

LAS BRISAS

Costa Verde District Newsletter

Member of California Garden Clubs, Inc., Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Fall 2025 CVD Newsletter Director's Message



Hello All,

I am honored to serve as you District Director for 2025-2027. We held elections and your new Executive Committee will be:

District Director – Cindy Kovacs

First Assistant Director –

Myrna Cabanban

Second Assistant Director –

Marilyn Rubin

Recording Secretary –

Karen Czap

Treasurer – Ellyn Meikle

Parliamentarian – George Unrine

This group along with the Club Presidents make up the CVD Board of Directors.

We plan to continue the fine work of the previous Board in meeting our goal of being a bridge between CGCI and the clubs. You may notice the District meetings have changed to Wednesdays. Also, new this year will be a focus

on Life Memberships, President's Forum at Board Meetings, rotation of the meeting hosts, an information sharing table at the General meetings, and a policy change to allow clubs reimbursement for certain hosting expenses at meetings.

I am interested to hear from our speaker, Gisele Schoniger from Kellogg Garden Products. With her experience as an organic gardening educator, I am sure she has much to share with us.

I attended the CGCI Fall Board Meeting in Coalinga this September, and the Convention in June and was delighted to meet many of the names I had only read about. I can see that we all share the passion to support CGCI in meeting our goals. Consider volunteering so you can be a part of this great organization.

Costa Verde District invites you to attend a meeting this year, especially if you have not yet attended one. I am open to suggestion that will make the District better meet the club's and member's needs.

I look forward to meeting each of you at our next meeting.

Cindy Kovacs, Director
Costa Verde District

CVD Meeting Wednesday Oct 22

10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Host: Riviera Garden Club

BYO Beverage

\$5 per person

All are welcome – bring a friend!

**RSVP to your Club President
by October 17th**

**October Program:
Gisele Schoniger
Organic Gardening Educator
Kellogg Garden Products**

Gisele Schoniger, organic gardening educator for Kellogg Garden Products will share fascinating insights into how organic soils and plant foods are manufactured, highlighting Kellogg's commitment to sustainable and environmentally responsible practices. She will discuss the company's OMRI listed products and explains how to select the right soil and amendments for various garden types—including small spaces, edibles, raised beds, and landscape gardens. Gisele emphasizes the importance of keeping soil alive with nutrients and beneficial organisms, as well as applying and distributing water correctly to maximize garden health.



June 2025 Meeting Highlights



Guest Speaker Mike Garcia
and Ellyn Meikle



Moss purse centerpieces by
Carol Nelson & friends
Long Beach Garden Club



CGCI 93rd Annual Convention Magic in the Garden



CVD Officers installed at the group
installation during the Convention.
L-R Myrna Cabanban, Ellyn Meikle,
Judy Unrine, George Unrine,
Cindy Kovacs, Marilyn Rubin

District and Club Awards



Congratulation to all
Clubs and Costa Verde
District for 100% Blue
Ribbon Achievement
Award.

Award #25B Wildflower 1st
place – **Long Beach Garden
Club**

Award #50 §1 Newsletters – 1st
Place – **Costa Verde District**

Award #50 §2B Newsletters –
Long Beach Garden Club

Award #51 §1A Publications –
1st Place – **Art Hazboun –
South Bay Orchid Society**

Award #51 §1A Publications –
2nd Place – **Braulio Mena –
South Bay Orchid Society**

Award #51 §1C Publications –
**Ellyn Meikle – Riviera Garden
Club**

Award #54 Club Yearbook Class
III – **Long Beach Garden Club**

Award #54 Club Yearbook Class
IV – 2nd Place – **Hermosa
Garden Club**

Award #55 District Yearbook –
1st Place – **Costa Verde**

Pacific Region Garden Clubs Awards

Award #1 – Published Article,
Horticulture – 1st Place – **Arthur
Hazboun – South Bay Orchid
Society**

Award #2 – District Newsletter –
1st Place – **Costa Verde**

Award #3 – District Yearbook –
1st Place – **Costa Verde**

Award #16 – Native Flora
Education – 1st Place – **Long
Beach Garden Club**

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

CE-6 Community Project with
Native Plants/Wildflowers –
Certificate of Appreciation of
award participation – **Long
Beach Garden Club**

MAE 4 Publications – Certificate
in Appreciation of award
participation – **Costa Verde**

South Bay Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale

On September 20th and 21st, the South Bay Orchid Society hosted its Fall Show and Sale. The show featured a diverse array of orchid species. Show winners included SBOS members **David Streeter**, **Larry Bergen**, **Marlena**

Pacis, **Don Goss** and **David West**, with Best of Show going to **Larry**

Bergen for his *Laelia purpurata*.

Susan Whiteside, who is also a member of Hermosa Garden Club, win the First-Place ribbon in her class with her *Phalaenopsis FANGtastic* Green Envy orchid. The unique color markings looked like eyes wearing sunglasses. Congratulations to all!



Riviera Garden Club Youth Activities

The Riviera Garden Club's Youth Activities Committee, led by **Judy Unrine**, had recently completed a project to support Narbonne High School's (Narbonne) Student Garden Club in its endeavor for soil for its 40 planting beds on 4 acres of horticulture land. The state does not fund this program, so it depends only on donations. There are currently 45 students who volunteer their time and energy within the garden.

On September 26, 2025, Kellogg Garden Products donated four pallets of high-quality, organic soil, manure, fertilizer, and other gardening essentials for growing a garden. **Mike Garcia** donated his time and dump truck to transport these items directly to Narbonne's garden. The students assisted in unloading and storing these bags in a safe, locked shed. The onsite sponsor, Cynthia Rodriguez, Spanish teacher, was an integral partner in coordinating this donation project. There was support from teachers from Narbonne's AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, and Biology curricula.

The RGC's Board of Directors and member, **Jacque Thompson**, were generous and allocated sufficient funds to help the students with their urgent need for soil to start working in their planting beds.

Due to Kellogg Garden Products' donation, Mike Garcia's transportation, the students' unloading, and RGC's coordination, no funds were used for this project from the RGC's donation fund. They will be kept in a separate fund for future use (seeds, starting plants, tools, etc). RGC's members will be donating tools that they no longer use. **Marie Hoffman** volunteered to collect the tools at her house.

This project required considerable time, energy, and persistence to complete, but with the support of everyone involved, we succeeded.



Hermosa Garden Club Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication

July 28, 2025 Hermosa Garden Club hosted the installation of a special Blue Star Marker, a program started after WW2 to honor our Armed Forces. Only specifically designated highways are allowed to have this marker.

Many thanks go to **Alexis Slafer**, long-time Garden Club member, for her 12 years of determination and perseverance in seeing this project completed.



Dedication by Alexis Slafer



San Pedro Garden Club

Fresh from our summer hiatus, San Pedro Garden Club held our first Fall meeting on Sept 23rd. What a thrill it was to see everyone again. Well, we did see quite a few members a few weeks prior when we held our Annual Tea & Hat Parade in late August which takes place at one of our member's gorgeous garden. This event is always a blast and reveals such artistry from our members. Lots of events are planned in our midst, one of which is our upcoming Annual Yard Sale on Saturday, Nov 15th. Please come and join us if you can. And yes, we are already talking Holidays.

How time flies.



Long Beach Garden Club Blue Butterfly Tour

In June, Long Beach visited the El Segundo Blue Butterfly habitat at the bluffs near Mira Mar Park in Redondo Beach. Our guide, Ann Dalkey, showed us a handful of El Segundo Blues fluttering around the many sea-cliff buckwheat. This butterfly is



dependent on a single plant species. This perfect day included lunch at the Redondo Beach Yellow Vase, a lovely French themed yellow cottage.



UPCOMING DATES

All meetings take place at
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula

Wednesday December 10, 2025

CVD Holiday Luncheon 10 a.m.

Wednesday February 11, 2026

CVD Board Meeting 10 a.m.

Wednesday March 11, 2026

CVD General Meeting 10 a.m.

Monday April 13, 2026

Bus Trip to Mathias Botanic
Garden at UCLA

Wednesday May 27, 2026

CVD Board Meeting 10 a.m.

Wednesday June 10, 2026

CVD General Meeting 10 a.m.

Contributing author
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