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eNewsletter of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

December 2011 Vol. 3-12

[Julie A. West](#), President
[California Garden Clubs, Inc.](#) is a Member of [Pacific Region](#),
[National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)



Message from the President [Julie A. West](#)

Holiday Greetings!

It is hard to believe the holiday season is upon us and 2011 is almost finished. 2012 promises to be a productive year pursuing CGCI's objectives with several activities including CGCI's winter board meeting, symposium, San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, the wildflower conference and convention, just to name a few.

In addition, ALL club presidents as well as any treasurers are welcome to attend the special IRS workshop scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2012 in Pismo Beach (10:00 to 11:30 a.m.) at the Cliffs Resort. Anyone attending ONLY this one special IRS workshop and nothing else will not be subject to the registration fee. CGCI has hired George Perko's professional services as a CPA to review the current IRS requirements including the amnesty program recently announced by the IRS for clubs to file their paperwork, pay required fees applicable, etc. This has become a serious situation for many clubs, not just those within CGCI's Group Exemption program. The workshop is also being planned for the 2012 convention in Sacramento.

Wherever you find yourself during this festive time of the year, I hope you are surrounded by those close to you. Best wishes for a happy holiday season and success in your garden club endeavors in 2012!



Winter Board Meeting in Pismo Beach February 6-9, 2012

[Click here](#) for Cover Letter.
[Click here](#) for FYI.
[Click here](#) for Tentative Schedule.
[Click here](#) for Proposed Bylaw Changes.
[Click here](#) for Registration Form.

Order your [Rene van Rems](#) products now to be picked-up at Winter Board. [Click here](#) for more information. Remember that proceeds benefit the [CGCI President's Project](#).



CGCI Group Exemption News

If you missed the article entitled "IRS News Flash" last month, [click here](#) to read it again and look under the November 2011 Supplement issue.



CGCI is on Facebook!

NOT a Facebook subscriber? It doesn't matter -- you can [click here](#) to see CGCI's Facebook blog. And remember to leave "likes," a common term used in Facebook. You can also get to CGCI's Facebook page via the [CGCI website](#). Once on CGCI's home page, scroll down, and on the bottom left you will see a box labeled "CGCI on Facebook." Click on "California Garden Clubs, Inc." or scroll down to see the latest postings.

Questions, contact the [CGCI Facebook Administrator](#). And please send anything which you would like placed on the CGCI Facebook page to the CGCI Facebook Administrator, [Pat Clayes](#), if you are unable to post yourself. Pat will be glad to post your blogs for you. And photos would be very much appreciated.

CGCI's Facebook page was just recently created, and the site is getting over 600 hits per month! **Brag** about your club/district's accomplishment and **share** your gardening, landscaping, floral design, etc. information, experiences and advice on CGCI's Facebook page!



MEMBERSHIP & YOU

By [Sue Bennett](#), CGCI 2nd VP - Membership Chairman & APS Liaison

Happy Holidays to Everyone!

Please send any contact information changes that your club, associate plant society or affiliate may have to me, so I can forward the changes the appropriate CGCI and NGC personnel.

NEW MEMBERS:

Thank you to the many clubs which have sent the [Dues Payment for Additional Members](#) joining during the period of July 1 through November 30, 2011. Your club contact should have received CGCI membership cards by now - if not, contact me and I will mail the cards to your club. As a reminder when reporting additional members, please mail the form to me on a quarterly basis -- not every time a new member joins your club. **NOTE:** One club in Southern California did not receive its membership cards as the cards were returned by the USPS. The envelope was destroyed, so I cannot tell which club this is. If your club did not receive CGCI membership cards, please let me know and I will mail the cards to your club.

EVENTS

By now, most of you have already put your calendars together for 2012. Remember to always have your club's membership forms and CGCI brochures, rack cards and bookmarks on hand to give to your guests at your meetings. You can order these by [clicking here](#) - [CGCI Promotional Materials Order Form](#). I will be more than happy to send what your club needs - there is no cost for the material; your club simply pays for the shipping.

STILL LOOKING FOR THAT PERFECT GIFT FOR SOMEONE?

Why not give a membership for your garden club or for a club in the person's area.



Civic Development

CGCI Civic Development Chairman, [Jerry Thirloway](#) advises -- "Getting involved in some fashion in your community, especially landscaping, would be a worthwhile project."

Jerry also advises: There are many ways for individuals and garden clubs to involve themselves in projects to beautify and improve their communities. Rehabilitating a landscape can sometimes be as simple as planting a few shrubs and doing a little weeding.

Holding A Flower Show This Year?

If your club or district is holding a flower show this year, **PLEASE** remember to

notify the Flower Show Awards Chairman, [Susan Coolidge](#). All flower shows need to be registered with Susan. See the CGCI website for the form to register your flower show.

Robert & Hoberley Schuler Want to Know!

[\(Robert & Hoberley Schuler](#) are Master Gardeners and NGC Environmental, Gardening & Landscape Design Master Consultants)

- Do you have a garden question?
- Has your club helped a new member with some garden idea?
- Do you have ideas for involving children in your garden planning?
- How do you get your spouse involved with your club?

Robert and Hoberley Schuler have been a part of CGCI for so many years now that CGCI has stopped counting! Even though the Schulers have moved to Oregon (right on the California border), they are (and always will be) a part of CGCI. So, if you have the answers to any of their questions, please contact them. As you may know, not only do Robert and Hoberley write columns for CGCI, but they also write for several newspapers throughout the West.

Does your newspaper include articles for gardening? If not, please let the Schulers know and they will contact and "dazzle" the newspaper with their weekly articles. And, the best is that the Schulers do not charge -- just another wonderful way to promote CGCI and your garden club!

Message from Nominating Committee

The following offices are open for consideration to be filled for the 2013-2015 term: 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer. The Nominating Committee is charged with finding the best qualified candidates available for all positions.

Please let a member of the Nominating Committee know if you are interested in one of these positions. The members consist of [Kathy Bramhall](#) (Chairman), [Nancy Johnson](#), [Carole Lung](#), [Merrilee Ray](#), [Sandy Rogers](#), [Margaret Strachan](#), [Carlotta Wixon](#). Contact Kathy Bramhall if you wish to complete a personnel form.

For a job description from the CGCI Bylaws for the above positions, see pages 130-131 of the 2011-2012 CGCI *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*.



River Cruise to *Floriade*

By [Bob Gordon](#), Tours Chairman

We are very close to booking all of the staterooms in our block. If you are planning on joining us, please contact [Chris Merkel](#) at 877-651-7447 or [email](#) as soon as possible. *Keukenhoff* in tulip time is the horticulture extravaganza of the once in ten years *Floriade*. We will also visit the famous Aalsmeer Flower Auction and experience relaxing travel aboard a beautiful AMA river cruise ship. Note: This is a CGCI fundraiser.

Awards

Remember the Second Postmark Deadline:
January 10

If you have any questions about awards, please contact [Pat Clayes](#), Awards Chairman. [Click here](#) to see the updated Awards Manual. [Click here](#) to see the evaluation forms for the 2011-2012 awards year.



Awards Due January 10:

- CGCI Lifetime Achievement Award
- CGCI Lifetime Service Award
- CGCI Man of the Year Award
- CGCI Woman of the Year Award
- CGCI Gardener of the Year Award
- Award of Honor
- Award of Merit (3)
- Youth Leader of the Year Award
- CGCI Flower Arranger of the Year Award
- Gardening Consultant of the Year Award
- Landscape Design Consultant of the Year Award
- B-1 Civic Development Award
- B-3 Civic Landscape Award
- B-4 Landscape Design Advocate Award
- C-1 Conservation Projects
- C-3 Restoration & Reforestation Fund Promotion Award
- C-9 Bird Conservation
- C-10 Backyard Habitat Award
- C-13 Butterfly Conservation Portfolio
- G-5 Membership Promotion Award
- G-7 Touring Award

- G-8 Club Program Award
- G-9 Seminar & Workshop Award
- G-11 Achievement for a Single Event
- G-16 Ways & Means
- G-18 Garden Therapy Award
- C-6 Photography Award: California Wildflowers
- G-6 Photography Awards - Photo Collection
- G-10 Photography Awards - Single Photograph
- G-17 Photography Award - California Arboretum/Botanic Garden(s) Collection
- HT-1 Horticulture Award
- HT-2 Memorial Planting Award
- HT-3 Best "Green" Recipe Award
- HT-4 Photography: Home Garden Award
- HT-5 Home Garden Tour Award
- PR-1 Publicity Press Book Award
- PR-2, Sec. 3 - Article by an Individual
- FS-1A CA Flower Show Achievement Award
- FS-1B CA Flower Show Achievement Award, Small Standard Show
- FS-9 CA Flower Show Achievement Award, All Horticulture Show
- FS-5 Designer's Choice Award
- FS-6 Flower Show Schedule Award
- FS-7 Flower Show Staging Award
- FS-14 Flower Show Table Setting Award

See pages 93-94 of the 2011-2012 *CGCI Yearbook, Manual & Roster* for a list of awards and where to send them, or [click here](#) to see the list.

Youth Awards

By [Linda Riddle](#), Youth Awards Chairman

Youth Awards Due January 10:

- Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster
- Youth Penny Pines Award
- J-1 Gardening Achievement Award
- J-2 Conservation Award
- J-3/HS-7 Civic Beautification Award
- J-4 Essay Contest - How Do Trees Help the Environment?
- J-9 Horticulture Award
- J-12 Flower Arranger Award
- J-13 Youth Arbor Day Essay & Tree Planting - California Arbor Day
- J-FS Youth Flower Show/Specialty Youth Flower Show Award



- HS-1 Conservation Award
- HS-2 Horticulture Award
- HS-3 Environmental Award
- HS-4 Photography Award
- HS-5 Flower Arranger Award

Message from Awards Finance Chairman

By [Win Archibald](#)

Thank you to all awards sponsors for the 2011-2013 term. If you are interested in being an awards sponsor, please contact the [Awards Chairman](#).

Endowments

By [Bob Gordon](#), Endowments
Chairman

Charter membership in the CGCI Endowment and the CGCI Scholarship Endowment is open until June 2012. We hope you will consider giving to these financial security funds for CGCI. All donors will be invited to a very special event just prior to the 2012 convention. If your donation is \$500 or

more, the event will be free to you. Free drink tickets will be given to donors according to the amount of your donation. Make your check payable to CGCI, note in the memo line which endowment you want to support and mail your checks to Bob Gordon, 1532 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Your donations are tax deductible, and you will receive a letter to use for the IRS.

You can also arrange to leave funds to these two endowments in your will. Arrangements can be made through your personal attorney and [Principal Financial Group](#). Questions: Contact anyone on the Endowment Committee -- [Joan Craig](#), [Robin Pokorski](#), [Bev Brune](#), [Dave West](#), [Elisabeth Tufo](#) or [Bob Gordon](#).





Blue Star News

By [George Unrine](#) & [Sandy Rogers](#)

The CGCI Blue Star Restricted Fund is able to provide grants to support the acquisition of new memorial markers or to refurbish older memorial markers. Clubs and districts can also contribute to the fund as a way to "keep those blue stars shining." For more information, contact one of the CGCI

Blue Star Chairmen. Also, [click here](#), to view additional information on the CGCI website.

"Home Grown"

By [Myrtle Findley](#), CGCI Home Grown Chairman & CGCI Gardening Consultants Council Chairman

Vegetables, fruits, melons, nuts, animals, etc., raised and grown on the soil near where one is living, is what "home grown" is all about. "Home grown" encourages club members to know where produce is grown. Use fresh **produce**. Better yet, if you have space on your deck or in your yard, grow something yourself! Experience the reward of picking your own herb, pepper, tomato or potato. In rural areas, there is the reward of chickens -- eggs! Most supply stores in all areas carry cages for chickens; so anyone can raise chickens if there is a bit of space and local laws permit.



Trees - If a home has room for trees, plant a tree that produces a fruit or nut. These trees give shade plus the bonus of something to eat.

Tuck in Plants - Tuck in a few onion plants amongst your blooms; and then tuck a few parsley plants here and there. All types of thyme can be added as borders for a neat finish. Corsican mint is a wonderful ground cover and can be harvested as well (and a great smell on which to walk).

New **Southern blueberries** thrive in the heat and sun; plus it is a shrub to

interplant with blooms. While gardening, snack on a few! Think useful plants amongst your beautiful flower blooms.

Another good home garden plant is the **raspberry**. There are many different kinds. Plant them at the back of the garden along a sunny fence and keep their feet moist and mulched. Some varieties produce all summer long; others in the spring and fall. Shop around for different varieties.

Please remember to enter for CGCI HT-3 Best "Green" Recipe Award and HT-4 Photography: Home Garden Award. [Click here](#) for the CGCI Awards Manual for more information about these awards. The deadline to submit entries is **January 10**. Submit entries to Myrtle Findley.



California Native Plant News

By [Margaret Strachan](#), Chairman

Did you know that last year, the [California Native Plant Society](#) was successful in having the state legislature designate the third week in April each year as "[California Native Plant Week](#)"? The legislature recognized that "California native plants, being perfectly suited to California's climate and soil, require far fewer fertilizers, soil amendments or pesticides and use 60 to 90 percent less water than conventional landscapes."

In the coming years, the California Native Plant Society aims to make California Native Plant Week an increasing statewide celebration of our beloved flora. More information will be given at CGCI's winter board to the district directors with a request that the information be distributed to all clubs.

Please Note: The [California Native Plant Society](#) will hold its 2012 Conservation Convention, January 10-14 in San Diego at the Town and Country Resort Hotel. There will be over 200 oral presentations in 22 sessions, 24 workshops, 25 exhibitors and vendors and 2 pre-conference field trips, one to [Mission Trails Regional Park](#) and the other to [Torrey Pines State Park](#). There will also be botanical art and photography contests, poetry reading and a songfest, plus a Science Cafe for roundtable discussions on hot topics! This is the only conference in California that focuses on applied science and research for conservation of native plants and habitats. The sessions address subjects ranging from planning and policy to restoration and management to horticultural science. The conference expects to draw up to 1,000 participants! For more information, [click here](#).



Design to Create a Successful California Garden

By [Alexis Slafer](#), ASLA, CGCI Landscape Design Schools Chairman

(from handout at CGCI Bi-Refresher in Valley Center, October 2011)

Good design is the result of the design process, incorporating the principles and elements of

landscape design:

Elements of Design: line, form, texture, color, pattern, mass & void, light & shadow.

Principles of Design: proportion, harmony, scale, contrast, balance, rhythm, composition, spatial definition, context.

[Editor's Note: To learn more about landscape design, attend a National Garden Clubs, Inc. Landscape Design School. California districts and clubs are urged to sponsor Landscape Design Schools. To do so, please contact Alexis Slafer.]



CGCI Scholarships

By [Albert Chang](#), Scholarship Co-Chairman

The application deadline for the two \$2000 CGCI Scholarships is **January 15, 2012**. If you have any questions, please contact [Evelyn Broaddus](#) or [Albert Chang](#), the CGCI Scholarship Co-Chairmen. [Click here](#) for the 2012-2013 Scholarship Application form.



News from National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Have YOU seen what's on Flickr?



By [Robin Pokorski](#), NGC Photo Archiving Chairman

Our [NGC Flickr site](#) is growing. Is your club or district represented? There are fantastic pictures of flower shows and designs; of Blue Star Memorial Marker plantings; of garden therapy workshop ideas; of interesting Arbor Day ceremonies and plantings. Use Flickr as YOUR idea book - share your pictures with others and get new ideas from others.

Send pictures with a short description identifying the group, project and location. Your Flickrettes are particularly seeking **Blue Star Memorial Marker** plantings and **hydrangeas** (our NGC President's favorite flower) pictures. Do it today!

Send pictures to [Robin Pokorski](#). Then visit our [Flickr site](#) -- your online idea book!



News from Pacific Region

In conjunction with its convention in Anchorage, Alaska in July 2012, the Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc. will be holding a pre-convention tour to Fairbanks, Chena Hot Springs, Denali National Park and much more... [Click here](#) for more information.

Back to School

Upcoming Schools/Refreshers &



Flower Show Judges Symposia in California

Environmental, Flower Show, Gardening & Landscape Design

Check CGCI [Calendar of Events](#) for links to brochures, flyers, registration forms, etc.

- **February 12-14, 2012** - CGCI Flower Show Judges Symposium, Handlery Hotel, San Diego. Contact [Laura Crenshaw](#) if you have any questions. [Click here](#) for the registration form.
- **April 17-19, 2012** - Flower Show School, Course 4, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, Sacramento. [Carolyn Flynn](#), Registrar, [Mary Arakelian](#), Chairman. Instructors: Sandra Joyce (Horticulture), Char Mutschler (Design).
- **August 20-22, 2012** - Flower Show School, Course 1. Sponsor: Judges Council of Southern California. Chairmen: [Martha Hunt](#) & [Linda Lang](#).
- **January 7-9, 2013** - Flower Show School, Course 2. Sponsor: Judges Council of Southern California. Chairmen: [Martha Hunt](#) & [Linda Lang](#).
- **August 12-14, 2013** - Flower Show School, Course 3. Sponsor: Judges Council of Southern California. Chairmen: [Martha Hunt](#) & [Linda Lang](#).
- **January 6-8, 2014** - Flower Show School, Course 4. Sponsor: Judges Council of Southern California. Chairmen: [Martha Hunt](#) & [Linda Lang](#).

Upcoming CGCI Official Events (other than schools)

See [CGCI Calendar](#) for club, affiliate, associate plant society and district "special" events which are open to the public.

- **February 6-9, 2012** - Winter Board Meeting, The Cliffs Resort, Pismo Beach. Host: Montana de Oro District. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **March 21-25, 2012** - [San Francisco Flower & Garden Show](#) - CGCI is a sponsor. [Click here](#) for discount ticket information for CGCI members. [Click here](#) for the schedule of the standard flower show, *The World Around Us*, which will be held in conjunction with the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show.
- **April 4-6, 2012** - Wildflower Conference, Holiday Inn, Palmdale. Chairmen: [Merrilee Ray](#) & Wanda Hewett. May become a bi-refresher for Gardening Study and Environmental Studies! More information to follow.
- **April 12-20, 2012** - River Cruise - The Netherlands (CGCI Fundraiser). Chairman: [Bob Gordon](#).

- **May 16-19, 2012** - NGC Convention, Buffalo, NY.
- **June 3-7, 2012** - CGCI Convention, Cal Expo Sacramento DoubleTree, Host: Sacramento River Valley District.
- **June 3-9, 2012** - National Garden Week.
- **July 26-28, 2012** - [Pacific Region](#) Convention, Fairbanks, Alaska.
- **September 6-9, 2012** - Fall Board Meeting, San Mateo. Host: Executive Committee. Chairman: [Julie West](#).
- **September 26-29, 2012** - NGC Fall Board Meeting, Little Rock, AR.
- **February 2013** - CGCI Winter Board Meeting. Host: Golden Foothills District.
- **April 2013** - [Pacific Region](#) Convention. Host: CGCI. Chairman: [David West](#).
- **May 21-27, 2013** - NGC Convention, Seattle, WA.
- **June 3-7, 2013** - CGCI Convention, San Diego. Host: Palomar District. Chairman: [Jane McKee](#).
- **June 5-9, 2014** - CGCI Convention, Glendale. Host: San Fernando Valley District.

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