 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Buffet dinner
- 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Entertainment – Pacific Region Bingo



PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
82nd Annual Convention – October 12-14, 2026
Palm Trees 'n' Ocean Breeze

The Palm Garden Hotel, 495 N Ventu Park Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320
 All attendees MUST register...ONE person per registration form...no walk-ins...no exceptions
 Last day to register is September 30—NO registrations will be accepted after September 30

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Telephone: _____

State Garden Club: _____ Pacific Region Position: _____

Voting Status: ___ PR Board of Directors Member ___ Delegate* ___ Alternate Delegate* ___ Non-voting
 *- As authorized by State President

BADGE INFORMATION – Please check all that apply:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGC President | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse or Guest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Former Pac. Region Director |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region State President | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club Member | <input type="checkbox"/> First-Time Attendee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Show Judge | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Consultant | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Consultant | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Design Consultant |

PACKAGE PLAN REGISTRATION – NO refunds after September 30.

Package Plan includes: \$100 Registration (\$20 for CGCI workers), 2 Lunches, 3 Banquets, all workshops.

Full-time Package – received by September 15	\$320	\$ _____
Full-time Package – CGCI workers – received by September 15	\$240	\$ _____
Full-time Package – received AFTER September 15 – add additional	\$ 40	\$ _____

PART-TIME REGISTRATION – NO refunds after September 30.

Part-time Registration Fee (meals not included; add below as desired)		
– received by September 15	\$ 100	\$ _____
Part-time CGCI workers Registration Fee – received by September 15	\$ 20	\$ _____
Registration received AFTER September 15 – add additional	\$ 40	\$ _____
Spouses, Guests and Companions – Registration Fee waived	\$ 0	\$ _____
Meals – Open to all members, spouses, companions and guests		
Monday, October 12 Dinner – Fun and Games	\$ 52	\$ _____
Tuesday, October 13 Lunch – Don't Bug Me!	\$ 38	\$ _____
Tuesday, October 13 Banquet – Life Membership / Awards	\$ 58	\$ _____
Wednesday, October 14 Luncheon – A Tour of the Region's Flora	\$ 38	\$ _____
Wednesday, October 14 Banquet – Pacific Region Bingo	\$ 58	\$ _____

Diet Restrictions: Gluten-free Other _____

TOURS:

Saturday, October 10 – Strathearn Historical Park, The Hat, Moorpark Teaching Zoo	\$ 25	\$ _____
Sunday, October 11 – Ronald Reagan Presidential Library	\$ 35	\$ _____

CONVENTION/TOUR TOTAL: \$ _____

No Refunds after September 30.

Pay by credit card: <https://pacificregiongardenclubs.com/convention-2026>

OR make check payable to **"Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc."** or **"PRGC"**

Mail registration and check to:

Launa Gould, 1212 Avenida Buena Suerte, San Clemente, CA 92672

Launa.gould@gmail.com or 949-275-3974

Convention Chairman: Robin Pokorski

CGCIRobin@gmail.com or 818-425-3247 (cell)

For Office Use	Amount <input type="checkbox"/>
Amount _____	Confirmation _____
Check # _____	Received _____
Refund Due _____	Refund Check _____
Balance Due _____	Bal Paid Ck# _____

PRE-CONVENTION FUN:

Tour Schedule

Saturday, October 10 – \$25

Tour begins in the hotel lobby at 8:45 a.m.
Strathearn Historical Park
Lunch – The Hat (on your own)
Moorpark Teaching Zoo
Return to the hotel ~ 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 11 – \$35

Tour begins in the hotel lobby at 9:45 a.m.
Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Lunch on your own at the Library
Return to the hotel ~ 2:45 p.m.

CONVENTION FUN: Workshops will be ongoing – you can come and go as you wish

Enjoy a Workshop Extravaganza – Monday, October 12, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Check if attending

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recycle Snowflakes | <input type="checkbox"/> Napkin Art |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make & Take Pressed Flowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Whimsical Stick People |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Succulent Pumpkins | <input type="checkbox"/> Operation Gratitude |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Nesting Bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Tissue Paper Flowers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Napkin Ring Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Surprise |

Enjoy Palm Trees, Ocean Breeze & Each Other – Dinner Monday, October 12

Dinner and games will be available as well as good conversation.
This is an informal gathering to celebrate getting together again!

Enjoy Bugs (But Not for Lunch) – Lunch Tuesday, October 13

Jorge Ochoa will thrill us with an up-close and personal view of bugs.

Enjoy the Best of the Pacific Region – Banquet Tuesday, October 13

Celebrating our Pacific Region Life Members and our Award Winners.

Enjoy a Tour of the Pacific Region Through its Flora – Lunch Wednesday, October 14

Nicholas Staddon will enthrall us with a peek at new plants and introductions.

Enjoy an evening of Pacific Region Bingo – Banquet Wednesday, October 14

Robin Pokorski will entertain us with customized bingo games with fabulous prizes.

Oh, come on!
Join us – it's going be
great fun!

