

Golden Gardens

Official Publication of California Garden Clubs, Inc.



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a member of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
and
Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

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March-April 2025

Vol. 5-17



Garden of Susan Bibby
of Vista Garden Club, Palomar District
April 2023

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(North)

Conejo Valley Botanic Garden: [Shelley Sparks](#)

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OFFICIAL CALENDAR

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

2025

Mar. 18-20, Flower Show School, Course 3, Red Bluff. Sponsor: Red Bluff GC

[Brochure/Registration Form](#)

Apr. 28-30, [PRGC Convention](#), Tempe, AZ.

[Details](#)

May 18-21, [NGC Convention](#), Charleston, SC

June 2-5, [CGCI Convention](#), Voco Laguna Hills

Hotel (formerly The Hills Hotel), Laguna Hills.

Host: San Clemente GC

July 10-11, Gardening School, Course 1, Encino.

Sponsor: Southern CA GC

Aug. 14-15, Gardening School, Course 2, Encino.

Sponsor: Southern CA GC

Sept. 3-5, Flower Show School, Course 4, Red

Bluff. Sponsor: Red Bluff GC

Sept. 25-26, CGCI Fall Board Meeting, Harris

Ranch, Coalinga. Host: Valley Lode District

Sept. 25-27, Flower Show School, Course 2,

Poway. Sponsor: Southwestern Judges Council.

[Brochure/Registration Form](#)

Sept. 26-27, Gardening School, Course 3, Encino.

Sponsor: Southern CA GC / **Oct. 23-24**, Course 4.

2026

Jan. 26-28, CGCI Winter Board Meeting, Virtual

Feb. 26-28, Flower Show School, Course 3,

Poway. Sponsor: Southwestern Judges Council /

Sept. 24-26, Course 4.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our CGCI Winter Board Meeting was well attended, and we accomplished the organization's business. We had several superb keynote speakers, and the informative workshops were designed to help our club presidents and treasurers.

Since the Winter Board Meeting, this president has attended the February Floral Design Forum in San Diego, where our own

Dyanna Madro was the presenter. It was a very inspiring floral design program. I traveled back to San Diego in mid-February to attend the Palomar District meeting and install the new district officers. It was a fun meeting, and the program was presented by a husband and wife who talked about their date farm and provided samples for us to taste.

This president also attended the Arboretum District meeting. This district is one of the ones affected by the fires this past January. I know many other districts in Southern California have had members affected by the fires. Our hearts go out to all our members affected by these devastating fires. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you who were affected.

Several of us, including Adele Kelly and Robin Pokorski, recently traveled to Laguna Niguel to the Voco Hotel where our upcoming CGCI convention will be held in June. San Clemente Garden Club (with Launa Gould as Chairman) is our host for the convention, and the club has a wonderful committee that is working very hard to make this one of the best conventions ever. Monday night will be the design night, and there will be a very famous designer who will present the program. In addition, at Wednesday's lunch, we will be performing the first-ever mass installation of officers for clubs and districts, so pack your bags and get ready to join us. Bring your club or district officers, and we will do the rest. There will also be workshops and shopping opportunities for all. Come join in on the fun.

On March 6, President-Elect Adele Kelly and I will travel to San Francisco for an Arbor Day tree planting. This one is extra special because it will be a memorial tree planting to honor our 2019-2021 CGCI President Shane Looper. Many of our CGCI Board members, including Julie West and Nina Blonski, will also attend.

In April, this president will travel to Tempe, Arizona for the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. convention. In May, I will travel to to Charleston, South Carolina for the National Garden Clubs, Inc. convention.

I hope to see you all at the Voco Hotel June 2-5, 2025.

Enjoy the weather warming and the flowers blooming.

Best always,

Carol

MEMBERSHIP

ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP DUES
An Update for 2024-2025By [Nina Blonski](#), Membership Chairman

I want to thank all the Clubs and the Associate Plant Societies for mailing their additional dues throughout the year. It is exciting to see many of your clubs growing in membership this past year.

In order to close our books for 2024-2025 and facilitate transition to the new membership process, we are requesting payment for the final additional members be postmarked by **April 30, 2025**.

The 2025-2026 Membership Renewal forms will be available on the CGCI website on or about May 1, 2025. A new Additional Members Dues form will be posted after July 1, 2025. With a new database being implemented by CGCI, this change will make tracking membership dues for each year easier for all, even for your club.

CGCI ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
Changes to the ProcessBy [Jane McKee](#), Webmaster

As noted in the November-December 2024 issue, the CGCI annual membership renewal procedures will be changing starting with the 2025-2026 year. You will no longer submit Contact Information Forms to update the official CGCI records. Also, there will be a new dues payment form. The president(s) and treasurer(s) of each organization will have **direct access to their organization's record**.

How will it work?

There will be a "Members Only" section on the website. It will be password protected.

- Each president and treasurer will be assigned a Username.
 - They will create a password to access their organization's record.
- The treasurer will be designated as the PRIMARY/BILLING CONTACT.
 - Exception: If there is no treasurer or the individual has no email, the President will be the designated primary contact. If a club has co-treasurers, one will be designated as the primary contact.

— Once logged in, the treasurer/primary contact will be able to:

— review/update ALL THE ORGANIZATION'S official information (this replaces the Contact Information Form).

— PAY DUES

— REMINDER: Your organization's membership expires on June 30 of each year. Dues are due July 1. You do not need to wait until all of your members have paid their club dues. Additional members can be added at any time throughout the year.

- The presidents and treasurers NOT designated as PRIMARY/BILLING CONTACT will be able to log in to review/update their PERSONAL information as needed at any time during the year.

Specific instructions will be sent to the president(s) and treasurer(s) of each member organization in April 2025.

Stay tuned!

93rd CGCI CONVENTION
June 2-5, 2025

Voco Laguna Hills Hotel (formerly The Hills Hotel)
Laguna Hills, Orange County District
Host: San Clemente Garden Club
See Attachment B — Flyer

SAVE THE DATE



PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

By [Greg Pokorski](#), Parliamentarian



This Parliamentarian receives inquiries indicating that there may be confusion about what quorum is (and whether it has anything to do with the vote needed to pass various motions – it does not). This confusion is not uncommon. Quorum is the number of members required to be present at a meeting for any business to be conducted. It refers to the number of members present, not to the number actually voting on a particular question. It sets a minimum number who must be present to conduct any substantive business so that an organization is not bound by an unrepresentatively small number of members who might attend a meeting. The quorum should also not be so high as to be unachievable – which would prevent any business from validly being conducted at a meeting (or at some meetings).

So, for example, if your club has 57 members and the quorum for regular club meetings is one third, you can conduct business with 19 members present. One-third of 57 = 19. You need at least this number present in order to take any valid action (vote on anything) at any regular meeting (including adopting minutes, approving any motion, etc.).

Then if there is a vote, that is based on the number voting (unless your bylaws specifically provide otherwise), not the number present (and not the number of members). So, in this example, if 19 or more are present, you can validly conduct business. All 19 do not have to vote on any issue, and it is possible that all present will not vote. In this example, if only 15 actually vote, a two-thirds vote (required to pass a bylaw amendment) requires 10 members to vote in favor of the amendment. Any other business (in this same example) requiring a majority vote would require 8 votes in favor in order to pass.

So, the general voting requirement (unless your bylaws provide otherwise) to determine a majority vote or a two-thirds vote pertains to members present and voting.

Think of city, state, and national elections. If you have a population of 39 million and have 22 million registered voters and 16 million people actually vote, you need a majority of the 16 million voting to elect someone, not a majority of those eligible and registered to vote or a majority of the total population.

It is often appropriate to have different quorums for different meetings: one quorum for board meetings, another for general membership meetings, and another for executive committee meetings. If you do not set the quorum in your bylaws, then the quorum, according to *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, is a majority of all the members. That can be a problem! Establish your quorums in your bylaws.



NEW MEMBERS

California Horticultural Society, Bay Bridges District, President Ellen Frank, 150 members

Garden Club of Palo Alto, Bay Ocean District, President Mindy Kirkpatrick, 205 members

CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL (CCC)



The CCC offers the following awards:

- ◆ Certificate of Recognition for an Environmental-Friendly Garden
- ◆ Outstanding Private Garden Award
- ◆ Award of Merit in Landscape Architecture
- ◆ Landscape Design Commendation
- ◆ Landscape Design Certificate of Appreciation / Recognition / Achievement

See the [CCC page](#) on the CGCI website for more information about these awards and the application forms.



PENNY PINES PROGRAM

By [Terry Sampson](#), Penny Pines Chairman**PENNY PINES DONATIONS — FEBRUARY 2025 REPORT**

Donations to Date: \$4,148.00

H = In Honor

M = In Memory

BAY BRIDGES DISTRICT

H: Carol Enos \$68
Eden Garden Club
 H: Carol Enos \$68
 M: Kathryn Flowers \$68

BAY OCEAN DISTRICT

Pacifica Garden Club
 M: Sharon Lamparter \$204

BUTTES DISTRICT

Paradise Garden Club \$204

CASCADE DISTRICT

Red Bluff Garden Club
 M: Colette Bauer \$68

CHANNEL ISLANDS DISTRICT

Westlake Village Garden Club
 M: Lila Amenta \$68
 M: Klink Amenta \$68
 M: Carol Amenta \$68
 M: Harriett Uhl \$68

LUTHER BURBANK DISTRICT

Petaluma Garden Club \$68

MONTANA DE ORO DISTRICT

Cayucos Garden Club \$68

ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT

Lake Forest Garden Club
 M: Rita Marie Bradley \$68

PALOMAR DISTRICT

Fallbrook Garden Club
 M: Joan Eberle \$68
 M: Joseph Thomas \$68
 M: Ron Eastman \$68

Mission Hills Garden Club

M: Cheri Betancourt-Brooks \$68

Paradise Gardeners \$68

Temecula Valley Garden Club

H: Keith August \$68
 H: Pat Boyd \$68
 H: Vickie Clawson \$68
 H: Theresa Corey \$68
 H: Evelyn Gonzalez \$68
 H: LaVerne Mooney \$68
 H: Jackie Stoner \$68
 H: Nancy Waters \$68
Vista Garden Club
 H: Carolyn Anderson \$272

ROADRUNNER DISTRICT

Hesperia Garden Club
 M: Jay Winters \$68
 M: Kenneth Barrale \$68

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DISTRICT

Burbank Valley Garden Club
 M: Marlene Osborne \$68

Southern California Garden Club

H: Landscape Design Consultants \$68
 M: Joanne Schaffer \$68
Toluca Lake Garden Club \$68

SEQUOIA FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

Valley Oak Garden Club
 M: Velma Marie Warren \$68

VALLEY LODGE DISTRICT

Linden Community Garden Club
 M: Barbara Mozzett \$68

Manteca Garden Club

H: Lorna Powell \$68

Oakdale Garden Club

M: Richard Epting \$68

Turlock Garden Club

H: Sarah Durrah \$68
 H: Farmers Market Committee \$68
 H: Jessica's House Committee \$68
 H: Downtown Pots Committee \$68
 M: Bill Frank \$68
 M: Jim Jensen \$68

YOSEMITE GATEWAY

Le Grand Community Garden Club
 M: Tim Hennessey \$68

MISCELLANEOUS

Marcie Zimmerman
 M: Leona Nichandros \$68



AWARDS

By [Pat Claves](#), Chairman

The Awards Committee met at Winter Board and voted to discontinue the following awards due to little or no entries in the past three years: #4 Horticulture Excellence in Gardening; #21 Conservation Projects;* and #28 Environmental Events.**

In November 2024, the Awards Committee added classes to Award #51 Publications — Published Article by Individual. The new classes are Class A — Horticulture, Class B — Floral Design, and Class C — Other (any other CGCI/PRGC/NGC objective). Awards in each class (1st \$25, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10) will be

given at the 2025 Convention. Please look at the revised requirements for this award.

A few award descriptions and requirements have been amended, and an updated 2025 Awards Manual for the January 1 to December 31, 2025 awards year has been posted on the web-site. Additional updates will be made to the manual when CGCI receives NGC's and PRGC's updated awards information (usually in the summer).

*NGC Award EC-2 is still available.

**NGC Awards EC-1, EC-2, and EC-4 are still available.

CONSERVATION

A Leaf . . . a Flower . . . and a Stone . . . Honoring John Muir

By **Nancy Compton**, Writer-at-Large

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
JOHN MUIR
4/21/1838

If you've ever visited Yosemite and marveled at the majestic mountains and resplendent waterfalls, you can thank John Muir. If you've been to the Grand Canyon or Mt. Ranier, you can thank John Muir. If you belong to the Sierra Club, you can thank John Muir as

well, for he not only founded the organization, but was the force behind awakening Americans, and the American President Theodore Roosevelt, to the wonders of nature.

A Scottish immigrant whose family moved to Wisconsin in 1849 when Muir was eleven (born April 21, 1838), he marveled at the meadows and kettle moraine geological formation that created rolling hills and small lakes in the area surrounding his family's farm. Though he never earned a degree from the University of Wisconsin, he attended for two years, only taking classes he was interested in, primarily geology, botany, and chemistry.

Then with a plant press in his backpack and a spirit full of nature's wonders, he walked from Kentucky to the Gulf of Mexico, gathering botanical specimens along the way. His zealous curiosity eventually led him to California and then Alaska, where he discovered glaciers. He carried this new-found knowledge of glaciers to his eventual trek to Yosemite and was the first to suggest that ice formations had shaped its valleys.

With the exception of Antarctica, Muir's passion for nature took him to every continent, where, in some cases, he engaged in quite daring, some would say rather ill-advised, feats of strength and endurance, which included climbing a 100-foot tree in a thunderstorm, inching across a narrow ice bridge in Alaska, and spending the night in a blizzard on Mt. Shasta.

Though he never considered himself a good writer, he wrote so prodigiously that by the time he died, he had written hundreds of articles and published four books; more were published posthumously for magazines and other publications. Through his writings he awakened the joy of nature and inspired many in the general public to protect our country's untamed places. His descriptions of glaciers and redwoods brought the wonders of nature to readers nationwide.

Muir caught the attention of President Theodore Roosevelt, himself an avid outdoorsman. Roosevelt invited John Muir to go on a camping trip with him to Yosemite. Leaving behind reporters and Secret Service agents, Muir and Roosevelt, along with two park rangers and a pack animal, spent three days exploring meadows and waterfalls, and three nights discussing conservation while basking in the warmth and glow of a campfire.

Inspired by his trip and the intensity of John Muir's dedication to nature and wild environs, Roosevelt set aside more than 230 million acres of public land that included five national parks and eighteen national monuments. Muir continued to advocate for more open space protection, and thus helped create several national parks, including Sequoia (1890), Mt. Ranier (1899), and the Grand Canyon (1908).

Many of John Muir's more eloquent sayings live on, such as, "In every walk with nature, one receives more than he [sic] seeks." "Everyone needs beauty as well as bread – places to play, places to pray where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." Or you may have seen t-shirts and hoodies with the phrase, "The mountains are calling, and I must go," a phrase which Muir included in a letter he wrote to his sister.

John Muir often said that a leaf, a flower, and a stone are simple reminders of the beauty of nature and the serenity he felt when surrounded by nature's bounty. As we prepare to remember John Muir on his birthday, April 21, let us go outside and find a pretty leaf, a fragrant flower, and an interesting stone. Let us become one with nature and let the tranquility fill our soul.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ONE-THIRD OF FOOD PRODUCED IN THE U.S. IS NEVER EATEN?



Food that goes to landfills means lost resources and money and an increase in methane – a powerful greenhouse gas – when that food breaks down. With the spring and summer holidays around the corner, there are many opportunities to prevent food waste at the dinner table. Learn about [EPA's research on food waste](#) and check out [resources on how to prevent food waste](#).

HORTICULTURE

PEYOTE AND OTHER HALLUCINOGENS

By Bruce J. Hargreaves, Member of Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

(Reprinted from the Newsletter of Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society)



Trichocereus pachanoi
Photo Credit:
worldofsucculents.com

The article on Peyote in the [January-February 2024 *Golden Gardens*] was very good, but it did not note that the hallucinogens are not limited to this group. Many of us have such cacti (knowingly and unknowingly) in our collections. I brought a plant of *Trichocereus pachanoi* to the Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society's November 2024 meeting as a sample of one such plant. As stated, Peyote is illegal with the

geniformis. It should be noted that growing conditions may affect the mescaline content. Tough growing conditions and damage may increase mescaline.

Other genera of cacti have been reported to contain mescaline. The leaf or rose cactus (*Pereskia aculeata*) is so mentioned, but the amount is not noted. Mescaline has even been noted in prickly pears (*Opuntia spp.*). The amount must be quite small since I, like many others, have eaten prickly pear fruit and pads without noticeable mental effect. (I should note that I have never ingested any of the cacti that do produce such effects.)

Most of my research has been in Africa where hallucinogens are also obtained from plants. I was even fortunate enough to be allowed to film such use and have the plants involved explained to me. Unfortunately, none of them were succulents. The most interesting use of succulents in Africa was the discovery that baboons eat *Euphorbia* ingens to get high. I also heard a report that they use *Datura* for this.

exception of members of the Native American Church. Is *T. pachanoi* legal? The answer is yes and no! It is legal to cultivate and trade in this plant, but it is illegal to use it as a hallucinogen. Why the law is different for *T. pachanoi* and peyote I leave for the lawyers to explain. They both contain the same drug, mescaline.

One difference, of course, is that *T. pachanoi* (also known as San Pedro) does not occur naturally in the U.S. It is a Peruvian cactus. In Peru, it is used similarly to Peyote. The name San Pedro refers to Saint Peter who "holds the keys to heaven." The totem animal related to San Pedro is the jaguar.

There are other species of *Trichocereus* which contain mescaline. *T. peruviana* or Peruvian torch has less mescaline than peyote or San Pedro. The same is true for Bolivian torch, *T. la-*

My research on Peyote use has been indirect. I have a book of Huichol art which is derived from such use. One picture which I found most interesting shows Peyote slaying *Datura*. This represents a time when the very dangerous drug in *Datura* (which may cause a heart attack) was replaced by the safer Peyote. I have also viewed an exhibit of Huichol culture, including Peyote influenced art, in Tucson. Finally, I found some cloth prints which reflect the Huichol art in a Bakersfield thrift shop. The totem animal for Peyote, the deer, is noticeable in these.

ROSE RESOURCES

By [Natalie Bloxham](#), Rose Chairman

- [Quick Tips for Monthly Rose Care](#) by Master Rosarian Kitty Belendez will guide you through the year for successful rose gardening.
- Comprehensive list of Rose Societies across California with website addresses. For guest speakers, please reach out to the Rose Society in your area.
- For easy online ordering of rose resources from suppliers, I maintain an extensive list that includes names, addresses, telephone numbers, and website addresses.



If you would like any of this information, please let me know.



HAVING A SPECIAL EVENT THAT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC?

IF SO, PUT IT ON THE CGCI CALENDAR!

The CGCI Online Calendar is a FREE member benefit for Club, District, APS and Affiliate "SPECIAL EVENTS" (flower shows, garden tours, fundraising events) open to the public. Regular monthly meetings are not included. The [Events Calendar Event Form](#) is on the CGCI website under "Calendar."

CALIFORNIA ARBOR DAY

By [Berni Hendrix](#), Arbor Day Chairman



Arbor Day is a holiday that celebrates nature. Its purpose is to encourage the planting of trees.

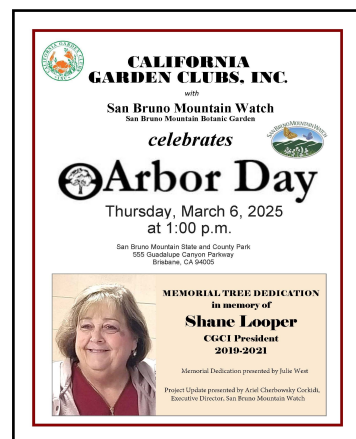
Arbor Day is celebrated in all 50 states. The most common date is the last Friday in April, now congressionally declared National Arbor Day.

Many states celebrate at other times to coincide with the best tree planting weather. In California, Arbor Day is celebrated around March 7 to honor **Luther Burbank**,* born on March 7, 1849. We in garden clubs, and all of California, plant trees and celebrate Arbor Day during the week of March 7-14.

It is easy to hold an Arbor Day Tree Planting Celebration in your community that will inspire city leaders and citizens and bring credibility for your garden club. A celebration program is easy to organize. There is a [step-by-step template](#) for success to download from Internet or request it from the CGCI Arbor Day Chairman.

You are invited to the **2025 CGCI Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony** on Thursday, March 6 at 1:00 p.m. at **San Bruno Mountain State and County Park**, 555 Guadalupe Canyon Parkway Brisbane, CA 94005.

This will also be a Memorial Tree Planting to honor 2019-2021 CGCI President **Shane Looper**. Shane was one of a very few across our nation to achieve National Garden Clubs, Inc.'s (NGC) Five Star Membership status. Five Star Membership represents a significant accomplishment as recognized by NGC and CGCI for having successfully completed all four NGC schools (Environmental, Flower Show, Gardening, and Landscape Design) and then achieving Master status in each school. Only a small minority of garden club members complete the demanding requirements.



Arbor Day is a holiday that celebrates the planting and preservation of trees. Let us celebrate!

See Attachment A

***Luther Burbank** (March 7, 1849 – April 11, 1926), a longtime resident of California, was an American botanist, horticulturist, and pioneer in agricultural science, who developed more than 800 strains and varieties of plants over his 55-year career. Source: Wikipedia.com

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

By [Terri Taylor](#), Chairman



PLANTING THE SEEDS OF TOMORROW, TODAY BUILDING THE CGCI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

As I have previously mentioned, we had more donations coming. We now have over **\$30,000** and are able to give more scholarships due to all of you.

I am continuing to receive spare change. Passing the "Spare Change Bank" either at home or at your meetings are helping us to reach those milestone numbers. Every penny counts. In case you haven't heard, our CGCI President Carol Vallens has been right at the forefront to support the Scholarship Fund. We could not be here without her steady support.

As we approach the conclusion of President Vallens' term, I eagerly anticipate sharing the final amount donated. This journey has been remarkable, and I am excited about the positive impact we've made together.

I can't wait to see you at the convention! The Giving Tree will be there to display your generosity. We appreciate the donations recently received by the following donors:

**Maria and Tom Krenek, Martha Smyser, Carolyn Villi, Barbara Weiler, Ceres Garden Club,
Lake Oroville Area Garden Club, Patterson Garden Club, and Mendo Lake District**

BOTANICAL ARTS

POT-ET-FLEUR BOTANICAL DESIGN

By [Judy Paul](#), Member of Red Bluff Garden Club



**Pot-et-Fleur design entered in
the Botanical Arts
Division of an NGC Flower Show
by Judy Paul**

What in the world is Pot-et-Fleur? Well, it is a floral design type, popular in the Victorian era and making a bit of a comeback today. Basically, it is the art of a design made by combining two or more green plants growing together in a container with some fresh flowers added to create a floral design. You might think of it as a sustainable floral arrangement!

In Victorian times, they often used pedestal-type metal containers or urns, washbasins, or soup tureens to create these designs. This was a way to brighten their living areas and could be easily changed and refreshed.

Pot-et-fleur is not a combination planter or a common dish garden, although they are somewhat similar. The overall look is a floral design, with the flowers and plants situated to be a line design, a line mass design, a mass design, etc.

To try your hand at creating a Pot-et-Fleur, the first thing to do is select a waterproof container large enough to hold two or more plants. Or find a waterproof liner for your container like those mentioned above, or maybe an ice bucket or willow basket. Choose your plants, large, small, blooming, depending on the size of your container. Since they will be planted in soil, you might add some moisture-reducing material like hydroleca clay pellets, or perlite and a small amount of activated charcoal to keep the soil fresh.

After the plants are situated, add some small vases, jelly jars, plastic bottles, or water tubes for holding water and the cut flowers. You can either allow space for them or keep them inserted in the container, allowing you to change the flowers out for special occasions. Try to “hide” them down in the soil as much as you can. You may need to use some floral tape, kenzans, or chicken wire to help situate your flower containers.

Then, rather than simply plopping the fresh-cut flowers in, arrange them in a pleasing floral design. Dried sticks, feathers, or other accessories can be added to keep the line and add special effects. If desired, cover the soil with sphagnum moss.

Editor’s Note: In NGC Standard Flower Shows, Pot-et-Fleur designs are only allowed in the Botanical Arts Division. They are called “Botanical Designs.” According to the NGC *Handbook for Flower Shows*, a Pot-et-Fleur is a botanical “design with an emphasis on a combination of two or more flowering and/or foliage plants with roots growing in soil or other medium. Fresh cut flowers must be included. Other fresh and/or dried plant material and/or components may be added for embellishment . . .” See page 94 of the [Handbook](#) for more details.

Want to learn floral design? If so, attend an NGC Flower Show School!

Red Bluff Garden Club’s Flower Show School is being held in Red Bluff. Course 3 will take place on **March 18—20, 2025**, and Course 4 will take place on **September 3-5, 2025**.

The next course of the Southwestern Judges Council’s Flower Show School in Poway is Course 2 to be held **September 18—20, 2025**. Course 3 will be held on **February 25—27, 2026**, and Course 4 will be held on **September 24-26, 2026**.

Apart from design, you will also learn horticulture and flower show procedure. See CGCI’s [Official Calendar](#) or more information about these Flower Show School courses. For more information on NGC’s Flower Show Schools Program, visit [NGC’s website](#).



FLOWER SHOW TIPS FOR SPECIMENS



Two weeks before the show:

- ◆ Remove center bud in spray of floribunda roses so others will not be crowded.
- ◆ If the weather turns warm, shading with thin fabric may save color on roses, dahlias, and zinnias.
- ◆ Staking some plants, including roses, may be necessary to ensure straight stems.
- ◆ Spray for mildew, thrips, and other pests, if necessary.
- ◆ Start cleaning pots of container specimens and turn pots a quarter turn daily.

Two days before the show:

- ◆ Water deeply but avoid getting water on the blooms.
- ◆ Check your garden and the flower show schedule for suitable exhibits and note the horticulture rules. Identify them for later cutting.
- ◆ Make out entry tags; check the spelling of botanical names.

Entry day (before 11 a.m.):

- ◆ Take a clean bucket of warm water with you when you go into the garden to cut your exhibits.
- ◆ Stem length is measured from the tip of specimen to cut end.
- ◆ Cut the stems on a long slant and longer than needed with a sharp knife or clippers. Place cut end immediately in tepid water and place in cool, dark location for several hours to condition the specimen. Conditioning allows the cultivar to take up more water than it loses and improves freshness.
- ◆ After hardening, give the foliage a bath (Basic-H may be used successfully), keeping blooms out of the water.
- ◆ Groom off dead leaves, dead stems, torn or insect damaged foliage, salt burn, etc. (you'd be surprised how many specimens lose points due to lack of basic grooming practices). Spent blooms and most seedpods should be removed. Do this carefully so that you do not damage the

**By Irene Benton,* Flower Show Judge Emeritus
(Reprinted from *The Green Thumb*, April 2024)**

entire specimen. Petals can be carefully trimmed on most samples to remove brown leaf edges.

- ◆ Disbudding is the removing of the side bud or shoot from round form flowers like roses, zinnias, marigolds, dahlias, daisies, etc. Don't just pinch out the bud; remove the whole side shoot to the main stem carefully by pinching or using scissors.
- ◆ Some cultivars are shown as sprays. A spray is a single main stem with blooms or florets from lateral branches (pedicels), led by a terminal bloom, which blooms first. Examples are marigolds, petunias, phlox, etc. Look at the stem for a "Y", indicating that there are two sprays (one on each side of the main stem). Each spray should have as many blooms and buds as possible. The old center or terminal flower should be removed if past its prime.

Tips to make your specimens look better:

- ◆ Do NOT use plant shine, milk, or any other foreign substance on foliage. Wipe leaves with a soft, clean cloth or nylon stocking.
- ◆ To remove mildew, moisten with vinegar water (1 Tbsp. of vinegar to 1 cup of water).
- ◆ Salt stains that will not wash off pots can disappear by rubbing with a little salad oil.
- ◆ Do NOT remove more thorns than is necessary to place a rose bloom in the bottle.
- ◆ Only foliage naturally grown and still attached to the specimen is permitted for exhibit. Leave on all foliage above the water line.
- ◆ Re-cut stem underwater just before placing the specimen in display bottle.
- ◆ [If the schedule permits,] celery, wrapped leaves or Saran Wrap can be used at the neck of the display bottle to hold the specimen upright.

Transporting your specimens to the show:

- ◆ Use care in transporting entries.
- ◆ Place jars of water in a pail to keep them upright.
- ◆ Arrive early to give you plenty of time to prepare the specimens in display bottles.

*Deceased



GIVE US A QUICK LIKE AND FOLLOW US TODAY!

Join the growing community! The [CGCI Facebook page](#) has successfully attracted over 3,000 followers, making it a vibrant space for learning, engagement, and updates.

UPCOMING NGC GARDENING SCHOOL, SERIES 27



Gardening School provides educational information to those who are especially interested in gardening, horticulture, and related subjects. See [NGC website](#) for expanded description.

Southern California Garden Club is sponsoring a new NGC Gardening School beginning in July at the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino. This will be the 27th Gardening School Series in California!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Course 1: July 10-11, 2025

Course 2: August 14-15, 2025

Course 3: September 26-27, 2025

Course 4: October 23-24, 2025

Check the [CGCI Official Calendar](#) for the brochure that will be posted on the website in the near future.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN IN NGC'S GARDENING SCHOOL?

By [Greg Pokorski](#), Gardening Schools Chairman

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty.

Anyone who keeps learning stays young.

— Henry Ford

Like all NGC Schools, Gardening School consists of four courses, and each course consists of ten hours of instruction (usually administered over a two-day period). Gardening School is made up of 21 required subjects which range in length from one to three hours. Additionally, each course contains a one-hour supplemental subject (elective).

Required subjects include basic botany, soils, plant propagation, plant diseases and pests, irrigation and water, lawn alternatives and growing grass, new plant development, container gardening, houseplants, native trees and shrubs, plant classification and nomenclature, outdoor identification of plants, specialized styles of gardening, and pruning techniques. There are also four classes about growing fruit, vegetables, outdoor flowers, and woody ornamentals.

Southern California Garden Club is conducting a Gardening School in Encino in July, August, September, and October, 2025. You are all invited. Scheduled electives for this School are evolution and geography of plant origin; water gardening; shade gardening; and one elective to be determined.

All clubs and/or districts can conduct NGC Schools. This will be the sixth School conducted by Southern California Garden Club. For information regarding conducting or attending a Gardening School, contact this chairman.

NEED A BANNER?

Attract attention to your organization or event. Order a professionally designed (2' x 6') banner. Use it at plant sales, monthly meetings, flower shows, schools, and bring it to the CGCI Convention in Laguna Hills in June! See [CGCI website](#) for ordering information.



FROM OUR CLUBS

KINDNESS SHOWN & FELT FIFTY-FIVE YEARS LATER

From the Newsletter of Laguna Beach Garden Club
By Nancy Englund



There are times that we have wondered if the little acts of volunteering make a difference. I know that I have pondered this many times. In the ordinary task of checking the inquiries into the Laguna Beach Garden Club's website, the club received an email from a gentleman thanking us for our service back in 1969!

Doug Pugh is a veteran of the Vietnam War who returned from service in 1969. Veterans who returned from Vietnam often faced a difficult homecoming, experiencing a lack of public support and sometimes hostility, as the war was highly divisive in American society, leading to many feeling isolated and struggling to readjust to civilian life; unlike veterans from other wars, they were typically not greeted with parades or celebratory welcomes, often being seen as a reminder of a "lost" war.

Doug had enlisted at the age of 17 in his home state of Kansas, where the arrangement was that if you enlisted at 17, you could be finished with your service in 2 years. Doug spent one year in the United States and one year in Vietnam. Thankfully Doug made it home in 1969. At that time, some returning veterans came through the Marine Corps Air Station El Toro upon returning to the US. When Doug and the other veterans got off the plane, there were many ladies of the Laguna Beach Garden Club to greet the arriving soldiers. Doug said that he and the other men were thrilled to be received with so much warmth and love.

Doug described the feelings he experienced from the women garden club members who greeted all the men as if the women were welcoming their own sons back from the war. The anxiety he and the other men had felt about returning was washed away by the love and joy these ladies expressed.

The Laguna Beach Garden Club is no stranger to getting involved with patriotic efforts. In 1942 when the country was deep into World War II, the ladies of the garden club placed all their efforts into enthusiastically getting the town to dig victory gardens. In 1944, when men returned from war injured, the club worked on succulent gardens for the bedside tables for the disabled in the Santa Ana Army Air Base Hospital. The club also sponsored collections of shrubs and quick-growing trees for landscaping the Air Corps Replacement Training Center in Costa Mesa.

Doug sent the email to say thanks for what the club had done for him. He said he wished he had done it sooner, but the members of the current generation of Laguna Beach Garden Club members are thrilled that he waited 55 years so that they could have the excitement of knowing his great story. The Laguna Beach Garden Club extends its gratitude, saying, "Thank you for your service, Doug!"



CALIFORNIA POPPY DAY IS APRIL 6

Eschscholzia californica

Let's Celebrate!



*Poppies, golden poppies, gleaming in the sun,
Closing up at evening, when the day is done.*

*Pride of California, flower of our state.
Growing from the mountains to the Golden Gate.*

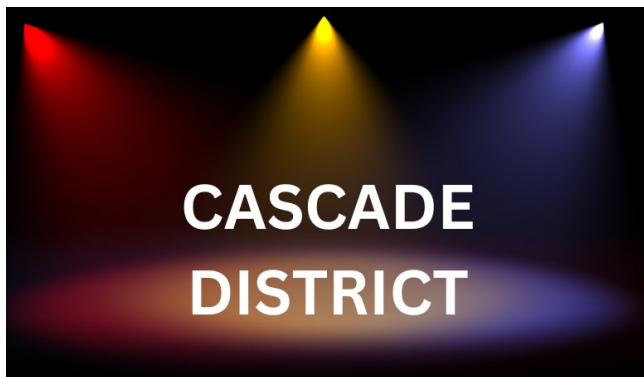
*Flower of the hillsides, flower of the plain.
Flower of the sunshine, flower of the rain.*

*California's children be they far or near,
Love the golden poppy of our state so dear.*

— Leila France

SPOTLIGHT: CASCADE DISTRICT

By [Judy Paul](#), Cascade District Director



Cascade District covers Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity Counties up here, where we call it the real “North State.” Many folks think of northern California as San Francisco. We are about three hours farther north. Redding is our largest city, with a population of about 92,000, and Red Bluff is second, with 14,500 people.

Tehama County is primarily agricultural, with cattle, almonds, walnuts, and fruit trees. Shasta and Trinity Counties are more forested, with great places to camp and swim, as well as for sightseeing. There are national forests and parks, lakes, Shasta Dam, and the majestic Mt. Shasta.

Cascade District was organized and joined CGCI in 1959. Currently, there are six garden clubs and one arrangers guild, with a total membership of 224 members. Two clubs sponsor youth groups.

CASCADE DISTRICT CLUBS:

Anderson Valley Garden Club (22 members)

Cascade Arrangers Guild (14 members)

Cottonwood Garden Club (15 members)

Lake California Garden Club (27 members)

Red Bluff Garden Club (80 members)

Redding Wonderland Garden Club (45 members)

Shasta Lake Garden Project (23 members)

The Cascade District was under the leadership of Kathy Bramhall for many years. She established a strong foundation for us to follow. In 2019, Kathy and Carolyn Hoyum led the district in hosting the CGCI Fall Board Meeting in Redding. Kathy, Carolyn, Fran Galantine, Joie Raymond, Erlyne Owens, and Michelle Waybright have been flower show judges for many years and are strong garden club leaders, as well as being involved with CGCI. They have guided the current “next generation” of garden clubbers!

The District has two general meetings each year, hosted by the clubs on a rotating basis. We meet in February and October with a featured speaker, a meeting, a silent auction, other additional fun “sales,” a fabulous lunch, and incredible sharing and networking with our friends. The club presidents and director meet additional times throughout the year to focus on ways to grow our clubs and increase participation in CGCI, PRGC, and NGC projects.

Our counties have several Blue Star Memorials purchased by our clubs and the district. In 2025, Cascade District will install a new Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Redding VA Clinic. Redding Wonderland Garden Club will be installing two Blue Star By-Way Markers at the Redding Veterans Home this year also. In 2022, Red Bluff Garden Club installed a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Tehama District Fairgrounds. This is the location of the Red Bluff Round-Up, the largest three-day rodeo west of the Mississippi, always held the third weekend of April, so the memorial is widely seen and appreciated.

Red Bluff Garden Club is hosting an NGC Flower Show School. Flower School Course 3 will be held March 18-20, 2025, and Course 4 will be held September 24-26, 2025. Since we are in a less populated area, getting large enrollment numbers has been a challenge. But the twelve of us working through these courses are learning so much. Dottie Renstrom is the Chairman of this big commitment of time and energy and has done a superb job keeping things going!

We do love our more rural area up here in Cascade District, and we do our best to continue being involved in the CGCI, PRGC, and NGC projects and activities, even though our entire district membership is about the size of some individual Southern California clubs.



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

NATURAL DISASTER GRANTS

Did you know that National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) has a Natural Disaster Grant Fund?

From the NGC website:

The Natural Disaster USA Fund was established by NGC in 1997 to receive monetary contributions from states, clubs and individuals for the purpose of assisting local and state clubs with their garden-related restoration efforts. This fund has helped to replant parks, municipal gardens and other garden-related sites due to natural disasters caused by floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, ice storms and wildfires.

Grants of up \$5,000 per project may be awarded in a fiscal year to local or state clubs. The application form can be downloaded from the link below. The application must include the location of the site involved, nature and severity of the disaster, proposed restoration plan by the garden club, estimated itemized cost of the project, as well as funds received from outside sources. A scale of points guideline is used for determining the grant to be awarded. Applications are to be emailed to Debra Turner, Chairman: Grants, Natural Disasters.



The Natural Disaster USA Fund is supported solely by the generous donations of dedicated garden club members and has extended a helping hand by awarding grants to many fellow garden clubs across the country. We ask for your contributions to keep this fund alive so that we will be able to continue to provide much needed assistance to clubs restoring garden-related areas devastated by any past, present or future natural disasters. Make checks payable to Natural Disaster USA Fund and mail to the attention of the NGC Treasurer, at NGC Headquarters, 4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110-3492. All donations are tax deductible and will be gratefully acknowledged!

For more information: [Natural Disaster Grant | National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#) / <https://gardenclub.org/natural-disaster-grant>

MEMBERSHIP MONDAYS



Join us at "Membership Mondays," a series of NGC Zoom presentations meant for clubs that are interested in increasing membership. To receive the Zoom links, you must complete a form on NGC's website (<https://form.jotform.com/241864762412155>).

The next Membership Monday will take place on Monday, **March 3**. The program is "The New World of Online Clubs."

The **April 7** program will feature NGC President **Brenda Moore** and "50 Shades of Green."

For more information or to receive the links for the programs, contact [Robin Pokorski](#).

PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

2025 PRGC CONVENTION

The 2025 PRGC Convention will be held in Tempe, Arizona on **April 28-30, 2025**.

Keynote Speakers
Educational Workshops
Tours

For more information and to register: [Convention 2025](#)





CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

with

San Bruno Mountain Watch
San Bruno Mountain Botanic Garden

celebrates



Arbor Day

**Thursday, March 6, 2025
at 1:00 p.m.**

San Bruno Mountain State and County Park
555 Guadalupe Canyon Parkway
Brisbane, CA 94005



MEMORIAL TREE DEDICATION

in memory of

Shane Looper

CGCI President

2019-2021

Memorial Dedication presented by Julie West

Project Update presented by Ariel Cherbowsky Corkidi,
Executive Director, San Bruno Mountain Watch

California Garden Clubs, Inc. 93rd Convention



"Magic in the Garden"

June 2-5, 2025 VOCO Laguna Hills Hotel

Hosted by San Clemente Garden Club, Orange County, California

Monday Theme: Environment and Floral Design

Environmental subject at lunch

Floral Design Event including workshop, dinner and Rene's demonstration

Attend this event only and pay just \$75

Dinner and a floral program with world-renowned designer, **Rene van Rems AIFD**.

Take a "floral" interior design tour. Learn tips and tricks from a master of European floral design. Witness an amazing onstage demonstration with this multi-national award-winning designer.

Rene van Rems is the author of many floral design books and has appeared on HGTV.



Tuesday Theme: Back to School with Awards

Inspirational school project presentation at lunch

Awards ceremony following dinner

Wednesday Theme: Installation of Officers

Lunch: Plan to have your club's officers installed at lunch with a "Magical" theme

Dinner: Witness the truly "Magical" installation of CGCI's new Executive Committee

Wednesday Pass: If you have never attended a convention, come feel the vibe with the first ever **Wednesday Pass**. Invite your club officers to be installed at the mass installation during lunch



Shop at the Marketplace
Win a fabulous Raffle Basket
Attend a Workshop

For More Information: sanclementegardenclub.com



ATTACHMENT C

Carolyn A. Mayes, CPA
Auditing and Consulting Services

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
California Garden Clubs, Inc.
San Fernando, California

I have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of California Garden Clubs, Inc. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2024, and the related statement of activities, statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of organization management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

Accountant's Responsibility

My responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the America Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require me to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether I am aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. I believe that the results of my procedures provide a reasonable basis for my conclusion.

I am required to be independent of California Garden Clubs, Inc. and to meet my other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to my review.

Accountant's Conclusion

Based on my review, I am not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Carolyn A. Mayes, CPA

Santa Rosa, California
January 9, 2025

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