

Golden Gardens

Official Publication of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

July-August 2026

Vol. 1-19



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Monarch Butterfly on Sunflower

by Bernadette Garcia-Roger of El Cerrito Garden Club

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See 2025-26 *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*

Golden Gardens

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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

Aug. 10, PRGC's Firewise Webinar #4: Personal & Family Preparedness. [To register](#).

Aug. 31-Sept. 2, CGCI Fall Board Meeting, Harris Ranch, Coalinga. Host: Hermosa Garden Club. [Registration Form](#), [Tentative Schedule](#), [Hotel & Additional Information](#)

Sept. 17, NGC Fall Board Meeting, Virtual

Sept. 14, PRGC's Firewise Seminar #5: "Personal & Family Preparedness." [To register](#)

Sept. 24-26, Flower Show School, Course 4, Valley Center. Sponsor: Southwestern Judges Council. [Updated Brochure](#)

Oct. 12-14, PRGC Convention, Thousand Oaks, California. Chairman: [Robin Pokorski](#). [Information, Tentative Schedule and Registration](#).

Oct. 27-28, Flower Show School Symposium, Handlery Hotel, San Diego. For more information, contact Flower Show Schools Chairman [Jennifer Waite](#).

2027

Jan. 25-27, CGCI Winter Board Meeting, Virtual

April 5-8, PRGC Convention, Portland, OR

May 13-17, NGC 96th Convention, Madison, WI

June 7-10, CGCI 95th Convention, Redding

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.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CGCI Members,

Summer is in full bloom, and looking back on the enthusiasm we generated at our 94th Annual CGCI Convention, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride. From May 11–14, 2026, members from across the state gathered in beautiful San Diego to celebrate "Seeds of Liberty – Celebrating America's 250th Birthday."

A huge, heartfelt thank you goes to the Palomar District for serving as our phenomenal host. This wonderful event would not have been possible without the tireless

dedication of Convention Chairman Diana Drummey and the many local club members who contributed their time, energy, and creativity. Your hospitality made every attendee feel right at home, and the seamless execution of such a large event is a testament to your incredible teamwork.

The convention was launched with spectacular energy on our first day, thanks to the Palomar District hosting its famous Floral Design Forum. It absolutely dazzled local floral design enthusiasts and set a high standard of inspiration for the days to follow.

That creativity carried over into the NGC Design Specialty Flower Show, "Star-Spangled Bloom – An American Floral Salute." The flower show was a true highlight of the convention, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to everyone who entered your stunning, patriotic designs, which brought our convention theme to life.

Beyond the visual beauty, our convention focused on business and learning. We are grateful to all of our guest speakers, who generously shared their gardening knowledge, and to everyone who stepped up to lead our workshops. Whether exploring new gardening techniques or doing creative projects, our attendees walked away inspired, energized, and ready to bring new ideas back to their home clubs.

Thank you all for making the 94th Annual CGCI Convention a success. As we move forward, let's continue to nurture the "seeds of liberty" and community we planted together in San Diego.

Warmest regards,

Adele Kelly

2025-2027 President

See the photos taken by *Golden Gardens* Photographer Brad Welles from the CGCI 2026 Convention in San Diego on CGCI's Instagram Page:
<https://www.instagram.com/californiagardenclubs/>

2026 CGCI FALL BOARD MEETING

By [Alexis Slafer](#), 2026 Fall Board Meeting Chairman

Hermosa Garden Club of Costa Verde District is looking forward to welcoming you to the upcoming CGCI 2026 Fall Board Meeting as we “Live Life in Full Bloom.” Once again, our Fall Board Meeting will be held at the Harris Ranch Resort in Coalinga from August 31 to September 2, 2026.

Harris Ranch Resort
24505 W. Dorris Avenue, Coalinga, CA 93210
Hotel Phone Number: 559-935-0717

The Call to the 2026 Fall Board Meeting has been sent to all Board Members. You can find the [Registration Form](#), [Tentative Schedule](#), and [Hotel & Additional Information](#) on the CGCI website (see home page and calendar).

For your convenience, here are some Fall Board Meeting tidbits:

- The guaranteed CGCI rate for the sleeping rooms is \$179, inclusive, with free parking.
- August 16 is the deadline to reserve your hotel room at that rate. **Use Group Code 2TV1GJ when making your reservation.**
- August 21 is the deadline to register for the meeting.

The meals are on your own. There are several restaurants at the Resort and in the local community. (A good option is The Harris Ranch BBQ located across the street.)

- August 21 — Deadline to register (a late fee will be applied if your registration is received between August 22 and 26).
- August 26 — No registrations will be accepted after this date.
- August 31 — Registration and distribution of meeting packets will take place near the pool patio from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. There will be other opportunities—if you miss this one.
- August 31 — Our first gathering will be a Fun and Games Night (dominoes, cards, puzzles, and more).
- September 1 & 2 — Forums & Business Meetings
- September 1 — A great day for purchasing and depositing your raffle tickets for fabulous prizes

This will be a fabulous opportunity to learn about what our clubs and districts are doing to “Cultivate the Roots of Success” here in our California Garden Clubs. See you soon!



SCHOLARSHIPS

By [Martha Smyser](#), Scholarship Chairman



This year, seven California students received scholarships from California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI), Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. (PRGC), and National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). They are an outstanding group of scholars.

Six students each received a \$2,000 scholarship from CGCI. The students are Mollie Bressler (a senior at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo), Casey Lewis (a graduate student at USC), Gisell Muniz (a senior at CSU Chico), Savannah Scheuermann (a sophomore at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo), Cole Ishimaru (a junior at UC Davis), and Cherisse Hunt (a sophomore at Mt. San Antonio College). Cherisse Hunt was also awarded the \$1,000 PRGC Scholarship.

Three students each won a \$3,800 scholarship from NGC: Cherisse Hunt, Cole Ishimaru, and Sala Des Rosiers (a junior at Stanford).

Finally, here is a special thank you to Paradise Garden Club and the Sequoia Foothills District for their donations to our Scholarship Fund.

CALIFORNIA: HERE COMES THE PACIFIC REGION CONVENTION



By [Greg Pokorski](#), PRGC Convention Publicity Chairman

The annual convention of Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. (PRGC) is being hosted by CGCI, and we want CGCI members to be there to welcome our guests from the western states that belong to the Pacific Region. Come meet and network with fellow garden club members. Learn what clubs are doing in other states. Share what your clubs do in California. Get ideas for club activities at the workshop extravaganza.

The convention takes place at the Palm Garden Hotel in Thousand Oaks from October 12 to 14, 2026.

Pre-convention tours take place on October 10 (Strathearn Historical Park and Moorpark Teaching Zoo) and October 11 (Ronald Reagan Presidential Library). You can catch the bus in Encino or at the convention hotel.

Complete registration information is available on the [PRGC](#) and [CGCI](#) websites, in [the May 2026 issue of WACONIAH](#) (the Pacific Region quarterly publication) and in the [May-June 2026 issue of Golden Gardens](#). CGCI districts are graciously donating fabulous raffle prizes. You definitely want a chance to win one or more of these.

Convention Chairman [Robin Pokorski](#) has sent a Wish List of stuff and personnel needed to all California clubs and districts. Contact her to advise what YOU can do for YOUR Region. Just as important, **we want YOU to attend**. The convention committee is planning to show you a good time. Those who register before August 1 will be entered in a drawing for a fabulous prize. Bring your club and district banners to display. Come enjoy "Palm Trees 'n Ocean Breeze." Group room rate is \$129 – free parking – breakfast included. It's time for a garden club vacation!

2026 PACIFIC REGION CONVENTION TOURS

By [Alexis Slafer](#), PRGC 2026 Convention Tours Chairman

As members of California Garden Clubs, we are looking forward to welcoming the garden club members of the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. (PRGC) to PRGC's 2026 Convention. We are planning exciting and fun pre-convention tours around Southern California, so mark your calendars and arrive on Friday, October 9 to take advantage of these adventures.



Doctors' Colony Houses

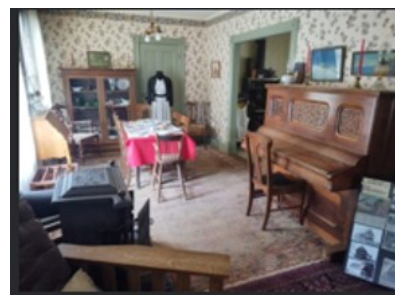
Our tour on Saturday, October 10, takes us to two unique sites with a stop for a tasty lunch. We will start with a visit to **Strathearn Historical Park** in Simi Valley. The 6½-acre park is dedicated to preserving many of Simi Valley's earliest buildings. The museum has photos, letters, and other artifacts that record the lives of the early pioneers. Docents will lead tours through the site, or you may stroll on your own.

Lunch will be at **The Hat**. The Hat is a beloved Southern California restaurant, famous for its "World Famous Pastrami" dip sandwiches. Established in 1951 in Alhambra, the restaurant quickly made its signature pastrami a local favorite and is known for its generous portions and casual, retro atmosphere. You can also enjoy regular classic American fast food. We will partake of our delicious, order-your-own lunch at the Simi Valley location.

After lunch, we will continue our tour with a visit to **America's Teaching Zoo** at Moorpark College. Established in 1974, it is one of only two zoos in the United States located on a college campus. America's Teaching Zoo serves as the "living classroom" for the students of the Animal Care and Training Program. This collection of 125 animals provides students with a unique opportunity to learn about domestic and non-domestic animals and to develop the skills necessary to work in facilities that care for all types of animals. We will meet with the students, tour the zoo, and, of course, see the animals (tigers, reptiles, Galapagos tortoise, African lion, and more). If you would like to attend a "show," there will be a Wildlife Presentation by the students in the Wildlife Theater.

Following our time at The Teaching Zoo, we will board the bus and return to Thousand Oaks and our hotel for a relaxing evening.

(Continued on next page)



Interior of a Doctor's Colony House

2026 PACIFIC REGION CONVENTION TOURS (Continued)



Replica of the Oval Office

Sunday, October 11, will be a one-stop tour. Join us as we visit the **Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum** in Simi Valley. With views of the Pacific Ocean, the 125,000-square-foot museum tells the story of our 40th President. This, the largest and most visited presidential library, tells the story of his life, his career as an actor and politician, and houses the final resting place of the President and First Lady. You will see displays and exhibits, including a chunk of the Berlin Wall; the plane the President flew as Air



Air Force One

Force One; Marine One; and a replica of the Oval Office. As you walk the gardens, look for the Blue Star Memorial Marker, sponsored by Southern California Garden Club, located near the F-117 Nighthawk Stealth Fighter.

Lunch is on your own. There are several options. The Gipper's Bar + Bistro, near the gift shop, has several stations serving salads, soup, pizza, and grilled options. Perhaps you might want to try President Reagan's famous chili? The Ronald Reagan Pub on the first floor of the Air Force One Pavilion offers sandwiches, salads, drinks, and snacks. Enjoy your lunch while looking up at Air Force One. And before departing, you might want to set aside time to visit the gift shop.

Following our day of history and inspiration, we'll return to our hotel and prepare for the business of the 2026 PRGC Convention.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

By [Greg Pokorski](#), Chairman

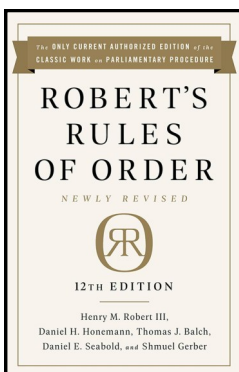
CGCI bylaws were amended (five proposals) by the membership at the 2026 convention in San Diego. CGCI standing rules were amended (one proposal) by the board of directors at the pre-convention board meeting. The updated master documents will soon be posted on our website and included in the 2026-2027 *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*, which will be published this summer. The most significant change is those who have served as vice president or president may be considered by the Nominating Committee, if necessary, to again serve in one of these positions. Remember that the delinquent date for dues payments has changed from October 1 to July 15 and a late fee applies to payments postmarked after July 15. That change was approved at the 2025 convention, but becomes effective now.



Members may submit proposed amendments to CGCI's bylaws, standing rules and policy. Proposed bylaws amendments must be received by the Governance Committee Chairman by November 1 in order to be considered at the 2027 CGCI Winter Board Meeting. Standing rules and policy amendments may be submitted at any time. Suggestions should be submitted by the webform found on the website <https://www.californiagardenclubs.com/bylaw-amendment-request-form/> (About CGCI; Governance; Governance/Amendment Request Form).

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS

By [Greg Pokorski](#), Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Parliamentarian
(Reprinted from the May 2026 *WACONIAH*)



February of this year marked the 150th anniversary of the first publication of *Robert's Rules of Order* in 1876. Henry Martyn Robert was not trained as a lawyer or politician. He was a general in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who became interested in meeting procedure after being asked to preside over a church meeting that quickly became confusing and disorderly. That experience led him to study parliamentary law and create a practical guide that ordinary citizens could use, not a scholarly treatise. He wanted a guide that would help real groups conduct real meetings. It is remarkable that a 19th-century book still shapes meetings today. The original pocket-sized volume has evolved into a more detailed and comprehensive work. *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* remains the most widely used parliamentary authority in the United States. For 150 years, it has helped groups move from disagreement to decision in a fair and orderly way. That is worth celebrating.

Reference: *150 Years of Robert's Rules of Order* by Jim Slaughter

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERS ONLY SECTION – 2026-27 ANNUAL RENEWALS



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 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

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

- 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).

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)**. This form will be available in September.
- 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

YOUTH CONTESTS

SUMMERTIME IS A GOOD TIME TO ENTER THE YOUTH CONTESTS

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

If the kids are looking for a project this summer, they can participate in one of CGCI's youth contests. They can enter individually through a friend's garden club. Please ensure that their information is provided on the back of the entry, so we know where to send the winner's prize.

Pick from the following contests or enter all of them!

- **Sculpture Contest, 4-8th grades**, just send 2 pictures, not the full structure. Have fun emptying the recycle bin and see what you can build.
- **Youth Poetry Contest, K-12th grades**. Theme: "Plant America Red, White and Blue to celebrate America's 250th Birthday"
- **Pollinator Poster Contest, K-6th grade**. If you need a youth activity for an event, this is a good one to do. You just need a regular-sized paper and crayons or colored pencils. Re-

member, only one type of pollinator -- no bees and butterflies.

- **Junior Essay Contest, 1-5th grades**. Titled "Celebrating America's Birthday in the Garden"
- **Smokey Bear/Woody Owl Poster Contest, 1-5th grades**. These entries must be sponsored by a garden club. Smokey Bear says: "Only you can prevent wildfires!" Woody Owl says: "Lend a hand—care for the land!"

For more information and to make sure the entry will qualify, see the [Youth Contest Manual](#) on the CGCI website before you start. CGCI eagerly awaits your entries. Submit them now instead of waiting until December 1.

If you have any questions, text me at 818-929-2841.

2025-2027 PRESIDENT’S PROJECT

CULTIVATING THE ROOTS OF SUCCESS

ABRAXAS HIGH SCHOOL GARDEN — ABRAXAS ORCHARD

By Barbara Weiler, Chairman



School is out for the summer, and construction has started on the Abraxas High School Orchard expansion. Heavy machinery is removing old trees and grading the area in preparation for planting beds, pathways, and a greenhouse for seed starting. In addition to growing plants for their own gardens, the Abraxas students supply seedlings to other school gardens in the district. Below are some pictures of the computer-generated plans for the orchard.



Thank you to everyone who supported the silent auction and sales table at the CGCI Convention in San Diego. We have raised \$27,815 for this worthy project.

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

Jeanne Johnson
Maria Krenek
Cherry Blossom Garden Club
Chicago Park Garden Club

Fallbrook Garden Club
Green Thumb Garden Club of Milpitas
Hermosa Garden Club
La Jolla Garden Club

Pleasant Valley Garden Club
Santa Clara Valley District
Walnut Creek Garden Club
Youth Friends Association, Inc.



TO DONATE TO THE CGCI PRESIDENT’S PROJECT, SEE THE CGCI WEBSITE AND LOOK UNDER THE “PROJECTS” TAB.



PENNY PINES PROGRAM

By Terry Sampson, ChairmanPENNY PINES DONATIONS — JUNE 2026 REPORT

2026 Donations to Date: \$15,028.00

H = In Honor
M = In MemoryBAY BRIDGES DISTRICT

El Cerrito Garden Club	
H: Mary Mashuta	\$68
Pinole Garden Club	
H: Paula Fahey	\$68
H: Nan Yarbrough	\$68
San Leandro Garden Club	
H: Ruth Kail	\$68
H: Elma Olson	\$68
H: Vivian Vittoria	\$68

BAY OCEAN DISTRICT

Garden Study Club of the Peninsula	\$68
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COSTA VERDE DISTRICT

Hermosa Garden Club	
H: Brian Sousa	\$68
H: Kambria Vint	\$68

DIABLO FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club	
M: Claire Billingsley	\$68
Walnut Creek Garden Club	
H: Sally Meyers	\$68
H: Lori Guariento	\$68
H: Christine Nichols	\$68
H: Cora Metivier	\$68

GOLDEN FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Auburn Arrangers Guild	
M: Jim Flynn	\$68
Chicago Park Garden Club	
M: Jim Jonas	\$136
H: Sharon Clark	\$68
Placerville Garden Club	\$612

GREATER LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

West Valley Garden Club	\$136
M: Renee Rockower-Wade	\$68
M: Joe McCauley	\$68

LUTHER BURBANK DISTRICT

Petaluma Garden Club	\$136
MENDO-LAKE DISTRICT	
Fort Bragg Garden Club	
H: Cornelia Reynolds	\$68

ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT

Del Norte Garden Club	
M: Eric Weinrich	\$68
Niguel Shores Garden Club	
M: Paul Ferguson	\$68
San Clemente Garden Club	
H: Simone Costes	\$68
H: San Clemente Tree City USA	\$68
H: 75 th Anniversary	\$68
M: Clara Foulger	\$68
M: Prescott Cogswell	\$68

PALOMAR DISTRICT

Fallbrook Garden Club	
M: Marie Hokeness	\$68
M: Jan Wilkin	\$68
M: Jim Hamilton	\$68
M: Phil Lucas	\$68
La Jolla Garden Club	
M: Wolfram Forster	\$68
Paradise Garden Club	\$68
Poway Garden Club	\$612

ROADRUNNER DISTRICT

Desert Crossroads Garden Club	
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H: Craig Robinson	\$68
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SACRAMENTO RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT

Elk Grove Garden Club	\$136
Fairfield Garden Club	
H: 70 th Anniversary	\$68
M: Pauline Davidson	\$68
M: Randy Godden	\$68

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DISTRICT

Southern California Garden Club	
H: Patt McDaniel	\$68

SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT

Marina Tree and Garden Club	
H: Justina (Tina) Walsh	\$408

VALLEY LODGE DISTRICT

Linden Community Garden Club	
H: Lee Miller	\$68
Manteca Garden Club	
H: J. J. Yott	\$68
H: Gloria Martinez	\$68
M: Tom Wilson	\$68
Newman Garden Club	
H: Paula Gomez	\$68
Oakdale Garden Club	
M: Douglas Frey	\$68
H: Oakdale Garden Club	\$136
Turlock Garden Club	
M: Peggy Morris	\$272

YOSEMITE GATEWAY

LeGrande Community Garden Club	
M: Libbi Enochs	\$68

INFORMATION**Monterrey Pine (*Pinus radiata*)**

The Monterey Pine has upward pointing branches and a rounded crown. The needles are bright green and appear in clusters of three, are slender and measure about three inches long, and have a blunt tip. The brown cones are ovoid are usually seen asymmetrically on the branches. The fissured bark is dark brown/grey, and the cones need the heat of a forest fire to open. The Monterey Pine can be found in Santa Cruz, Monterey Peninsula, and San Luis Obispo Counties in California. It is a rare and endangered tree in the wild, whose resinous nature and twisted and knotty appearance differs from the Monterey Pine in cultivation commonly used for lumber. The Monterey Pine can be grown along the fog bank but typically does not thrive further inland.

Source: <https://treevitalize.com/pine-trees-in-california>. Photo: <https://www.calflora.org>

HORTICULTURE

FUSCHIA

By [Judy Unrine](#), Herbs, Spices & Edible Flowers Chairman



Fuchsia coccinea

Most fuchsias originated in South America. In 1703, Charles Plummer, a French Jesuit botanist, published *Nova Planetarium Americanism* and first described the species *Fuchsia coccinea*.

James Lee, owner of Vineyard Nursery in Hammersmith, Middlesex, England, specialized in exotic plants. In the 1800s, Lee was told of a plant with flowers that hung in rows like tassels, their richest color crimson, the center of the fold a deep purple. He asked if he could buy the plant. Instead, he was given a loan of the plant for eight guineas. He took every vestige of blossom and blossom bud and divided it into cuttings. The next year, he had 300 plants. He gave the original owner two plants and sold the rest for a guinea each! As Lee discovered, fuchsias are easy to grow from cuttings.

Fuchsias make attractive, small, summer-flowering shrubs. Grow in sun or partial shade, pruning in early spring. Although few can be considered fully hardy, a protective mulch may be used in winter, provided it does not retain water, which can cause the stem to rot. In frost-prone areas, grow in containers.

From the tiny variety, *F. 'Tom Thumb,'* a dwarf, compact shrub with scarlet sepals and violet-purple petals, to the species *F. magellanica* with bright red sepals and purple petals, there is something for everyone. The colorful flowers of the latter are completely non-toxic and edible. They can be used in jams and jellies, and added to deserts like pancakes, yogurt, or fruit salad.

Of more interest are the Fuchsia berries. Fuchsia berries are the edible, dark seed pods produced by fuchsia plants after flowering. The seed pods offer a mild, tangy-sweet flavor often described as a mix of citrus, grape, and pepper. Fuchsia berries are safe to eat and high in nutrients. They can be used in jams, jellies, and salads. When fully ripe and soft, they can be eaten fresh.

A couple of cautions: Be sure that you have identified the plant as a Fuchsia. Other plants that have Fuchsia-colored berries can be mildly to very toxic. Also, make sure that the Fuchsia plant has not been sprayed with an insecticide. For Fuchsia berry recipes, please contact me for recipes. Below is one for Fuchsia jelly:

Fuchsia Jelly

- Wash and stem ripe fuchsia berries. Cover to top of berries with water.
- Boil until berries can be mashed. Strain through cloth.
- To 1 cup of juice, add 2 tablespoons of pectin and 1 cup of sugar.
- Follow directions on pectin package.

Photo Credit for *F. coccinea*: Krzysztof Ziarnek, Kenraiz - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=135525345/> Photo Credit for *F. magellanica*: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wi>



Fuchsia magellanica

FROM OUR CLUBS

PLASTIC FREE PICNICS—YES YOU CAN!

By Maria Orefice of Southern California Garden Club

Summer is here, and there will be plenty of opportunities to picnic outside in a park, on a hike, on your patio, or in your backyard. Host a “PLASTIC-FREE PICNIC” and encourage your friends and family to use no plastic at the celebration. Your plastic-free gathering is a chance to show your friends there is life without plastic. And they will see how easy it is to live sustainably.

To start, here are a few suggestions:

- Encourage guests to bring food and drink without plastic wrap. They can buy in bulk, go to the local farmers market, and make something homemade from scratch.
- Ask friends to bring their beverage in a reusable bottle or serve drinks from glass bottles or cans. And please, no plastic straws.
- Use a cloth tablecloth. Please, no single-use tablecloths allowed.
- Bring salads and sandwiches in reusable containers or

wrapped in wax paper bags.

- Bring nuts, cheese, and treats from a bulk food store.
- Have reusable cutlery and dishes available. No plastic plates or cutlery allowed!
- Bring along cloth napkins—so easy!
- If you are decorating, no balloons. Decorate with real flowers or paper flowers and paper cutouts. A crafty guest may volunteer to decorate for the event.
- Please compost any food scraps and pack leftovers in reusable containers for your friends to take home.

Your plastic-free picnic will introduce friends and family to the joy and ease of living sustainably. Not only will you be contributing less waste into the environment, you will also connect with nature while celebrating the beauty that surrounds us.

Enjoy a PLASTIC-FREE PICNIC this summer!



ATTENTION: CLUB PRESIDENTS

Over the summer, please consider reading a guide that was created by CGCI to assist club presidents. It is called “[Blue Ribbon Achievement for Clubs — A Guide for Garden Club Presidents](#)”

It can be found on the CGCI website under the “Membership & Dues” tab and then the “Forms & Publications” tab.



PRGC'S FIREWISE COMMUNITIES WEBINARS

The final two webinars:

Monday, August 10, 2026, 2:00 pm - 3:00 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, 2:00 pm - 3:00 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-2nROmVkJZUH_3pDw



FROM OUR CLUBS

THE PEACE LILY (*SPATHIPHYLLUM*)

By Georgia Scott, Member of Red Bluff Garden Club



The Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum*) is a popular, low-light-tolerant houseplant known for its dark green leaves and white "flowers" (spathes) that resemble flags of peace. Though not true lilies, they are tropical, evergreen plants, native to the rainforest floors of Central and South America. Discovered in the Colombian jungle by Gustav Wallis, they became popular in Europe around 1870. The name comes from the Greek words *spathe* (spoon) and *phylon* (leaf), referring to the bract.

These plants thrive on the forest floor, receiving dappled sunlight and consistent moisture and humidity. As a houseplant known for its air-purifying qualities, it is easy to care for and thrives in consistently moist, well-draining soil, humidity, and indirect light, which replicate its native conditions. Misting the leaves, or using a pebble tray, and fertilizing a few times a year will keep the plant healthy and blooming consistently.

The peace lily holds universal appeal, but its cultural interpretations vary slightly. In Western traditions, this plant is commonly given at funerals, where it symbolizes sympathy and a wish for peace for the departed and their loved ones. In Eastern practices, such as feng shui, it is believed to attract positive energy and create balance in a home or office.

It is a well-known natural air purifier. NASA's Clean Air Study highlights the peace lily's ability

to filter toxins like benzene, formaldehyde, and carbon monoxide. Its air-purifying properties contribute to healthier indoor environments.



The peace lily's versatility and symbolism make it an ideal gift for various occasions. Do not be shy about bringing a *Spathiphyllum* to a housewarming, because it will always find a nice spot in its new home. Its air-purifying abilities and low-maintenance nature make it a practical and meaningful gift for new homeowners. Mark milestones like new jobs or personal

achievements with a gift that symbolizes growth and resilience, like a peace lily. And, since white is the color of mourning in many cultures, you could gift a plant to send your condolences. It is considered a thoughtful gesture of sympathy and hope in times of loss.



FROM OUR CLUBS

GIANT CHAIN FERN, *WOODWARDIA FIMBRIATA*

By Jessica Lyle, Member of Fallbrook Garden Club

San Diego County is a biodiversity hotspot, with more biologically distinct varieties of plants and animals than any other county in the U.S. The U.S. has 91 oak species, 15 of which are found in San Diego County. There are around 3,600 bee species in the U.S.; 702 are found in San Diego County. In North America, there are approximately 380 fern species, and in San Diego County, one of California's driest counties! San Diego County has 47 confirmed fern species. The largest of San Diego County's ferns is the Giant Chain Fern.

Unlike most other plants, ferns do not have "stems" or "leaves," they have "stipes" and "blades."

They do not reproduce via pollen and seeds. Instead, they produce spores. This means they need sufficient moisture to successfully reproduce, which makes San Diego's ferns real marvels of the natural world.

The giant chain fern is unusual even among ferns for the size of its range, as it is found all the way from British Columbia to the tip of Baja California Sur.

Most ferns thrive in specific environments where they prefer to grow, but this behemoth can flourish in the shadow of redwoods or in the scant shade of toyon in San Diego County's chaparral. It is considered rare in Washington and Oregon, but somewhat common in California.

**The Fern Song**

**Dance to the beat of the rain, little Fern,
And spread out your palms again,
And say, "Tho' the Sun
Hath my vesture spun,
He hath labored, alas, in vain,
But for the shade
That the Cloud hath made,
And the gift of the Dew and the Rain."
Then laugh and upturn
All your fronds, little Fern,
And rejoice in the beat of the rain!**

— John Bannister Tabb

It is also the largest fern in North America, growing anywhere from 3 to 8 feet tall (depending on its location), with a width to match. Both these facts helped it earn the name "Giant."

It is also the only evergreen fern in its genus, "Woodwardia." All the rest die back during the dry or cold parts of the year.

It prefers full shade and moist, well-drained, acidic soil, but is drought-tolerant once established.

It is frost-sensitive; the fronds will die off if things get too cold, but even with this limitation, they have been found growing above 6,500' in the Sierra Nevada Mountains - another proof of hardiness.

It is a recipient of the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.

It is also useful! Native California tribes use fibers made from these ferns in basket weaving and hut thatching; its long fronds were used to line the top and bottom of earth ovens for baking acorn bread and other foods; and the roots were used by the local Payómkawichum for pain relief.

So, if you have a shady spot in your yard that could use an evergreen statement plant, consider the beautiful and hardy Giant Chain Fern.

Photo Source: <https://www.gardenia.net>

UC MASTER GARDENER ADVICE

APHIDS ARE DELICIOUS!

By Sharon Rossi, Member of Petaluma Garden Club & UC Master Gardener



Aphids are delicious if you are a ladybug or a garden spider! However, most gardeners dread skipping out to their vegetable gardens to pick a ripe red tomato or a crisp green lettuce leaf, only to find tiny pear-shaped aphids sucking the sap out of the plants. Sometimes, it seems like insect pests are everywhere, ready to plunder our harvests. However, remember that insect populations are in decline, and our earth relies on insects to pollinate crops, recycle waste, nourish other animals in the food chain, and provide beauty and balance to our world.



Nevertheless, we can use non-chemical methods for controlling insects in our gardens while also enjoying a few tomatoes and lettuce leaves for our own consumption. If you are looking for science-based answers to pest management issues in California, visit <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/menu.homegarden.html> for information.

EGGSHELLS IN THE GARDEN: DO THEY REALLY HELP?

--From the [UC Master Gardeners of Riverside County](#)

UC Master Gardener Betty Guida-Ingalls explores a common gardening question: Do eggshells actually add calcium to your soil—and do your plants even need it?

In Southern California, most soils already contain adequate calcium for healthy plant growth. That means adding eggshells is often unnecessary unless a true deficiency exists.

Possible signs of calcium deficiency include:

- Small, misshapen young leaves
- Crinkled or torn foliage
- Brown, necrotic spots along leaf edges
- Browning leaf veins
- Stunted growth

If your plants are not showing these symptoms, you likely do not need to save and grind eggshells for your garden.

What about eggshells?

Eggshells are primarily calcium carbonate, but they break down very slowly.

Research shows:

- Coarsely crushed eggshells provide little immediate benefit.
- Finely ground eggshells can be effective but require significant processing.

It is also important to note that common issues like blossom end rot are often related to inconsistent watering, which limits calcium movement within the plant, not a lack of calcium in the soil.

Before adding amendments, test your soil.



AWARDS

2025 SPECIAL AWARD RECIPIENTS



Jeanne Johnson of Southern Humboldt Garden Club, 2025 Person of the Year, with President Adele Kelly



Greg Pokorski of Southern California Garden Club, 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient, with President Adele Kelly



Gail Vanderhorst of Southern California Garden Club, 2025 Lifetime Service Award Recipient, with President Adele Kelly



Judy Paul of Red Bluff Garden Club, 2025 CGCI, Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc. Member Award of Honor Recipient, with President Adele Kelly

Award of Merit — Peggy Beller of Roseville Better Gardens Club

Award of Merit — Chris Bushman of Colfax Garden Club

Award of Merit — Donna Payton of Poway Valley Garden Club

Gardener of the Year — Pamela Thompson of Roseville Better Gardens Club

Youth Leader of the Year — Jeannette Lowery of Colfax Garden Club

AWARDS

2025 CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

- #1 — Community Impact — 1st, Southern California Garden Club
 #2 — Blue Star/Gold Star Marker Landscaping — 1st, Southern Humboldt Garden Club
 #3B — Civic Development — 1st, San Pedro Garden Club

2025 CLUB/DISTRICT AWARD RECIPIENTS

- #11 — Achievement Single Event — 1st, Fallbrook Garden Club. 2nd, Red Bluff Garden Club
 #12 — Club Program — 1st, Chicago Park Garden Club. 2nd, Southern California Garden Club. 3rd, Vista Garden Club
 #13 — Club Touring — 1st, Organic Garden Club of Ventura County. 2nd, Long Beach Garden Club. 3rd, Chicago Park Garden Club
 #14 — Garden Therapy — 1st, Willow Glen Garden Club. 2nd, Red Bluff Garden Club
 #15 — Home Garden Tour — 1st, Fallbrook Garden Club
 #16 — Membership Promotion — 1st, Cherry Blossom Garden Club. 2nd, Orangevale Farm & Garden Club
 #17A — Seminar & Workshop — 1st, Vista Garden Club
 #18 — Ways & Means — 1st, Chicago Park Garden Club. 2nd, Southern California Garden Club

2025 ENVIRONMENT & HORTICULTURE AWARD RECIPIENTS

- #22 — Container Gardening — 1st, Sara Chandler of Colfax Garden Club. 2nd, Anite Urie of Roseville Better Gardens Club
 #24 — Horticulture — 1st, Southern California Garden Club
 #27 — Unique Backyard Enhancement — 1st, Bruce Thompson of Roseville Better Garden Clubs. 2nd, Mona Koyle of Year Around Garden Club

2025 FLOWER SHOW AWARD RECIPIENTS



1st
PLACE



2nd
PLACE



3rd
PLACE

- #37 — Flower Arranger of the Year — 1st, Robin Hutchins of Shibui Arrangers Guild. 2nd, Dyanna Madro of Poway Valley Garden Club. 3rd, Marlene McGuinness of Shibui Arrangers Guild

AWARDS

2025 FLOWER SHOW AWARD RECIPIENTS (continued)

#38 — Floral Design Program — 1st, Chicago Park Garden Club

2025 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD RECIPIENTS



40-1



40-2

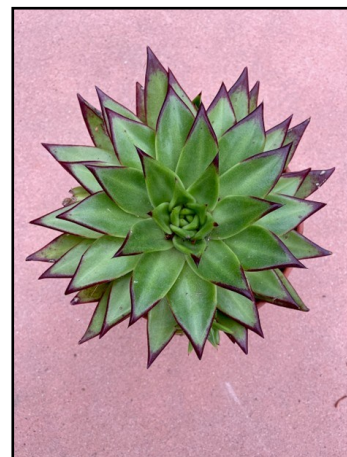
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40-5



40-4



40-6

AWARDS

2025 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD RECIPIENTS (continued)

#40-1 — Applicant's Own Garden — 1st, Shelley Sparks of Southern California Garden Club

#40-2 — A Cactus/Cacti Grown and Maintained by Applicant — 1st, David Clark of Vista Garden Club

#40-3 — A Named Rose, Single Bloom or Spray Grown by Applicant — 1st, Tina Waycie of Shibui Arrangers Guild

#40-4 — Flowering Woody Tree or Shrub Grown by Applicant — 1st, Terry Sampson of Hesperia Garden Club

#40-5 — Named California Arboretum or Botanical Garden — 1st, Diane Clark of Vista Garden Club

#40-6 — A Succulent Grown and Maintained by Applicant — 1st, Ellyn Meikle of Riviera Garden Club

#41 — California Arboreta/Botanical Garden — 1st, Barb Kennedy of Vista Garden Club. 2nd, Shelley Sparks of Southern California Garden Club

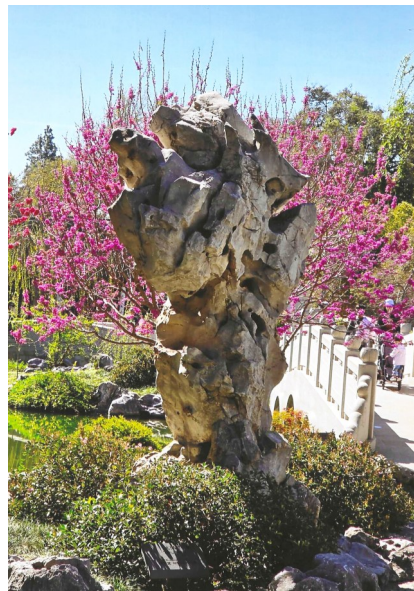


**1st
PLACE**

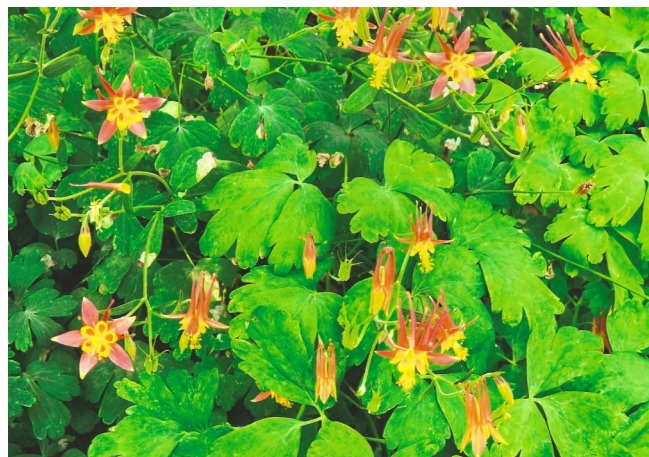


AWARDS

2025 PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD RECIPIENTS (continued)



**2nd
PLACE**



2025 NEWSLETTER AWARD RECIPIENTS

#50-1 — District Newsletters — 1st, Costa Verde District

#50-2, Class A — Club Newsletters — 1st, Hesperia Garden Club

#50-2, Class B — Club Newsletters — 1st, Fallbrook Garden Club. 2nd, Petaluma Garden Club. 3rd, Southern California Garden Club. HM, Roseville Better Gardens Club

#50-2, Class C — Club Newsletters — 1st, Ramona Garden Club. 2nd, Redding Wonderland Garden Club

2025 PUBLICATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

#51-1, Class A — Articles — 1st, Judy Paul of Red Bluff Garden Club. 2nd, Denise Michul of Divide Garden Club

#51-1, Class C — Articles — 1st, Greg Pokorski of Southern California Garden Club. 2nd, Maria Orefice of Southern California Garden Club. 3rd, Debbie Marshall of Red Bluff Garden Club

AWARDS

2025 PUBLICATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

#51-2, Class A — Publications — 1st, Fallbrook Garden Club. 2nd, Southern California Garden Club. 3rd, Colfax Garden Club

#51-2, Class B — Publications — 1st, Roseville Better Gardens Club. 2nd, Roseville Better Gardens Club

#52 — Social Media — 1st, Folsom Garden Club. 2nd, Lompoc Valley Botanic & Horticultural Society. 3rd, Orangevale Farm & Garden Club

#53 — Website — 1st, Los Angeles Garden Club. 2nd, Fallbrook Garden Club. 3rd, The Lodi Garden Club

#54-1 — Club Yearbook — 1st, Pioneer Garden Club. 2nd, Shibui Arrangers Guild. 3rd, Anderson Valley Garden Club

#54-2 — Club Yearbook — 1st, The Fairfield Garden Club. 2nd-Tie, Cherry Blossom Garden Club. 2nd-Tie, Ferndale Garden Club. 3rd, Newport Hills Garden Club

#54-3 — Club Yearbook — 1st, Long Beach Garden Club. 2nd, Divide Garden Club. 3rd, Linden Community Garden Club. HM, Toluca Lake Garden Club

#54-4 — Club Yearbook — 1st, Los Angeles Garden Club. 2nd, Burbank-Valley Garden Club. 3rd, Hesperia Garden Club. HM, Redding Wonderland Garden Club

#54-5 — Club Yearbook — 1st, Red Bluff Garden Club. 2nd, Vista Garden Club. 3rd, Year Around Garden Club. HM, Walnut Creek Garden Club

#54-6 — Club Yearbook — 1st, Naples Islands Garden Club. 2nd, Southern California Garden Club. 3rd, Fallbrook Garden Club. HM, Folsom Garden Club

#55 — District Yearbook — 1st, Golden Foothills District. 2nd-Tie, Cascade District. 2nd-Tie, Valley Lode District. 3rd, Sacramento River Valley District. HM, Costa Verde District

2025 CLUB YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENTS

#65A — Activities for Youth Garden Club — 1st, Walnut Creek Garden Club

#65B — Activities for Youth Garden Club — 1st, Toluca Lake Garden Club

#65C — Activities for Youth Garden Club — 1st, Lake Oroville Area Garden Club

2025 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

#70 — Educational Schools — San Fernando Valley District

#71 — Flower Show Award of Excellence — Vista Garden Club

#72 — Most Flower Shows in a District — Cascade District

#75A — Most New CGCI Life Memberships in a District — Sequoia Foothills District

#75B — Most New CGCI Life Memberships in a District — Cascade District

#77A — Penny Pines Plantations Most Purchased — “A” Garden Club of Big Bear Valley

#77B — Penny Pines Plantations Most Purchased — Pacifica Garden Club

AWARDS

2025 SWEEPSTAKES AWARD RECIPIENTS

#78-1, Sweepstakes — Shibui Arrangers Guild
 #78-2, Sweepstakes — Cherry Blossom Garden Club
 #78-3, Sweepstakes — Chicago Park Garden Club
 #78-4, Sweepstakes — Los Angeles Garden Club

#78-5, Sweepstakes — Red Bluff Garden Club
 #78-6, Sweepstakes — Southern California Garden Club
 #78-8, Sweepstakes — Cascade District

CGCI 2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

- #1 Published Article, Pamphlet or Book) (CGCI #51, Sec. 1A) , 1st, Judy Paul of Red Bluff Garden Club
- #1 Published Article, Pamphlet or Book) (CGCI #51, Sec. 1C) — 1st, Greg Pokorski of Southern California Garden Club
- #2 Newsletters (CGCI #50, Sec. 1) — 1st, Costa Verde District
- #2 Newsletters (CGCI #50, Sec. 2B) — 1st, Fallbrook Garden Club
- #3 Yearbook (CGCI #54) — 2nd, Pioneer Garden Club
- #3 Yearbook (CGCI #54) — 3rd, The Fairfield Garden Club
- #3 Yearbook (CGCI #54) — 1st, Long Beach Garden Club
- #3 Yearbook (CGCI #54) — 1st, Los Angeles Garden Club
- #3 Yearbook (CGCI #54) — 1st, Red Bluff Garden Club
- #3 Yearbook (CGCI #54) — 1st, Naples Islands Garden Club
- #4 Any Other Publication (membership related) (CGCI #51. Sec. 2A) — 1st, Fallbrook Garden Club
- #4 Any Other Publication (membership related) (CGCI #51. Sec. 2A) — 1st, Colfax Garden Club
- #4 Any Other Publication (non-membership related) (CGCI #51. Sec. 2A) — 1st, Roseville Better Gardens Club
- #6 State Newsletter — 1st, California Garden Clubs, Inc. *Golden Gardens*
- #7 State Yearbook — 1st, California Garden Clubs, Inc.
- #8 Any Other State Publication (*Blue Ribbon Achievement for Clubs*) — 1st, California Garden Clubs, Inc.
- #9 Civic Achievement (CGCI #1) — 1st, Southern California Garden Club
- #9 Civic Achievement (CGCI #1) — 1st, Toluca Lake Garden Club
- #9 Civic Achievement (CGCI #3) — 1st, San Pedro Garden Club
- #10 Blue Star Memorial Marker Landscaping (CGCI #2) — 1st, Southern Humboldt Garden Club
- #11 Fundraising Project or Event (CGCI #11) — 1st, Fallbrook Garden Club
- #11 Fundraising Project or Event (CGCI #11) — 1st, Red Bluff Garden Club
- #12 Garden Therapy (CGCI #14) — 1st, Willow Glen Garden Club
- #15 Flower Show Schedule — 2nd, Vista Garden Club
- #19 Social Media (CGCI #52) — 1st, Folsom Garden Club
- #19 Social Media (CGCI #52) — 1st, Lompoc Valley Botanic & Horticultural Society
- #19 Social Media — 1st, California Garden Clubs, Inc.
- #20 Website (CGCI #53) — 1st, Los Angeles Garden Club
- #20 Website (CGCI #53) — 1st, Fallbrook Garden Club
- #20 Website — 1st, California Garden Clubs, Inc.
- #22 Arbor Day — 1st, Modesto Garden Club

CGCI 2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

5 Certificates of Merit – Overall Winners

- Judith Paul (Red Bluff Garden Club, Cascade District) Member Award of Honor from Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Lake Oroville Area Garden Club (Buttes District) – Horticulture Activity for Youth Garden Club
- Ramona Garden Club (Palomar District) – Newsletter 13-25 pages
- California Garden Clubs, Inc. – Largest Paid Membership Increase
- California Garden Clubs, Inc. – Publication, Manual or Handbook (*Blue Ribbon Achievement for Clubs*)

7 Certificates of Commendation – Runners Up

- Sara Chandler (Colfax Garden Club, Golden Foothills District) — Container Gardening
- Toluca Lake Garden Club (San Fernando Valley District) — Horticulture Activity for Youth Garden Club
- Walnut Creek Garden Club (Diablo Foothills District) — Horticulture Activity for Youth Garden Club
- Costa Verde District — Newsletter
- Ripon Garden Club (Valley Lode District) — Community Impact
- California Garden Clubs, Inc. — *Golden Gardens* Newsletter
- California Garden Clubs, Inc. — Website