

# Golden Gardens eNews

www.californiagardenclubs.com

August 2021 Vol. 2-14

Member:

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**President ..... Lynne Batchelor**

cgcipresident@cagardenclubs.org

President-Elect ..... Carol Vallens

2nd Vice President ..... Adele Kelly

3rd Vice President ..... Marlene Kinney

Recording Secretary ..... Gail Vanderhorst

Corresponding Secretary ..... Milly Benson

Financial Secretary ..... Sherry Molinari

Treasurer ..... George Perko

Parliamentarian ..... Greg Pokorski

Communications Director ..... Kathy Taylor

**Golden Gardens eNews**

goldengardens@cagardenclubs.org

Editor ..... Launa Gould

Assistant Editor ..... Jane McKee

Proofreader ..... Nancy Compton

Proofreader ..... Robin Pokorski

\*\*\*\*\*

**In this issue:**

President's Message .....1

Calendar .....2

President's Project .....2

Big Basin Recovery .....3

Poster Contest .....4

Garden Secrets .....4

Black Point Garden .....5

Penny Pines .....6

Youth Gardening .....6

\*\*\*\*\*

**Award Winning—Golden Gardens eNews**

- Published monthly
- Distributed electronically FREE
- To subscribe or view past issues:  
[californiagardenclubs.com/cgcinewsletters](http://californiagardenclubs.com/cgcinewsletters)
- **Submit articles by 20th of month.**
- Distributed during first week of month.



Happy August garden enthusiasts!

In these lovely days of summer, I hope you are enjoying the beauty of the flowers, trees, fruits and vegetables resulting from all of the time and labor you invested. For those who missed our virtual convention, I wanted to tell you about my theme which is **Celebrate! Cultivate! Commemorate!** We have much to celebrate individually, as clubs and as a nation in 2021 as we see the waning of the pandemic's influence. Here are things I want to **Celebrate!**



- Personal survival
- Club survival
- Being together
- In person meetings
- New skills and knowledge acquired during quarantine
- Projects done
- Beauty created
- Leaders who kept us together
- Overcoming challenges and roadblocks

I have a vision for both clubs and individuals in all three categories which I hope you will consider. **My vision for your club's celebration: Each club will build on new found knowledge and skills to create a new club activity or program. My vision for your personal celebration: Every member will share a new skill learned during the quarantine with another member or at a club event.**

Although we were at home and could cultivate our gardens, there were so many social cultivations we missed. I am enjoying the chance to **Cultivate!**

- New members
- New alliances
- New skills
- New activities
- Plantings in public and private gardens
- Beauty through floral displays in our homes and public places
- Creativity
- Knowledge Acquisition
- Young minds
- Scholarships
- Friendships
- Our gardens

**My vision for your club's cultivation goal: Each club will cultivate an alliance with another like-minded organization. My vision for your personal cultivation goal: Each member will bring a friend to a meeting.**

continued on page 2

**CGCI Calendar**

[californiagardenclubs.com/calendar](http://californiagardenclubs.com/calendar)

- **October 1 - 2021**  
Fall Board Meeting - Virtual
- **February 7-9, 2022** Winter Board Meeting Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys Chairman: Rita Desilets
- **June 6-10, 2022**  
CGCI Convention Hanblery Hotel, San Diego Chairman: Sharon Tooley

\*\*\*\*\*

**CGCI Schools Chairmen**

**Environmental:** Nancy Compton  
ncompton43@att.com

**Flower Show:** Sandra Graff  
sandgrf@sbcglobal.net

**Gardening:** Greg Pokorski  
gregpokorski@earthlink.net

**Landscape Design:** Alexis Slafer  
aslafer@ca.rr.com

January 15-16, 2022  
February 12-13 and 26-27, 2022  
March 12-13, 2022  
Host: Valley Lode District  
Chairman: Bernie Hendrix

**NGC Schools**

All registration forms are on the CGCI website Calendar page  
[californiagardenclubs.com/calendar](http://californiagardenclubs.com/calendar)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Promotional Materials**



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

\* Free materials  
Online request forms

*President's message continued*

*The year 2020 brings memories of sorrow and loss but also those of gratitude and generosity which we need to acknowledge and **Commemorate!** I will be commemorating among other things*

- Passing of friends, family and community members from Covid
- Passing of friends and family members to whom final respects could not be paid due to Covid restrictions
- Health care providers who cared for us
- First responders who risked all for us
- Essential workers who provided for life's basic needs
- Military and veterans who served or are serving
- Days spent in isolation
- Any loved one who has left us

***My vision for each club's commemoration: Every club will do a planting in a public space in commemoration of 2020. A fabulous idea would be to plant a Tree of Life, Remembering 2020 somewhere in your community. My vision for your personal commemoration activity: Every member will do a planting at your home to honor someone dear to you. You could plant a white rose to honor a veteran or a favorite flower or herb that reminds you of a love one. This never forget garden could be a section of your garden or in a container. If you have a large space, you could also do a Tree of Life, Remembering 2020 planting.***

I hope that you will love my President's Project as much as I do. San Diego is a region of great natural beauty but like all rapidly growing large metropolitan areas, our resources are often neglected or destroyed. A non-profit organization, The San Diego River Foundation, was incorporated 20 years ago with the goal of acquiring land on both sides all along the 52 miles of the San Diego River and uniting this land through a series of parks and trails (horse trails in the back country and hiking trails elsewhere), removing litter from the site on a weekly basis (since Jan 1, 2021, 89,055 pounds removed), and offering a series of classes and adventures for free to schools (starting back now that quarantine has been lifted here). Their latest endeavor is creating a park which will include their education facilities in the Mission Valley site in San Diego. My goal through your generosity is to raise \$20,000 to create two garden areas complete with signage—a sensory garden and an ethnobotanic garden featuring plants cultivated or used historically by local indigenous people. Since this is in a central location (just across the freeway from where the stadium stood until a few weeks ago), I hope you will all be able to visit these CGCI gardens. I am so grateful that Robin Pokorski, sales woman extraordinaire, will be my chair!

Looking forward to seeing you at Fall Board via Zoom October 18-22, 2021.

**Lynne**

**2021-2023 Presidents Project**

By Robin Pokorski, Chairman

Special thanks to Robin Pokorski, Greg Pokorski and Palomar District. Their support has kicked off our fundraising efforts. We are grateful to Hank and Gail Vanderhorst for the generous offer to host a fundraiser at their lovely home in Van Nuys just prior to the Winter Board Meeting, so be sure to figure on an extra day at Winter Board (at least for the first 50 of you that sign up!)

For more information check the link on CGCI website : [President's Project 2021-2023](#).

**CGCI Programs & Projects**

Go to [californiagardenclubs.com](http://californiagardenclubs.com)  
for details

\*\*\*\*\*

- **Membership**  
**Chairman: Marlene Kinney**  
315 Windmill Canyon Place  
Clayton, CA 94517-1904
- **Insurance**  
**Chairman: Shane Looper**  
213 Carmelo Lane  
South San Francisco 94080-204
- **Group Tax Exemption Program**  
**Chairman: Sue Bennett**  
7560 Shelborne Drive  
Granite Bay 95746-8617  
gtep@cagardenclubs.org
- **Penny Pines**  
**Chairman: Nina Blonski**  
Checks to US Forest Service  
Online form [Penny Pines](#)
- **President's Project 2021-2023**  
**Chairman: Robin Pokorski**  
[President's Project](#)
- **Scholarship Applications**  
Chairman: Martha Smyser  
[CGCI Scholarship Fund](#)
- **Stamps**  
**Chairman: Terry Sampson**  
10596 Orchid Avenue  
Hesperia 92345-5380
- **Donations** to the following projects can be made online or mailed to:  
California Garden Clubs  
P.O. Box 823  
San Fernando, CA 91341-0823  
[Anza-Borrego Desert State Park](#)  
[Black Point Garden](#) **NEW**  
[Blue Star & Gold Star Memorials](#)  
[CGCI Endowment Funds](#)  
[CGCI Scholarship Fund](#)  
[Conejo Valley Botanic Garden](#) **NEW**  
[Sempervirens/Big Basin Funds](#)

**Big Basin Recovery Fund Challenge Met**

By Judy Unrine

Thank you to all the Members of CGCI who donated to the Big Basin Recovery Fund. We hope you will continue to donate to this important cause.

At no time in the recent history of CGCI have members been so supportive in such a short time. Many hearts were touched. A total \$10,541.99 has been collected. Not only did you step up and match the original \$5000 challenge, but you continued donating to match a second \$5000. Your total matching fund donation to the Sempervirens Big Basin Recovery Fund is \$20,541.99.

We received the following message from Sara Barth, Executive Director of the Sempervirens Fund:

*"We did it! We (Sempervirens) surpassed our goal of \$1,000,000 for the Spring Match Campaign. Not only did our community of supporters step up and meet the original goal, but they also helped match a second gift of an additional \$10,000. Over 700 individual donors helped double the impact contributing more than \$240,000 to protect, connect, and restore our precious redwoods...without you, this work could not be done. So, thank you."*

For an update on Big Basin State Park's recovery after the fire, go to Sempervirens website and register for the webinar, [Under the Redwoods](#), August 31, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

Your donations are still needed. The donation form can be found on the CGCI website. Please make your check payable to CGCI. Mail to PO Box 823, San Fernando, CA. 91341-0823. Note either Big Basin Recovery Fund or Sempervirens Fund on memo line. Please include your address, email, and phone number.

The following have donated to Big Basin Recovery Fund between June and July:

Maria Krenek, Lisa Cosand, San Mateo Arbor Society, Turlock Garden Club, Humboldt District, Calaveras City Garden Club, and Red Bluff Garden Club

Co- Chairman: Judy Unrine    judysgarden01@gmail.com  
Rosa Radicchi    radicchi@aol.com



CGCI Photography Contest  
Award #40  
Section 3 - Named Rose  
First Place: Tina Waycie  
*Rosa 'Angel Face'*

**Awards, Honors & Recognition**

Say "Thank You" or "Good Job"

[californiagardenclubs.com/forms](http://californiagardenclubs.com/forms)

- **Awards Program**

Chairman: Pat Clayes

• [californiagardenclubs.com/awards](http://californiagardenclubs.com/awards)

- **Business Commendations,**

- **Long-Term Certificates, and**

- **Member Award of Distinction**

Chairman: Judy Bates

[jl Bates5900@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jl Bates5900@sbcglobal.net)

Online request forms

- **California Consultants Council**

Chairman: Sue Bennett

[Sue\\_c\\_bennett@att.net](mailto:Sue_c_bennett@att.net)

Consultants of the Year

- **Life Memberships**

Chairman: Carlotta Wixon-Welker

[lifemember@cagardenclubs.org](mailto:lifemember@cagardenclubs.org)

Online request form

**Youth Poster Contest**

Back to school means it's time to start the Poster Contest again. This year we will be back to both Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl submissions.



Check the rules and make sure you are using the correct (approved) motto, that goes with the mascot you are using, on your poster.

The poster **MUST** be 11x17 inches **ONLY** - nothing smaller or larger.

You can only have one mascot on a poster - not both

Each student can only enter once.

Each club can send the top four posters from each grade.

Winning posters must be **in my hands** by January 24th, 2022.

I am always available if you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. For more information on the CGCI website: [Poster Contest](#)

Happy drawing and good luck to you and your student artists.

C (Charlotte) Tucker = (209)533-9300 or [ctucker@mlode.com](mailto:ctucker@mlode.com)

**Garden Secrets Revealed**

By: Shirley Felder, Red Bluff Garden Club

What is the secret to a long lasting bouquet of flowers in a container? Believe it or not, frequent water changing and adding a spoonful of vodka does the trick. The scientific reason, of course, is that alcohol inhibits ethylene production, which is a ripening gas emitted by plants to help them mature. I like to think that a vodka cocktail just makes them happy and exuberant. Be aware though, that plants, like people, can only tolerate small concentrations of alcohol. There are more benign additives you can use, such as Sprite or 7-Up. These give cut flowers the necessary combination of acidic water and sugar, but they also encourage bacterial growth. Therefore, a little bleach is also needed.

Do you have an ongoing problem with snails and slugs? Would you like them to die happy? Put out a small saucer of beer in your garden. They like beer a lot, so they will be lured into your trap. It is the yeast that attracts them. Most go in for a sip, fall in and drown. However, there will always be some who get a drink and just leave happy, so you have to keep putting out your trap. They are not particular, so an inexpensive beer is fine. Save your favorite craft brew to drink with your friends.

Here are some secret tips when planting your tomatoes next year. For sweeter tomatoes, put two tablespoons of baking soda in the bottom of the hole and cover with two inches of dirt. A teaspoon of cinnamon can also be added at this time, which will keep fungus and cut worms away. It also smells good. After the tomatoes have been planted, dried banana peels can be scattered under the plants to encourage growth. To further pamper your tomatoes, don't forget to plant marigolds nearby to help keep garden pests away.

Is your soil acidic or alkaline? This could be important to know. For instance, tomatoes like a slightly acidic soil. Here is an easy test. Pour some vinegar in your soil sample. If it bubbles it is alkaline. To test for acidity, put ½ cup of water into your soil sample and then add ½ cup of baking soda. If the soil bubbles or fizzes, the soil is acidic.

Want some more garden secrets? When planting small seeds like radish or carrot seeds, mix the seeds with unflavored gelatin powder. It adds nitrogen to the soil. When rooting a plant or cutting in water, add a ground up aspirin

Did you know vinegar is a good cheap weed killer? Use it for killing weeds or grass coming up in cracks in cement. Salt will also kill weeds in cracks in walkways. Mix one cup salt to two cups water. Salt is also a gruesome way to kill slugs and snails if you are so inclined.

Want to grow birdhouses in your garden and impress the kids? Plant some gourds. All kinds of birds will make nests in gourds. Another secret, each spring coat shovels and hoes with car wax. This will make the dirt come off easily and not cling. It will not make digging fun, just easier.

Finally, this is an important garden secret. When planting vegetables, always plant those that your family likes to eat. As an example, why waste time to plant asparagus or eggplant if no one wants to eat it.

[californiagardenclubs.com](http://californiagardenclubs.com)



**National Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**President 2021-2023**  
**Mary Warshauer**

**Theme:** "Plant America-Play Outdoors"

**NGC Headquarters:**

4401 Magnolia Avenue  
 St. Louis, MO 63110-3492  
 Telephone: 314-776-7574  
 Fax: 314-776-5108

**Email:** [headquarters@gardenclub.org](mailto:headquarters@gardenclub.org)

**Publication:** *The National Gardener*

**Website:** [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)

**Ongoing projects:**

- Plant America
- Ames Garden Tools
- Blue & Gold Star Memorials
- US Botanic Butterfly Garden
- School Gardens
- Spring Planting for Butterflies
- Water Projects



**Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Director: 2019-2021**  
**Robin Pokorski**

**Email:** [PRGCDirector@gmail.com](mailto:PRGCDirector@gmail.com)

**Publication:** *WACONIAH*

**Website:**

[PacificRegionGardenClubs.org](http://PacificRegionGardenClubs.org)

Are you receiving *WACONIAH*, the newsletter of the Pacific Region?

If not, you can subscribe here

[californiagardenclubs.com/  
cgcineletters](http://californiagardenclubs.com/cgcineletters)

**Golden Gardens eNews**

- Published monthly
- Distributed electronically FREE
- To subscribe or view past issues:  
[californiagardenclubs.com/  
cgcineletters](http://californiagardenclubs.com/cgcineletters)
- **Submit articles by 20th of month.**
- Distributed first week of month.

## Newest CGCI State Project

By Shane Looper, Chairman

Upon conclusion of Project Mission Blue with *Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy* that raised \$23,000+ from 2011-2021, a new five-year project was approved by the Board of Directors, **Black Point Historic Gardens**. It is approximately one-acre in size overlooking Aquatic Park, strategically located near Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco's tourist district where 10-12 million people from all over the world visit. See photo of overhead view.

The gardens have been neglected since 1972 but are an important site for public enjoyment as well as environmental and social education through community engagement. It is an ideal place to demonstrate/showcase a garden that encourages urban wildlife including birds, pollinators and small mammals in addition to the visibility of California Garden Clubs, Inc. involvement with signage and presence.

CGCI has adopted this project to raise funds to:

- Plant plants keeping with the historical aspect of Black Point to recreate a strolling garden and to design crucial urban wildlife corridors,
- Acquire garden tools and compost to assist in the restoration of the gardens,
- In exchange, CGCI's logo will appear on acrylic plant signs in the garden and be promoted on GGNPC's social media. Local CGCI clubs can also participate by growing plants for the garden, and/or adopting an area of the garden,
- Maintain Black Point Historic Gardens, within its historical context, as a site for public enjoyment, horticultural, environmental and social education, community engagement as well as for the arts.

CGCI is excited to have the opportunity to raise money for this newest project in partnership with *Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy*. Donations of any amount are welcome. Please make checks payable to CGCI and mail to this chairman at 213 Carmelo Lane, So. San Francisco, CA 94080-2204. We appreciate your support!

### *Plant America: Play Outdoors*





Nina Blonski, Chairman  
 pennypines@cagardenclubs.org  
[Penny Pines](#)

District	Club	Donor	M / H	To Whom	Amount
Cascade	Redding Wonder land GC		Memory	Marguerite Rhodes	\$68.00
Cascade	Redding Wonder land GC		Memory	Jim Owens	\$68.00
Diablo Foothills	Clayton Valley GC	Various	Memory	Patty Remoy	\$272.00
Golden Foothills	Chicago Park GC		Memory	Barbara Jean Church	\$68.00
Orange County	Laguna Beach GC		Honor	Mariann Keenan, Melissa Rapp, Ingrid Cebula, Carolyn Bent	\$816.00
Orange County	San Juan Capistrano GC				\$68.00
Orange County	Lake Forest CG	Barbara Hochgesang	Honor	Firefighters who valiantly subdued the myriad of forest fires	\$68.00
Orange County	Lake Forest CG	Linda M. Martin	Memory	Pat Annen & Anna Martin	\$68.00
Sequoia Foothills	Valley Oak CG		Memory	Bernice Joy Green	\$68.00
Valley Lode	Ripon GC	Ann Mootz	Memory	Robert Smith	\$68.00
Valley Lode	Newman GC		Honor	Gustine Rotary and Lions Clubs, Pea Soup Andersen's Restaurant, Rising Sun Farm & Garden/Amy Thorpe, West Side Community Ambulance, Cindy Martin, Pat Snoke	\$476.00
Valley Lode	Newman GC		Memory	Balbina (Bina) Pometta Part of 8	\$68.00
Valley Lode	The Lodi GC		Honor	Carol Marvel, Richard Griffith, Margaret Quaschnick, Michiye Noda, Janet Hauser, Bonnie Abba, Doris Beck, Jeanne Vetter, Jeanette Moore, Ruth Nies, Earl & Sylvia Brewer	\$748.00

## Sharing the Love of Gardening with California Youth

By Lisa Cosand, Youth Coordinator

Maryanne Lucas, late CGCI president 2009-2011, shared the story of falling in love with plants when, in the second grade, the class grew beans in milk cartons. We want all children to see the miracle of a spouting seed, to be responsible for watering and caring for a plant, to harvest a fruit, leaves or roots for food, and to express love by giving a flower. These are all valuable lessons in life and California Garden Clubs encourage these experiences through sponsorship of youth clubs.

There are two types of sponsorship: active and donor. The active groups directly participates in planning/carrying out programs and activities of the youth group. Donor sponsoring groups donate money or materials in support of the youth group or project. I hope all clubs will be at least a donor sponsor for your local youth group and if you have the ENERGY, please be an active sponsor.

CGCI leadership follows your youth commitment through tallies of the Youth Group New/Renewal Form on the web site. We appreciate your filling out the form each year. New group sponsors fill out the same form and are approved at the quarterly board meetings.

Lets encourage youth gardeners so garden clubs will have members in the future!



### Butterfly Tastebuds

Butterflies do not have taste buds.  
 They taste with their feet.  
 They stand on their food to get a sense of it and then decide if they want to eat it or not.