Golden Gardens eNews

www.californiagardenclubs.com

February 2017, Vol. 9-2

Member
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Pacific Region

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cgcipresident@cagardenclubs.org

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Golden Gardens eNews
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Golden Gardens eNews

- published monthly
- distributed electronically FREE
- to subscribe or view past issues: californiagardenclubs.com/cgcinewsletters
- Deadline to submit articles: 15th of the month.

Find us on Facebook

and flickr

From the President's desk...

Pray for Rain!

I think our prayers have been answered. When I wrote this article, it was a sunny day; however, it rained or should I say poured the day before with more rain on its way. Folks are saying we received more rain in two days than we did all last year total. Loving the rain, love it even more when there is a day or two with no rain so the ground dries out – and I can prune my roses. 50 roses pruned with 350 left. Goal is to have them pruned by Valentine's day.

My travels: Unfortunately, I had to cancel two visits due to illness. My apologies to the members of the Chicago Park Garden Club for missing out on their annual Victorian Tea – it would have been my tenth time attending. My apologies also to the members of the Linden Community Garden Club – I enjoyed myself from the previous year and was really looking forward to it again.

The President's Project received grant monies from the Auburn Garden Club, and since Auburn is practically in my back yard, I was honored to be there to accept the check. Thank You! I also attended their Christmas luncheon a few weeks later.

Mid-December, I was fortunate to attend the Southern California Garden Club's Christmas Luncheon/Meeting. It was great visiting with members, who remembered seeing me in June. I attended the Colfax and Roseville Better Gardens Club Christmas luncheons as well. It is amazing how many times one sings the *Twelve Days of Christmas* and how it is "performed."

In January I attended the Folsom Garden Club meeting and it was standing room only.

Late February will take me south to the Palomar District – I hope it is warm and sunny. Doesn't matter what the weather would be, I am sure it will be an educational and fun time. I'm even doing their new officer's installation.

I enjoy meeting members and getting to know California as I travel throughout the state.

Thank you for your continued support to the President's Project and thank you for the opportunity to serve as your CGCI President.

Cheers,
SueB

Mr. Colfax decked out for the holiday

Rita & Greg getting ready for the So Cal luncheon

CGCI Official Calendar

californiagardenclubs.com/calendar

- **January 30-February 2: CGCI Winter Board Meeting:** Host: Cascade District
- **March 27-29: CGCI Wildflower Conference** Co-Chairmen: Merrilee Ray & Janice Wagner; Kernville.
- **April 18-20:** Pacific Region Convention, Seattle, WA
- **May 16-21:** NGC Convention, Richmond, VA
- **May 30-June 3: CGCI Convention,** San Luis Obispo

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NGC Schools Calendar *(California)*

All registration forms are on the CGCI website Calendar page
californiagardenclubs.com/calendar
Go to gardenclub.org
for schools in other states

- **March 13-15: Flower Show School, Course 4,** Sponsor: Southwest Judges Council; Poway, CA, Chairman: Emily Troxell
- **June 25-28: Flower Show Symposium,** Ontario, Chairman: Lili Aram-Bost

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Would you like to sponsor a NGC School? Contact one of the CGCI Schools Chairman for details.

January 30 - February 2, 2017
CGCI Winter Board Meeting

Host: Cascade District
Co-Chairmen: Kathy Bramhall & Carolyn Hoyum
Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson, CA
Workshops/programs: Bugs, Figs/Olives, Bees and Soil;
& a Recycle/Repurpose/Reuse Fashion Show
Special: "Leap Into Leadership" workshop led by Robin Pokorski

NOTE: The Tri-Refresher scheduled for February 24-25, 2017 has been POSTPONED. Please watch for the announcement of the replacement date.

Flower Show School, Course IV
Chairman: Emily Troxell
Host: Southwestern Judges Council
March 13-15, 2017 - Templars Hall, Old Poway Park, Poway, CA

Flower Show School, Course IV will feature two outstanding instructors.

- **Gina Jogan:** Design and Flower Show Procedure: Gina has a broad range of experiences with the NGC, local and state affiliates. Her designs have been widely published. She is a NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, Gardening Consultant and Landscape Design Critic, Instructor - Floral Design Study School (A Bob Thomas Creation), and a member of OFAD.
- **Billie Fitch: Horticulture:** Billie lives in Nordland, WA. She received her MS in Marine Biology and then used the degree to teach Human Anatomy, Physiology and Biology at Green River Community College, Auburn, WA for 28 years. She has been a Horticulture and Flower Show Procedure instructor for 6 years.

Registration form/flyer is available at
http://californiagardenclubs.com/calendar

The best way to garden is to put on a wide-brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell somebody else where to dig.

Club & District Corner

Ceres GC: Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest - Over 300 posters were submitted from grades 1 – 5 from many schools throughout Ceres Unified After School Program. Not an easy task, the judging required heart-breaking elimination of great posters due to slight infraction of the official rules. Final selections were forwarded to California Garden Clubs, Inc. for state judging. All students will be awarded a Certificate of Participation, with prizes going to the winners in each grade level.

Judging the posters →

Ramona GC: Each year several clubs in San Diego decorate trees for the annual December Nights festival in Balboa Park. Over 200,000 people attend the two day event. Ramona members made ornaments for their entry that followed the theme "Plants with Animal Names." Ornaments included Dogwood, Foxglove, Skunkweed, Catnip, Kangaroo Paws and more. Children had a great time matching the plant to the animal ornaments.

Southern California GC: Anyone recognize the "tall" elf spreading cheer at the annual Christmas luncheon? →

And check out the clever cork reindeer "place cards." ←

San Diego Garden Guild: In February the Guild will hold a Valentine's Day Tea with a special guest from the Beatrix Potter Society. The Society, based in London, England has publicized the event on their website. Congratulations on obtaining international recognition.

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Club newsletters: Did you know? There are currently 322 garden clubs and associate plant societies in the CGCI family. Of those **only NINE (9) organizations send copies of their newsletter to this editor!** *Golden Gardens eNews* is YOUR voice in CGCI and we would love to highlight your wonderful, creative and inspiring projects and activities. Please add the following to your mailing list:

goldengardens@cagardenclubs.org

In the Garden this month…
Excerpted from
Sunset Magazine

- Following our unexpected but much-needed rain be prepared. Mosquitoes breed in anything that holds standing water: pots, buckets, dishes, and birdbaths, etc. Hose out birdbaths regularly and empty vessels filled with dirty water.
- Cut back ornamental grasses before new growth starts. Gather the blades by looping twine around the clump, about 12 inches above ground. Pull the twine tight around the blades, and then cut the grass about 4 to 6 inches above ground. Compost the clippings.
- Start seeds of beets, carrots, collards, fava beans, kale, leeks, lettuce, parsley, peas, rutabaga, spinach, and turnip.
- Cut back woody shrubs**.** Zones 7-9, 14 -17: To stimulate lush new growth on artemisia, butterfly bush, fuchsia, and Mexican bush sage, cut back woody stems to within a few inches of the ground. If left unpruned, plants become leggy and scraggly-looking.
- If your cymbidium orchids are bulging out of their containers or the bark has decomposed, it's time to repot them. Do this between mid-February and early July to assure bloom next season. Remove old bark, cut off dead roots, and discard soft or rotted bulbs. Repot the plant into a larger container, or divide plants into groups of three to five pseudobulbs (bulbs with leaves). Replant in medium-size bark or purchase a cymbidium mix.
- Give your sweetheart a valentine that will live on long after February 14. Tie a red ribbon around a lemon tree or put a bow on a bare-root rose. Or choose a flowering plant that can go outdoors after bloom is through. Choices include azaleas, camellias, carnations, gardenias, and Oriental lilies.

E is for Edible Flowers
By Judy Paul, Red Bluff Garden Club

I had to think a bit for an alphabet themed topic. E seemed a bit elusive until I thought of edible. I knew that Nasturtiums and squash blossoms were edible, but can't say that I have tried either of them. Well, with the help of Google, I discovered that there is a huge variety of flowers that are edible! If you are intrigued with the possibilities of new tastes, then Google for more details. I also saw that Pinterest has many recipes with awesome pictures.

The practice of eating flowers dates back to early Roman, Middle East, Indian, and Chinese cultures. Often they were favored for their medicinal values. Edible flowers are now "in vogue" and quite common in fancy dining places. Flowers can add color, flavor, and a touch of whimsy to your cooking.

Not every flower is edible, and it is most important to know for sure which are safe to eat. Some can make you sick, cause digestive problems or allergic reactions. So start slowly, trying one variety at a time. It is best to grow your own plants organically, without pesticides and sprays. Never purchase flowers to eat from a florist or gather flowers along a roadside as you can't ensure their safety. Some on the "unsafe" list include Irises, Calla Lilies, Sweet Peas, Oleander, and Periwinkles.

Pick the flowers early in the day, wash thoroughly, and check for insects. It will be best to pick them the day of use, although you can store them in a hard sided container after washing and drying them completely.

In most cases it is the flower petals that are eaten. Pull out the stamens and pistils from the middle of flower. If the petals have a white tip break that off as it is often bitter. Some leaves are fine also. Pansies and Johnny-Jump-ups can be eaten as the whole flower! The flowers are rich in nutrients, and have almost zero calories!!

Edible flowers are used in a variety of ways. Frequently the petals are used in salads, stir fries, pastas, sandwiches, and soups. Many of course are used in teas. They make wonderful flavored vinegars and oils which can later be used for salads and seasonings. They enhance jellies and flavor ice creams and syrups. Sugar-coated flowers make beautiful garnishes for cakes, and the blossoms frozen in ice cubes make a lovely, refreshing drink.

There are many to consider. Agastache, Calendula, Lavender, Nasturtiums, Roses, Pansies, Johnny-Jump-ups, Daylilies, Tulips, Marigolds, Hyssop, Mint, Chives, Basil, Bee Balm, Lemon Verbena, and Squash blossoms all offer some wonderful possibilities for culinary experimentation!

Follow the general guidelines, and enjoy a new taste sensation while adding some rainbow colors to your diet. Perhaps this could be a fun new thing to try in the New Year!

CGCI Programs & Projects

Go to californiagardenclubs.com for details

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- **Membership dues**
  Mail to: Rita Desilets
  8316 Sparton Avenue
  Van Nuys, 91402-4030
- **Insurance**
  Chairman: Shane Looper
  213 Carmelo Lane
  South San Francisco, 94080-2204
- **Group Tax Exemption Program**
  Chairman: Krystal Migliore
  P.O. Box 1414
  Gridley, 95948-1414
- **Penny Pines**
  Checks to US Forest Service
- **President's Project 2015-17**
  Chairman: Maryanne Lucas
  1986 Channelford Road
  Westlake Village, 91361-3558
- **Project Mission Blue**
  Chairman: Shane Looper
  213 Carmelo Lane
  South San Francisco, 94080-2204
- **Scholarships (Applications)**
  Chairman: Martha Smyser
  4949 Mammoth Ave.
  Sherman Oaks, 91423-1319
- **Stagecoach Hill Propagation**
  Chairman: Mary Lou Goodwin
  1312 Gates St.
  Eureka, CA 95501-2627
- **Stamps**
  Chairman: Claudia Marsh
  19822 Ottawa Rd, Apple Valley
  92308-6155
- **Donations to the following projects are mailed to:**
  California Garden Clubs
  P.O. Box 75, Graton, CA 95444-0075
  Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
  Blue Star Memorials
  CGCI Endowments (2 funds)
  CGCI Scholarship Fund (direct)
  Rare Plant Treasure Hunt
  Reforestation/Restoration
  Sempervirens Fund

CGCI Wildflower Conference

March 27-29, 2017 Kernville, CA

Join us for the CGCI 2017 Wildflower Conference in Kernville. The registration fee is $90.00 per person and includes all speakers, "Wienie Roast" reception, entertainment, one lunch, one dinner and tours. Other meals will be on your own.

- The event starts on Monday evening, March 27, with the "Wienie Roast" reception; Tuesday will be filled with interesting and educational lectures; Tuesday evening we will enjoy after dinner entertainment; and the conference concludes Wednesday morning with a tour of a local fish hatchery on the Kern River and the Kernville Museum.
- Lodging will be ~$100 per night. You will make your own lodging reservations to Kern Lodge before March 18. Phone…760-376-2223.
- Consider extending your stay following the conference, and enjoy the many opportunities in and around the Kernville area.
- If you submitted the $30 "hold my place" deposit, the balance of $60 is due by March 18.

The registration form is attached (Page 9) or available on the website:
http://californiagardenclubs.com/nextmeeting
(under the Wildflower Conference tab)
Make check payable to: CGCI
(Note "Wildflower Conference" on the memo line)
Mail form and check to:
Janice Wagner, Registrar
1100 N Inyo Street, Ridgecrest, CA 93555-5603
760-446-4925 Janice.E.Wagner@gmail.com
Registration deadline: March 18, 2017

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Turf replacement rebates: In 2014 California made funds available for homeowners to replace existing turf/lawns with water-wise and drought-tolerant materials. Check the California Department of Water Resources website for details and application forms.
http://www.water.ca.gov/turf/

From this

To this

Awards, Honors & Recognition

CGCI offers many ways to say "Thank You" or "Good Job"

NOTE: Check the forms for the correct mailing address
Californiagardenclubs.com/forms

- ♥ **Angels**
  Chairman: Jane McKee
  1276 Palomares Court
  Fallbrook 92028-4480
- ♥ **Awards Program**
  Check the website for updated forms and instructions
- ♥ **Business Commendations**
  Chairman: Launa Gould
  New online request form
- ♥ **California Consultants Council**
  Landscape Design (various) & Outstanding Private Garden
  Chairman: Julie West
  850 Grandview Road
  Sebastopol 95472-2930
- ♥ **Honor Book**
  Chairman: Deedee Speer
  30861 Saddleback Road
  Valley Center 92082-3848
- ♥ **Life Memberships**
  Chairman: Carlotta Wixon
  14216 Karry's Place
  Grass Valley 95945-7934
- ♥ **Long-Term Certificates**
  Chairman: Mike Gould
  New online request form
- ♥ **Member Award of Distinction**
  Chairman: Mike Gould
  1212 Avenida Buena Suerte
  San Clemente 92672-2348

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Promotional Materials

Did you know that CGCI offers promotional and informational materials and many are FREE*!

- Banners
- Bookmarks*
- Rack Cards*
- Pamphlets*

(Check the website for ordering details)

President's Project

Who Will Teach Them If We Don't
Maryanne Lucas, Chairman

If you are reading this newsletter, you are most likely a member of a garden club. And if you are a member of a garden club, you are most likely a lover of gardens.

Who introduced you to gardening?
For most of us, the answer is that a parent, grandparent or a older family friend or neighbor introduced us to the joys and wonders of gardening.

Through the centuries, gardens were an important part of daily life. For thousands of years, people spent their days working shoulder-to-shoulder with their families, tilling the earth and reaping its rewards. They planted fruits and vegetables to eat, flowers to beautify their homes, and herbs to use for medicine and flavor. But things changed over the last 200 years. This change has been quick and it has been drastic. People around the world have moved into more crowded urban areas and found new ways to make a living... most of which do not include gardening or nature.

Never before in the course of history have so many people, and especially our children, been so far removed from nature and so distanced from the earth, plants and fellow creatures. The result is children who are less healthy, less "enlightened" and less knowledgeable about the natural world upon which their lives depend.

We can change this dire situation. With very little effort, YOU can help to bring the excitement of the natural world and lessons to be learned in a garden to children throughout the state. The free kits available through the President's Project, *Encouraging Future Gardeners*, makes it fun and easy. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity now... just in time for spring. For more information, visit the CGCI website at

http://californiagardenclubs.com/presidentsproject

or contact project chairman, Maryanne Lucas at mlucas@kidsgrowingstrong.org

DONATIONS this month:
- ♥ Folsom Garden Club
- ♥ Jessica Hodge
- ♥ Nanette Hayward
- ♥ Nina Sanders
- ♥ Patricia Rowell
- ♥ Red Bluff Garden Club
- ♥ Ron Byrd

TOTAL: $13,123

President 2015-2017
Sandra H. Robinson
Headquarters:
4401 Magnolia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110-3492
Telephone: (314) 776-7574
Fax: (314) 776-5108
Email: headquarters@gardenclub.org
Publication: *The National Gardener*
Website: gardenclub.org
Convention:
May 16-21, 2017, Richmond, VA
Richmond Marriott
Ongoing projects:

- Ames Garden Tools
- US Botanic Butterfly Garden
- Ecology Warriors Workbook
- Plant It Pink
- Rain Gardens
- SAGE & ROSES
- School Gardens
- Spring Planting for Butterflies
- Photo Archiving
- Water Projects

(Go to gardenclub.org for details on these and other projects)

Director: 2015-2017
Kristie Livreri
Publication: *WACONIAH*
Website:
PacificRegionGardenClubs.org
Convention: April 18-20, 2017
Seattle, WA

Are you receiving *WACONIAH*, the newsletter of the Pacific Region? If not, you can subscribe here (it's FREE):
californiagardenclubs.com/cgcinewsletters

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Leap into Leadership
Robin Pokorski, NGC Chairman (Head Leaper)

A Leap into Leadership workshop benefits members in many ways, not only the basic leadership information presented, but each workshop adds ideas, tips and techniques for the next workshop.

In New Mexico, a number of fun ideas were presented. For example:

- one raffle prize was an all-expenses-paid trip to attend the state convention.
- A colorful handout, listing critical award dates and deadlines, was distributed.
- Members were encouraged to mingle. A clever method to accomplish this was utilized. Each member selected a square of colored paper from a bowl upon entering the workshop and was seated at a table sporting the same color paper.
- Suzy Andrego, president, New Mexico Garden Clubs Inc., presented small gifts to all those who were attending their first fall board meeting.
- I can attest to the warmth and friendliness of members attending the workshop in New Mexico–I received three lunch offers before anyone knew who I was.

NGC President Sandy Robinson wants all of us to invest in the future leadership of our clubs, districts, states, regions, and our national organization. Here is that vehicle. Take advantage of it!

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Are you interested in going to Seattle Washington? How about Richmond, Virginia?
Delegates from our state are needed to represent CGCI at both the Pacific Region Convention and NGC Conventions:

- **April 18-20, 2017: Pacific Region Convention**
  Host: Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs
  Embassy Suites Seattle-Tacoma International Airport
- **May 16-21: NGC Convention, Richmond, VA**
  Host: Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
  Richmond Marriott, Richmond, VA

If you are interested, please let CGCI Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Hoyum, cgcicorrespondingsecy@cagardenclubs.org, know so that your name can be added to the list for approval.

NOTE: Attendance at these conventions is not financially supported by CGCI.

DONATIONS 2017
Total this month: $1,496.00
Pat York, Chairman
Total January 1 to date:
$1,496.00

ARBORETUM DISTRICT
Monrovia GC
Honor: Tom Freeman $68
Honor: Brian Wurtz $68
Honor: Martha Rund $68
GOLDEN FOOTHILLS DISTRICT
Colfax GC
Honor: Ann Lewis $68
ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT
Del Norte GC
Honor: Del Norte GC 40th Anniversary $136
Naples Island GC
Memory: Doreen Kent..... $68
Memory: Tina Szafaryo..... $68
Niguel Shores GC
Memory: Phillip (Jerry) Koppang..... $68

PALMS TO PINES DISTRICT
Redlands Horticultural & Improvement Society ... $340
PALOMAR DISTRICT
Fallbrook GC $68
Point Loma GC
Memory: Richard M. Slater... $68
SACRAMENTO RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT
La Perita GC
Memory: Marlene Marshall... $68
Memory: Donna P. Merwin ... $68
River Valley GC $136
Honor: Dorothy Peterson $68
VALLEY LODE DISTRICT
Foothill GC..... $68

Correction to January report:
Paradise GC
Memory: Catherine Scrivner.....$68

REMINDER: ALL checks for Penny Pines donations are made **payable to the U.S. Forest Service selected NOT to CGCI**. Checks are **MAILED TO** the selected Forest Service office (list and addresses are on the form). A copy of the form only (no checks) is sent to the CGCI Penny Pines chairman either by email attachment or US Mail.

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President's Travel Schedule:

- February 27-28: Palomar District
- March 1: Ripon Garden Club
- March 27-29: Wildflower Conference
- April 10: Desert Empire District
- April 18-20: PR Convention, Washington
- May 16-21: NGC Convention, Virginia
- May 30-June 3: CGCI Convention

CGCI 2017 Wildflower Conference
March 27-29, 2017
Kernville, California

Registration deadline: March 18, 2017

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NOTE: If you submitted the $30 "hold my place" deposit, the balance of $60 is due by March 18.

Make check payable to: **CGCI** (Note "Wildflower Conference" on the memo line)
Mail form and check to: Janice Wagner, Registrar
NO CASH ACCEPTED 1100 N Inyo Street, Ridgecrest, CA 93555-5603
760-446-4925 Janice.E.Wagner@gmail.com

No registration after March 18, 2017

Questions? Contact: Merrilee Ray 760-382-6546 MojaveBlue@wildblue.net

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REGISTRATION

Name_____ Telephone_____

Email_____ District_____

Tuesday lunch is sandwich and soup OR salad and includes drink and brownie
Check one: ☐ Roast Beef Sandwich ☐ Turkey Sandwich
Check one: ☐ Veggie Soup ☐ Clam Chowder ☐ Salad

Tuesday dinner includes veggies, roasted potato, salad, rolls, dessert and drink.
Check one:
☐ Smoked Tri-tip ☐ 1/4 Chicken ☐ Baby Back Ribs

For Office Use
Deposit Check # _____
Bal Paid check # _____
Confirmation Sent ☐ Lodging Info Sent ☐
Refund Due _____ Refund Check _____