



eNewsletter of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

November 2011 Supplement
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[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](#)



As Thanksgiving rapidly approaches, we have many things to be thankful for - family for one. In addition, garden club friends are very special people and often times provide support when we need it the most that we can all appreciate at this time of year.

May you find yourself sharing this Thanksgiving with family and friends; creating special memories for each of you to treasure.

Awards Due on 12/1/11

Youth Awards:

- J-5 Poetry Contest - "Colorful Fruits" or "Tasty Vegetables" (choose one)
- J-14 Youth Sculpture Contest
- HS-6 Essay Contest - "The Benefits of Community Gardens"



NOTE: The theme for Smokey Bear is **ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES!** Contact [Linda Riddle](#), Youth Awards Chairman, or [Denise Davis](#), Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman, if you have any questions.

Adult Awards:

- Flower Show Judge of the Year Award
- CGCI Community Impact Award
- B-2 Civic Development Award
- C-7 Operation Wildflower Award
- PR-2, Sections 1 & 2, Newsletters
- PR-2, Section 4, Publication other than a Yearbook or Newsletter
- PR-4 National Garden Week
- PR-5 Website Award
- PR-6 Video Award
- G-1 Council Yearbook Award
- G-2 Club Yearbook Award
- G-3 District Yearbook Award
- NGC Flower Show Achievement Awards (NGC #5 Standard Flower Show; NGC #30 District Standard Flower Show; NGC #57 Standard Flower Show Stages in a Public Building)

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](#).

All National Garden Clubs, Inc. award entries for which there are no CGCI equivalent awards must be **postmarked by December 1**. Note the new NGC award changes on pages 91-93 of the 2011-2012 *CGCI Yearbook, Manual & Roster* and in the Awards Manual which is on line. [Click here](#) for the Awards Manual. Please especially note that NGC award applications must be submitted to the CGCI Awards Chairman, [Pat Claves](#), except for Flower Show Awards which must be submitted to [Susan Coolidge](#). **All awards from CGCI clubs and districts must be forwarded to NGC in one package by the CGCI Awards Chairman.**

IRS News Flash



The November 18, 2011 (Issue No. 2011-18) of the IRS Exempt Organizations Update-e-News for Charities and Nonprofits has important information for clubs, districts, etc. struggling with filing requirements, had their tax exempt status revoked, etc. Here are some important IRS links for you to review if you find yourself not in compliance with current IRS

requirements as outlined on the [IRS website](#):

<http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=240101,00.html>

Reinstatement of tax-exempt status after automatic revocation:

[Click here](#) for a link which includes additional links on user fees, Notice 2011-43, and a short YouTube video every club president and treasurer should consider viewing.

Organizations that need to file first - Form 990-N e-Postcard:

If you have never filed, please contact Customer Account Services at 1-877-829-5500 (a toll-free number) and ask that an account be established for the organization to allow filing of the e-Postcard.

Filing prior-year forms 990-N:

You can file a Form 990-N "e-Postcard" for a prior year. However, you must file through one of the IRS's approved e-file service providers rather than through the link to the filing system on the [IRS website](#). For example, if the organization's tax year ended on December 31, 2009 and you attempt to file your 2009 e-Postcard after the close of your 2010 tax year (December 31, 2010), you can only file for 2010 unless you file through an approved e-file service provider. While there is no penalty for late filing an e-Postcard, your tax-exempt status will be **automatically revoked** if you do not file for three consecutive years. Please note: The requirement to file Form 990-N is an annual requirement. Contact the IRS at 1-877-829-5500 (a toll-free number) to ask how to find IRS-approved e-file service providers.

"Amnesty Program" to get properly registered with the IRS:

The IRS has what is essentially an "amnesty program" going on through 12/31/12, which will allow most clubs to get reinstated properly for only a \$100 fee, not the \$400 or \$800 figures listed for form 1023. But you, the club presidents and treasurers, are responsible for doing this, and it's clear the IRS means business and will enforce their regulations further for clubs that refuse to comply.

For legal reasons, we must add the following disclaimer: CGCI is not a licensed tax preparation firm and cannot provide assistance as to specific facts and circumstances. You may wish to consult with local tax professionals regarding specific facts and circumstances. The above advice

cannot be relied on to avoid penalties that may be assessed by the IRS under certain specific facts and circumstances.

NOTE from the President: A very special workshop is scheduled for Thursday morning, February 9, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at CGCI's 2012 Winter Board meeting in Pismo Beach which will be presented by nonprofit professional [George Perko](#), CPA, MBA.

The IRS in Your Garden: Recent Tax Reporting Changes and Ways to Keep Your Garden Club in Compliance, presented by George Perko, CPA, MBA.

This workshop will summarize the many changes in reporting for garden clubs at the federal, state and Registry of Charitable Trust levels. Practical advice will also be supplied for various problems garden clubs are reporting, and there will be interactive questions and answers.

As stated above, CGCI is not a licensed tax preparation firm and is unable to provide information related to a particular club/district's facts and circumstances, so CGCI is hiring a professional to give this workshop. This same workshop is also being planned for the 2012 Convention in Sacramento.



Special CGCI Priced [Rene van Rems](#) Merchandise

Just in time for the holidays, CGCI members are being offered a unique opportunity to special order [Rene van Rems](#), AIFD merchandise at special prices

exclusive to CGCI. The paperback, [Rene's Bouquets](#), as well as a custom gift box of 20 note cards and envelopes make inexpensive gifts for any occasion. Orders may be placed in two ways with two pricing structures:

Pay full retail price including sales tax and shipping charges. Order **before December 20** for arrival in time for the holidays.

OR

Pay a discounted price, including sales tax, and have your order picked up at CGCI meetings (board meetings and conventions), with the first being the 2012 Winter Board Meeting in Pismo Beach.

[Click here](#) for Order Form for complete details. Net proceeds will benefit the educational signage project at the [Kenneth M. Stocking Native Plant Garden](#) at [Sonoma State University](#). Contact [Linda Simonds](#), President's Project Coordinator via email or 707-537-6885, if you have any questions.

Winter Board, February 6–9, 2012

in Pismo Beach, CA
By [Bob Gordon](#), CGCI President
2005-2007



Plan to come early and stay after. The hotel offers the same rate for 1 day prior (Sunday, 2/5/12) and 1 day following (Thursday, 2/9/12) our winter board meeting (subject to availability).

Before the Winter Board Meeting, enjoy the thousands of monarch butterflies in the eucalyptus grove just south of the hotel, a visit to the [Leaning Pine Arboretum](#) on the Cal Poly Campus, wine tasting in the [Edna Valley](#) or just wandering the beach and enjoying the coastal town of [Pismo Beach](#).

Monday evening, prior to the Board meeting, have a great learning experience in the grafting workshop with [Dr. Joe Sabol](#) (limited to 25) and go home with your own grafted tree. Following the Board meeting, join us for the one and a half day tour north on the coast (limited to 50) visiting the [Piedras Blancas Lighthouse](#) (newly restored), the [elephant seal rookery](#) and a special curator tour at [Hearst Castle](#). We will stay overnight at the [Cavalier Resort](#) in [San Simeon](#), have time for lunch and shopping in beautiful [Morro Bay](#) and . . . Do not forget the tour to the [San Luis Obispo Lighthouse](#) on Tuesday morning, February 7, (limited to 50) which includes brunch. Sign up for the tours and workshops when you receive the "Call" and enjoy the Central Coast where the sun comes to spend the winter.

