

Golden Gardens eNews

www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org

March-April 2024, Vol. 5-16



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

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CGCI just completed its first, virtual, three-day board meeting of this term. One hundred and one participants registered, including several club presidents and treasurers. Two workshops were held that were specifically designed for the club presidents and treasurers. Topics included Liability Insurance, Group Tax Exemption Program, Parliamentary Procedure, and NGC Schools. Due to the interest generated at the meeting, "Workshop Wednesdays" (that were held during the pandemic) will return. CGCI will start with one workshop a month highlighting different topics — stay tuned for details.

Being President of CGCI is a great deal of responsibility, but it also comes with many rewards; so, if your club, district, or even the CGCI Nominating Committee comes calling, give them a chance. Saying "yes" sometimes is a great deal of work, but the friendships and memories you will make are some of the most valuable ones of which you could ever dream.

Last month, I attended San Fernando Valley's and Palomar's District Meetings. Each district is unique and highlights many different topics and interests. In the coming weeks, I will be attending Course 4 of NGC's Environmental School in Modesto; Westlake Village Garden Club's 55th-Anniversary Luncheon; and Palomar District's Floral Design Forum with a program on Petite Designs.

March 7 is Arbor Day in California. I hope that you will be planting a new tree this Arbor Day — maybe a fruit tree?

With spring right around the corner and our gardens getting ready to bloom, flower show season is upon us. In March, there is a Near-Club Flower Show in Palms to Pines District, a Daffodil Show in Humboldt District, and an Orchid Show in Costa Verde District, plus lots of flower shows will be held in April and May. There is a Flower Show School in Red Bluff that recently started, and CGCI has an upcoming Flower Show Symposium following the Convention in May in Sacramento. You do not need to be an NGC Flower Show Judge to attend a Flower Show Symposium; you just need to enjoy learning about horticulture and design. If you have never attended a flower show, look one up in your area. They are beautiful to view and a nice way to spend time with family or friends.

I encourage you to check out the CGCI [website](#) and go to the [Official Calendar](#) to view all the events that are coming including NGC schools. It is also a great place to find a garden club by using the zip code locator. Sometimes belonging to one garden club is just not enough. It is like eating potato chips -- you cannot just belong to one. Enjoy the spring bloom. Spring is one of the most beautiful times of the year.

Fondly,
Carol

OFFICIAL CALENDAR

Check the CGCI 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. Red = changes

2024

- March 2-3, **Environmental School**, Course 4, Modesto. Sponsor: Ceres Garden Club. Contact: [Berni Hendrix](#)
- March 6-8, **Flower Show School**, Course 1, Red Bluff. Co-Chairmen: [Dottie Renstrom](#) and [Joie Raymond](#)
- **April 6-7, Environmental School, Course 3**, Modesto. Sponsor: Ceres Garden Club. Contact: [Berni Hendrix](#).
- May 19-22, **CGCI Convention**, Wyndham Hotel, Sacramento. Host: Golden Foothills District. Chairman: [Sue Bennett](#)
- May 23-24, **Flower Show Symposium**. Wyndham Hotel, Sacramento. Chairman: [Jan Goehring](#). [Brochure & Registration Form](#).
- June 2-5, **NGC Convention**, Denver, Colorado
- June 21-22, **Landscape Design School**, Course 1, North Hills. Sponsor: So. California Garden Club. Chairman: [Alexis Slafer](#)
- July 12-13, **Landscape Design School**, Course 2, North Hills. Sponsor: So. California Garden Club. Chairman: [Alexis Slafer](#)
- July 26-27, **Landscape Design School**, Course 3, North Hills. Sponsor: So. California Garden Club. Chairman: [Alexis Slafer](#). Course 4: August 9-10
- August 21-23, **PRGC Convention**, Anchorage, Alaska
- September 8-11, **CGCI Fall Board Meeting**, **Harris Ranch, Coalinga**
- September TBA, **Flower Show School**, Course 2, Red Bluff. Co-Chairmen: [Dottie Renstrom](#) and [Joie Raymond](#)
- September 24, **NGC Fall Board Meeting** — Virtual

Membership Chairmen

- Membership: [Nina Blonski](#)
- Life Membership: [Linda Travis](#)

Committee Chairmen

- Advisory Council: [Lynne Batchelor](#)
- Board of Trustees: [Julie West](#)
- Budget & Finance: [Rita Desilets](#)
- Bylaws & Policy: [Greg Pokorski](#)
- *Golden Gardens eNews*: [Pat Claves](#)
- Nominating: [Lynne Batchelor](#)
- Strategic Planning: [George Speer](#)
- Website/Technology: [Jane McKee](#)
- Youth Activities/Youth Awards: [Lisa Cosand](#)

Program Chairmen

- Group Tax Exemption: [Sue Bennett](#)
- Liability Insurance: [Launa Gould](#)
- Penny Pines: [Terry Sampson](#)
- Scholarships: [Martha Smyser](#)

Schools Chairmen

- Environmental: [Cynthia Jackson](#)
- Flower Show: [Jennifer Waite](#)
- Gardening: [Greg Pokorski](#)
- Landscape Design: [Alexis Slafer](#)

Awards, Honors & Recognition Chairmen

- Awards: [Pat Claves](#)
- Business Commendations, Long-Service Certificates & Member Award of Distinction: [Judy Bates](#)
- California Consultants Council: [Sue Bennett](#)

BOARD RATIFIED PROJECTS

See the CGCI [website](#) for information about these CGCI projects and how to donate.

- Black Point Historic Garden – Chairman [Julie West](#)
- Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorials – Co-Chairmen [George Unrine](#) (South) & [Maria Krenek](#) (North)
- Conejo Valley Botanic Garden – Chairman [Shelley Sparks](#)
- Endowment Funds – Board of Trustees Chairman [Julie West](#)
- Golden Legacy Society – Chairman [George Perko](#)
- President's Project 2023-2025 – Chairman [Terri Taylor](#)
- Sempervirens Fund – Co-Chairmen [Judy Unrine](#) & [Kathy Taylor de Murillo](#)

PLAN AHEAD

- May 12 — Mother's Day**
- May 13-18 — California Poppy Week**
- May 27 — Memorial Day**
- June 2-8 — National Garden Week**
- June 5 — World Environment Day**
- June 9 — National Children's Day**
- June 14 — Flag Day**
- June 16 — Father's Day**
- June 20 — First Day of Summer**

Golden Gardens eNews

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CONVENTION IN SACRAMENTO, MAY 19-22, 2024



CGCI Board of Directors and Club Presidents: Look for the Call to Convention that will be sent approximately forty-five days prior to the start of the convention. All information will be posted on the website under the Official Calendar as soon as The Call is sent.

The Convention will take place on May 19-22, 2024 at the Wyndham Hotel in Sacramento. A Flower Show Symposium will occur at the same hotel immediately following the Convention.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome new Club: **Manzanita Garden Club of Oakhurst**, 11 members, President Holly Houston, Yosemite Gateway District

Welcome new APS: **Northern California Cactus & Succulent Society**, 50 members, President: Annie Wolf



GIVINGTUESDAY 2023 UPDATE



#GIVINGTUESDAY™

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that GivingTuesday 2023 was a success with ten donations received! **\$1,285** was donated between November 28 and December 31, 2023. Thank you to the following for their generous contributions:

- ◆ **Al & Pat Claves**
- ◆ **Rosa Radicchi** (in honor of Elisabeth Tufo)
- ◆ **Roseville Better Gardens Club**
- ◆ **Martha Smyser**
- ◆ **Carol Vallens**
- ◆ **Brad Welles** (in memory of Shane Looper)
- ◆ **Dave & Julie West** (in memory of Shane Looper)

Breakdown of donations: \$240 for the Endowment Fund; \$695 for the Scholarship Endowment Fund; \$150 for the Life Membership Scholarship Fund; and \$200 for the President's Project.

GivingTuesday 2024 takes place on December 3, 2024. Individuals, clubs, and districts are encouraged to donate. This year, we will be most grateful to receive donations to all of CGCI ratified projects: Black Point Historic Garden; Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorials; Conejo Valley Botanic Garden; Endowment Fund; Scholarship Endowment Fund; Golden Legacy Society; President's Project 2023-2025; and Sempervirens Fund. A good way for clubs and districts to remember to donate on GivingTuesday is to place GivingTuesday in their budgets for the upcoming year. New this year: Those who wish to make donations and remain anonymous will be able to do so.

Black Point Historic Garden Project Chairman [Julie West](#) announces that Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy started hosting programs in February at [Black Point Historic Gardens](#) (one of CGCI's ratified projects). These programs will take place the first Saturday of each month, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This will allow for more working folks and youth to get involved in the gardens.

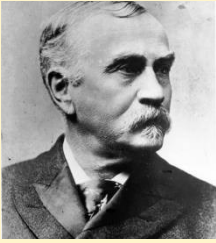
Please spread the word and join if you can. Volunteer registration can be found [here](#).



CONSERVATION

California Arbor Day — March 7

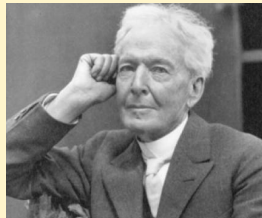
By [Berni Hendrix](#), Arbor Day Chairman



J. Morton Sterling

Arbor Day, much like Earth Day, is a holiday that celebrates nature. Its purpose is to encourage people to plant trees. Most everyone has heard the story of J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska who in the mid-1800s started the movement to plant trees. On that first tree planting day, it is estimated that more than one million trees were planted. The excitement from the sheer number of trees planted in one day spread across America to where Arbor Day is celebrated in all 50 states. The most common date for state observance is the last Friday in April, now congressionally declared National Arbor Day. Many states across the USA 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 March 7, 1849.

With only an elementary education, Burbank at age 21 purchased 17 acres in Santa Rosa, California. He became one of history's most inventive and productive breeders of plants. Conducting as many as 3,000 experiments at once, Burbank painstakingly crossbred foreign and native species of plants, cultivated the resultant seedlings, and used grafting to arrive at new and better breeds.



Luther Burbank

Of the tens of thousands of varieties he attempted, hundreds were successful, including the famous Shasta Daisy. The Elberta peach, Santa Rosa plum, and Flaming Gold nectarine, to name a few, were still on the market one hundred years later. All were invented by Luther Burbank. But his greatest success was the Russet potato (1871), better known as the 'Idaho potato.' It was soon exported to help Ireland recover from the potato blight devastation of 1840-1860. And even today, Burbank's large, hardy, fine-grained potato is unsurpassed as a staple of American agriculture.

Like [George Washington Carver](#), Burbank realized that human ingenuity could improve nature's productivity. His tremendous success, and also his book, *How Plants Are Treated To Work For Man* (1921), largely inspired the PLANT PATENT ACT of 1930, which made new varieties of plants patentable for the first time.

Luther Burbank died in 1926 at 77 years of age. He received 16 plant patents posthumously. More importantly, he set the precedent for innovation in plant breeding that continues today through bio-engineering.

Inspired by the passion of these two men, we in garden clubs, and all of California, plant trees and celebrate Arbor Day during the week of March 7-14. An Arbor Day Tree Planting Celebration in your local community will inspire your city leaders and citizens and will inspire creditability for your garden club. A celebration program is easy to organize and a step-by-step template for success is on CGCI's [website](#).

Arbor Day is a day to reflect on the importance of trees in our city and state, and across our nation, for without them, we would die for lack of oxygen. One acre of forest puts out four tons of oxygen which is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people. The following from various entities show just how important are trees in a community:

- The net cooling effect of a healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.
- Plant a tree on the west side of your home, and in 5 years your energy bill should be 3% less. In 15 years, the savings will be nearly 12%.
- A mature tree can often have an appraised value of between \$1,000 - \$10,000.
- Healthy, mature trees add an average of 10% to a property's value.
- Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30% and can save 20-50% in energy used for heating.
- Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism. Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly, tenants stay longer, and space in a wooded setting is more valuable to sell or rent.

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

Sources:

Arbor Day Foundation; US Department of Agriculture; Dr. E.G. McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research; Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers; USDA Forest Service; and Wikipedia

Photo Credits: United States Congress Archives & National Inventors Hall of Fame



Shasta Daisy

CONSERVATION

Make Each Day Earth Day

By [Bette Tang](#), Writer-at-Large



We celebrate Earth Day on April 22. Since 1970, this special day has brought attention to the health of our planet, conservation, and sustainability. Earth Day has evolved into the largest civic event on Earth, activating billions across 192 countries to safeguard our planet and fight for a brighter future.

This year's theme is Planet vs. Plastics. It will advocate for widespread awareness of the health risks of plastics, rapidly phase out all single-use plastics, urgently push for a strong UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution and demand an end to fast fashion. There are billions of plastic waste items choking our oceans, lakes, and rivers and piling up on land. Plastics are more than unsightly and harmful to plants and wildlife; they are harmful to human health too. One million plastic bottles are purchased every minute worldwide, while up to five trillion plastic bags are used in a year. Each year

the average American ingests more than 70,000 microplastics in their drinking water supply. Microfibers from synthetic fibers have been shown to make up the majority of human material found along the world's shorelines. Cigarette butts — whose filters contain tiny plastic fibers — are the most common type of plastic waste found in the environment. According to a 2020 study conducted by PEW Trusts, annual flows of plastic into the ocean could be reduced by 80% by 2040 through the application of existing approaches to reduce our consumption of single-use plastics and the adoption of eco-friendly alternatives.

We all can do something to eliminate plastics from our lives. By now we have heard about the ways to eliminate plastics, but many are too complacent to follow through. Why? We don't need plastic bags, plastic water bottles, plastic straws and utensils, plastic personal care products, and plastic containers. There are recyclable alternatives. See these websites for suggestions (<https://www.earthday.org/campaign/end-plastic-pollution/> and <https://endplasticwaste.org/>). Each of us needs to take responsibility and make each day Earth Day and pay attention to whether our actions affect the sustainability of life on Earth. Jane Goodall said, "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." We should take personal action and advocate for the elimination of plastics through our elected officials and legislation. It is probably the most important thing we can do.



GOLDEN LEGACY SOCIETY

By [George Perko](#), Chairman

In 2011, CGCI established the Golden Legacy Society. It is a vehicle to transform your annual support into an enduring legacy — a way to support the work of CGCI not just for today but for decades to come.

A bequest in your will or the designation of CGCI as a beneficiary of your retirement plan assets will do just that. These gifts, funded after your lifetime, can ensure that the same values expressed by your annual support will be conveyed to future generations.

Since 2011, the following are members of the Golden Legacy Society: **Joan Craig, Alberta Thiry (posthumous), Carol Vallens, J. David West, Julie West, and two anonymous members.**

If you are not a member of the Golden Legacy Society and would like to become one, download the [Golden Legacy Brochure](#). More information can be found on the [CGCI website](#) about this project of CGCI. Please contact me if you need any further information.

2024 AWARDS PROGRAM UPDATE

The "new and improved" 2024 CGCI Awards Manual is now under construction and will be placed on our website in a few weeks. This Manual will now contain scoring rubrics that will be used to score your entries -- you will no longer have to search the website to obtain the evaluation forms (scoring rubrics) for awards! The scoring rubrics will be located beneath the descriptions for each award.

While the Manual is being finalized, if you need information about a specific award, please contact the Awards Chairman [Pat Claves](#).





PENNY PINES PROGRAM

By [Terry Samsom](#), Penny Pines Chairman

PENNY PINES DONATIONS — FEBRUARY 2024 REPORT

Total Donations to Date: \$4,216

H = In Honor of / M = In Memory of

BAY OCEAN DISTRICT		MENDO-LAKE DISTRICT		H: Bette Tang	\$68
Pacifica Garden Club		Clearlake Trowel & Trellis Garden Club		M: Judy Newman	\$68
M: Shane Looper	\$272	H: Suzanne Russell	\$68	M: Betty Thoreson	\$68
		H: Kitty Loberg	\$68	Toluca Lake Garden Club	
BUTTES DISTRICT		H: Ginny Kline	\$68	M: Rose Chino	\$204
Friendly Garden Club		H: Kelly Roye	\$68		
M: Olga Peterson	\$68	Potter Valley Garden Club		VALLEY LODE DISTRICT	
M: Betty Schaff	\$68	M: Lynn Elman	\$68	Modesto Garden Club	
Garden Club of Colusa County				H: Silas Gray Pierson	\$68
H: Garden Club of Colusa County	\$68	ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT		Newman Garden Club	
M: Ruth Poppinga	\$68	Lake Forest Garden Club		H: Beto Palomino	\$68
Chico Horticultural Society		H: Lake Forest Garden Club	\$272	H: Katie Adams	\$68
M: Emilie White	\$340	M: George Hood	\$68	Oakdale Garden Club	
		H: Logan & Kendra	\$68	H: Oakdale Garden Club	\$68
CASCADE DISTRICT				Ripon Garden Club	
Red Bluff Garden Club		PALOMAR DISTRICT		M: Robin Sylvester	\$68
M: Shirley Hall	\$68	Fallbrook Garden Club		Tuolumne County Garden Club	
		M: Carol Croy	\$68	H: Sharon Smith, Carl S. Tucker	\$136
COSTA VERDE DISTRICT		H: Joan Eberle	\$68		
Long Beach Garden Club		Temecula Valley Garden Club		YOSEMITE GATEWAY DISTRICT	
H: Long Beach Garden Club	\$340	M: Keith Waters	\$68	Atwater Garden Club	
		Vista Garden Club		H: Victims of 2023 Winter Flooding,	
DIABLO FOOTHILLS DISTRICT		H: Kent & Rhonda Kavanaugh	\$68	Castle Veterans	\$136
Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club				MISCELLANEOUS	
H: Walter Rowntree	\$68	ROADRUNNER DISTRICT		Tim & Martha Hawkins	
H: Laura Reynolds	\$68	Hesperia Garden Club		M: Remo Maggiora	\$68
H: Lucas B. Reynolds	\$68	M: Ginny Kight	\$68	Presidio Hill Society NSCAR Children of the	
		H: John & Debra Ann Peterson	\$68	American Revolution	
GOLDEN FOOTHILLS DISTRICT				H: Presidio Hill Society NSCAR	\$136
Colfax Garden Club		SACRAMENTO RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT			
H: Jan Swift	\$68	Shibui Arrangers Guild		To see more information about the	
		H: Jeanne Walker	\$68	Penny Pines Program, click here.	
LUTHER BURBANK DISTRICT					
Petaluma Garden Club		SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DISTRICT			
H: Petaluma Garden Club	\$68	Southern California Garden Club			

REPORTING SALES TAX

By [George Perko](#), Treasurer

Are garden clubs and districts subject to California sales tax regulations just as profit-making businesses are? The answer is YES! CGCI has always advised this and said this on its website. There is a limited exception, though.

If a garden club has only *de minimis* sales activity, it does not have to register and pay sales tax. As a rough guideline, if the club has less than \$100 of sales tax liability from only one or two activities in a year, this is *de minimis* activity. If you exceed these limits, then, yes, your organization should register for sales tax reporting and file annually.

Consult your local accountant for any further information. CGCI is not licensed to provide further guidance on individual club specifics.



HORTICULTURE

CALIFORNIA POPPY DAY — APRIL 6

By [Pat Claves](#), NGC Gardening Consultant Emeritus



April 6 is California Poppy Day — a day when California's state flower, the California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), is celebrated. If you miss celebrating on

April 6, you can do so from May 13 to May 18 which is California Poppy Week.

According to California Senate Bill 944 (37222.12), "On California Poppy Day, all public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to conduct exercises honoring the California Poppy, including instruction about native plants, particularly the California Poppy, and the economic and aesthetic value of wildflowers; promoting responsible behavior toward our natural resources and a spirit of protection toward them; and emphasizing the value of natural resources and conservation of natural resources."

Eschscholzia californica is the most common variety (color ranges from yellow to orange). There are also other varieties such as *E. californica* 'Red Chief'; *E. californica* 'Sundew'; *E. californica* 'Thai Silk Rose Bush'; and *E. californica* 'Thai Silk Apricot Rose Bush'. Other names for the California Poppy are Golden Poppy, California Sunlight, and Cup of Gold. The early Spanish settlers called the plant *dormidera*, "the drowsy one" because at night and during overcast, windy and rainy days, the flower stays closed with its petals tightly wrapped.



The California Poppy can either be a perennial, growing from the previous year's root base, or an annual direct from seed.

Sew in fall in mild-winter areas, and in spring in colder regions. The prime growing season is from February through September. Broadcast on cultivated, well-drained soil; if rain is absent, water to keep the ground moist until seeds germinate. For large-scale sowing, use 3-4 pounds of seeds per acre. Use for naturalizing on sunny hillsides, along drives, in dry fields, vacant lots, parking strips, or country gardens. It will put on a nonstop show of color in late spring and early summer. However, the plant can be susceptible to powdery mildew.

Suggested companion plants include *Gilia capitata* (globe gilia); *Nemophila menziesii* (baby blue eyes), *Layia platyglossa* (tidy tips); and various colors of annual *Lupinus microcarpus* var. *densiflorus* (lupine).

You might see a profusion of small insects from beetles to tiny bees harvesting the pollen and caterpillars eating the satin petals. The California Poppy produces no nectar. Pollination is carried out mainly by bees and beetles that are attracted by the profusion of fragrant pollen.

So, remember to celebrate California's state flower on April 6 and all throughout the spring and summer.

*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.*

Sources: *Sunset New Western Garden Book*, 2009 Edition; *Golden Poppies of California*, George D. Lepp, 2004; UC ANR's IPM website

DAFFODILS

By [Bette Tang](#), Writer-at-Large



I always get a big smile on my face and a feeling of delight when I discover the first cheery and bright daffodil blooming in my garden after the dreariness of winter. The big yellow trumpet daffodil is one of the first flowers of early spring and is one of the most loved and recognizable flowers. The daffodil (*Narcissus*) is also known by common regional names such as jonquil in the South and buttercup in the Midwest. Its name is frequently linked to the Greek myth about Narcissus who was so obsessed with his own reflection in the water that he fell in and drowned, and the *Narcissus* plant sprang from where he died. Pliny wrote that the name derives from its narcotic scent (*narce*). Daffodils are native to the Mediterranean area and have been around since ancient times.

There are thousands of varieties of daffodils. Daffodils are grouped into 13 divisions based on the form of the flower: (1) trumpet; (2) large-cupped; (3) small-cupped; (4) double; (5) *N. triandrus*; (6) *N. cyclamineus*; (7) *N. jonquilla*; (8) *N. tazetta*; (9) *N. poeticus*;

Continued on page 8

HORTICULTURE

A PEACE LILY AND A PRAYER PLANT

By [Nancy Compton](#), NGC Landscape Design Consultant

Several years ago, following the loss of a family member, a dear friend sent a basket of greenery to me, the main plants of which were a peace lily and a prayer plant. The significance of this plant selection was not lost on me, and twenty-two years later, I still think about her thoughtfulness.



Peace Lilies

Peace lilies (*Spathiphyllum*) belong to a genus of 47 species of flowering plants that are most often grown as houseplants, although they may be planted outside in more tropical regions that are consistently hot and humid, which means you will not find them growing outside my home.

The peace lily is quite graceful, having long, slender leaves, and it sends out a willowy stem, the top of which is adorned with a white, almost leaf-shaped flower. The yellow filament in the middle of the flower somewhat resembles a tiny corn cob. These plants are known for their symbolism of peace, purity, and healing.

Peace lilies are also known for their voracious appetite for water. In fact, if you do not water every 5-6 days, your peace lily will stop looking stately and begin to droop. If you leave for vacation, be sure to set your peace lily in a large popcorn bowl full of water so it can drink lustily from the bottom.

Peace lilies also tend to get brown tips, which is often annoying to plant owners. This is because these plants are sensitive to chemicals found in tap water, so use filtered water instead. If this is not possible, just take a pair of sharp, clean scissors and snip the brown tips off. This will not harm the plant.

Prayer plants (*Maranta leuconeura*) are low-growing tropical plants that are native to Brazil. The beauty of this plant is in its deep-green, velvety leaves that have yellow splotches and reddish veins that travel from the center of the leaf toward the outer edge.



Prayer Plant

Prayer plants actually grow best in greenhouse-like conditions because they love warmth and moisture. You can see why they can live happily for many years next to a peace lily, as they both have similar needs in order to look their best. And although these plants enjoy warmth, they will be extremely displeased in direct sun, which will scorch their leaves. Indirect sun will be just fine, thank you.

You may be surprised to learn that peace lilies have made their way into popular culture. The 7th track on "Mother Earth's Plantasia," an early electronic album that was composed for plants to listen to is "Swingin' Spathiphyllums." I decided to check this out by asking Alexa if she would play this tune. She replied by saying, "Hmmm ... I'm not sure." Then ... silence.

Perhaps silence is the essence of a beautiful plant. Silence to think ... silence to remember ... silence to bring peace. If we listen closely to our plants, maybe, just maybe this is the message they are hoping to share with us: Believe in peace and prayer. Our world is profoundly in need of both.

DAFFODILS

Continued from page 7

(10) *N. bulbocodium*; (11) split corona, both Collar types (11a) and the Papillons (11b); (12) daffodils that do not fit anywhere else; and (13) true species growing in the wild. There are tall, medium and miniature daffodils (less than six inches) in each division.

Daffodils grow well in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 3b-10. They prefer full sun but will tolerate a half day of shade. They like well-drained soil. Plant bulbs in the fall at a depth of three times their height. Daffodils do best with feeding at planting and every fall thereafter with a slow-release fertilizer low in nitrogen and high in potassium. Deadhead the spent flower but let the foliage die down naturally because the bulb is storing energy for next year. Daffodil bulbs multiply year after year and will need to be divided after a while.



***Daffodils are yellow
trumpets of spring.***

— Richard L. Ratliff



PHOTOGRAPHY

By [Brad Welles](#), OFAD Webmaster/Photographer



Are your photos looking a little bleak?

Try these ten simple steps to improve your cell phone shots.

1. Take more than one shot
Take at least three shots of your subject. Check to see which of the images has the least motion blur by zooming in to find the one with the best focus and then delete the rest.

2. Turn on Grid Lines

You can get a grid overlay on your cell screen to help you position the subject in your shot and also keep the camera level. **iPhone:** Go to "Settings," choose "Photos & Camera," and switch "Grid" on. **Samsung Galaxy:** Launch the camera app, go to "Settings," scroll down and switch the "gridlines" option to "on."

3. Tell the phone what to focus on and set manual exposure if needed

Tap the screen to show the automatic focus area and exposure setting. Tap and hold the area in your subject where you want the camera to focus. A box will appear where the camera will focus and set the brightness. Next to the focus area, a symbol of a sun will appear that you can drag up or down to adjust the exposure if needed.

4. Save at highest resolution

Cloud storage services, like Google Photos or iCloud, are a good place to store your photos but some of these services do not automatically store the highest possible resolution version of your photos. You need to set up your service to store the full-size version of your photos.

5. Don't zoom the cellphone camera

Zooming in will reduce the sharpness and resolution of your picture. Physically move closer or further from the subject to get the proper framing.

6. Clean your phone's lens

Use a microfiber cloth like those designed for eyeglasses to clean the lens of your cell camera. The lens frequently gets dust and fingerprints that will be visible in your shots.

7. Don't hold the phone out at arm's length

Hold the cell phone closer to your body so that your elbows can be held tight to your sides when taking a shot.

8. Consider buying a tripod

There are tripods available specially designed for cell phones. This is the best way to get sharp in focus shots without motion blur.

9. Avoid using flash

Try to always use natural light. The flash will flatten the look of your subject and leave it lacking dimension.

10. Use camera orientation best suited to your subject

If your subject is mostly vertical, hold the cell phone in the "Portrait" position and in "Landscape" position for horizontal subjects to fill the screen. When shooting plants or floral designs, make sure not to clip off any of the flower or design components by shooting too close.

The Meaning of Garden Club Work

From the 2023-24 Yearbook of Cherry Blossom Garden Club

- *For some it means the actual gardening, hands in the soil, body in the sun and a vision of color and fragrance and form.*
- *To some it means the use of flowers as a medium of artistic expression.*
- *To some it means an opportunity to serve their community by turning the ugly places into beauty spots.*
- *To some it is a spiritual experience, whereby they may serve God through their gift of flowers to the churches and hospitals and the lonely forlorn.*
- *To a few, it means the challenge of leadership and personal ability in group work.*
- *To a very few, it is meaningless, a name on the membership list and a sometime attendance.*
- *But to many it means making friends, meeting with the old and mingling with the new.*
- *Garden Club work is as complex as the unfolding of a rose and as simple as the face of a daisy. It is social. It is spiritual. It is political. It is educational. It is scientific. It is a way of life.*

—Anonymous

FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIUM

You are invited to attend CGCI's two-day Flower Show Symposium that will be held immediately after the CGCI Convention at the same hotel (Wyndham Hotel, 5321 Date Avenue, Sacramento). The Symposium takes place on May 23-24, 2024.

Day 1 -- Instructor: Pam Braun from Tennessee. You will learn how to display horticulture; use mechanics; and how to judge horticulture.

- ◆ Lectures: "Horticulture Mechanics" and "Ferns and Bromeliads"
- ◆ Horticulture practice point scoring (how to judge horticulture)
- ◆ Horticulture written point-scoring exam (for NGC judges)

Day 2 -- Instructor: Lynn Fronk from Ohio. You will learn the mechanics for floral design; how to create floral designs; and how to judge designs.

- ◆ Lectures: "Design Mechanics" and "American Line Mass and Panel Designs"
- ◆ Design practice point scoring (how to judge designs)
- ◆ Design written point-scoring exam (for NGC judges)

See [CGCI Official Calendar](#) for more information and [Brochure and Registration Form](#). For questions, contact the Chairman [Jan Goehring](#).



FLORAL DESIGN

GETTING READY FOR THE FLOWER SHOW

Garden Plants for Floral Designs

By [Barbara Weiler](#), NGC Master Flower Show Judge

One of the many benefits of gardening in California is that we can grow so many interesting plants that work well in creative floral designs. New designers often only think about using commercially grown flowers, when their own gardens can provide interesting material at no cost.

There are many leaves that have different shapes, colors and textures that provide interest and beauty to designs. Many can survive without water for several days which can be helpful in hiding the mechanics holding your design together (glue, wires, tape, etc.). Sturdy leaves can be manipulated by trimming, bending, wiring, weaving, curling, stapling, etc. to create interesting forms. In design classes that permit dried material, leaves may be painted or glycerinated. Leaves should be conditioned by submerging in water for an hour or so. Fuzzy and delicate leaves should not be submerged, just place stems in water to condition.

Some of the many leaves that work well in design:

- ◆ *Phormium* (Flax) — bend, curve, weave, wire, cut, skeletonize, dried
- ◆ Palms — *Areca*, *Raphis*, *Trachycarpus*, fan palms — trim, weave, bend, dried
- ◆ *Cycas revoluta* (Sago palm) — bend, trim, remove leaves to create pattern, dried
- ◆ *Aspidistra* — bend, curl, split, trim, wire
- ◆ *Philodendron xanadu* (and others) — trim, wire, bend
- ◆ *Strelitzia* (Bird of Paradise) — trim, cut patterns, embellish, dried leaves twist and curl
- ◆ *Sansevieria* — strong linear component, split, bend, cut patterns with X-acto knife
- ◆ *Fatsia japonica* — trim, wire, interesting curves when dried
- ◆ *Pelargonium* — many have bold colors, small leaves last in petite designs
- ◆ *Begonia* — great shapes and colors, stems are delicate
- ◆ *Equisetum* (Horsetail) — wire and bend

I have hundreds of design pictures categorized by type on Pinterest including a board titled Leaf Manipulation. Log onto Pinterest and search for Barbara Weiler to view them. Experiment with the plants in your garden and see what you can create!



**Fatsia, Pelargonium,
dried & painted
Strelitzia — Barbara
Weiler Design**



YOUTH

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Update

By [Charlotte Tucker](#) & Assistant [Michele Bloomberg](#),
Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairmen

The judging of the 2024 Smokey Bear (only) Poster Contest was held at the Cal-Fire Training Center on Wednesday, February 7. CGCI's five first-place winning posters have been forwarded to PRGC to be judged on March 6.

Clubs that had winners at the CGCI level of judging:

- **Diablo Foothills District:** Walnut Creek Garden Club had 1 winner.
- **Mendo-Lake District:** Clear Lake Trowel & Trellis Garden Club had 1 winner.
- **Sacramento River Valley District:** Folsom Garden Club had 8 winners and 4 were 1st place.
- **Valley Lode District:** Foothill Garden Club had 2 winners; Tuolumne County Garden Club had 9 winners, and 1 was a 1st place.

Charlotte Tucker will be making the award certificates for these CGCI winners and get them to the clubs' chairmen as soon as possible so the clubs will have plenty of time to honor their winners before school closes for the summer.



CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL

When is a Shamrock not a Shamrock . . . and What is Clover?

by [Nancy Compton](#), California Consultants Council Member

One childhood memory that I seem to revisit every St. Patrick's Day is that of lying on my stomach in a city park looking for a four-leaf clover. I cannot recall ever finding one, so I was always surprised when an annoying little boy from the neighborhood seemed to find one every day, and then he would run around showing all the other kids his bounty. Finally, one day the jig was up when another kid saw him pick two clovers, tear two leaves off one clover, and then hold the stems together so it looked like it was all one clover with four leaves.

Then along came St. Patrick's Day, and it seemed like clover was now referred to as a shamrock. What was the difference? The long answer is that shamrock and clover are both used to refer to a species of trefoil (genus *Trifolium*, from the Latin meaning "having three leaves"). The short answer was offered by a neighbor who said that clover is the everyday term for the plant that provides over 50% of the green in his lawn.



Clover

The shamrock, however, has a much more interesting history, especially if you are Irish. It is said that St. Patrick, who, as you remember, is considered the patron saint of Ireland, and lived in the fifth century when mystic and legend were often used to explain the unexplainable, used the shamrock to describe the Holy Trinity. This triad is also believed to represent faith, love,



Shamrock

and hope, and if you do find a fourth leaf on your clover, this means luck. The chances of actually finding a four-leaf clover, however, are one in 10,000. This is because a clover with four leaves is a rare genetic mutation.

The word "shamrock" comes from the Irish word *seamrag* meaning "little clover" but there is no consensus about which species of clover is the true shamrock. Even though the shamrock is not exactly a flower, it is the national flower of Ireland.

Another piece of the puzzle is a houseplant that goes by the name of shamrock which usually shows up in grocery stores around St. Patrick's Day. This plant is not related to clover at all, but it is in the same genus as wood sorrel (*Oxalis*). *Oxalis* are native to the tropics and may be grown outdoors in zones 6-11 but are more commonly kept indoors as a houseplant all year. Please keep your *oxalis* away from your dogs and kitties, because munching on *oxalis* plants could result in the poisoning of your pets. If you do purchase a shamrock from the grocery store or are gifted one by your neighbor whose lawn is covered with clover, you will have a happy plant whose leaves close up at night but open back up in the morning. They are a bit finicky about having wet feet, so you will need to keep it in a pot with fairly porous soil and a hole for drainage. You will also need to repot it every other year with a pot of a slightly larger size.

So, a shamrock and clover may or may not be the same, but the usage is quite distinct. A shamrock is a symbol from an ancient culture that is still celebrated today, and clover is considered a ground cover that attracts pollinator bees. Both are welcome in our world.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. & PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

PATH OF SUCCESS

NGC's Permanent Home and Endowment Trustees recently approved the addition of a walking path that will be known as the Path of Success.

Roughly a quarter mile long, the Path of Success will be a walking path located on the grounds of NGC's headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri and will link to the Missouri Botanical Gardens that will spread more awareness of NGC than ever before. This project will also serve as an educational platform, showing the rich history and mission of NGC.



Individuals, clubs, districts, states, and regions are invited to purchase brick pavers to be included on the Path of Success. The order form and more information can be found on the [NGC website](#). Donations (in any amount) to the project are also being accepted.

ESPOMA PLANT AMERICA GRANTS



NGC is excited to continue its partnership with the premier provider of organic plant foods and potting soils – The Espoma Company with its Espoma Plant America Grant Program to award \$250 of Espoma potting soil and fertilizers to worthy garden club projects. Espoma Plant America Grant Applications will be accepted from October 1, 2023 through **May 31, 2024**. Applying for a Espoma Plant America Grant is easy. Simply click on the link to the [Espoma Grant Program Application](#) on NGC's website, scroll down to find the form and then complete the form, attach a word.doc file with the project description and/or site drawing and add up to 3 'before' photos, then click 'submit.' For more information, see [NGC's website](#). There is also an [informational flyer](#) and an [informational video](#) about the project that was created a few years ago on NGC's website.

According to NGC's website, Espoma is a manufacturer of organic fertilizers for gardeners nationwide and offers over 70 organic products and manufactures over 50 million pounds of organic fertilizer per year. Espoma's commitment to environmental sustainability extends to its manufacturing facility that is 100% solar powered with panels covering 67,000 sq. ft. and producing over 810,000 kilowatt hours of electricity -- enough to power over 70 homes for a full year. This saves more than 1.6 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions annually and reduces as much CO2 as planting two million trees.

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2023-2024 Plant America Community Project Grant Recipients from California:

Ceres Garden Club, San Pedro Garden Club, and Southern California Garden Club!



Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

PRGC DIRECTOR'S PROJECT: UNLEASH THE WILD, BRING NATURE HOME

The goal objectives of the PRGC Director's Project are to educate ourselves, others, and do something to help the natural world.

See more information about this project on the [PRGC website](#). Specifically, look on page 2 where all of the requirements to take part in the project are located. The [project reporting form](#) is also on the PRGC website.



ATTACHMENT

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, 2023, 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 22, 2024

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