

LAS BRISAS

Costa Verde District Newsletter

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



Spring 2025 CVD Newsletter Director's Message



It is difficult to believe that we are having our first meeting for 2025! Southern California did not see a very positive beginning with this new year. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims of the fires and rain. I know that many CVD members have volunteered in so many ways to help. Thank you for your efforts and generosity.

Wonderful programs and activities are on the horizon. We look forward to seeing you at our General Membership Meetings at the South Coast Botanic Garden (SCBG). We will learn about the Kelp Forests of the South Bay and How Climate Change is Affecting Our Gardens. I hope to see you at our next meeting on February 24th. It is very important that every attendee RSVP with their club president by February 20th! As you know, the SCBG is requiring a list of attendees in advance of our meeting. Those attending, but not on the RSVP list and not a member of the garden, will be asked by the SCBG to pay the admission fee.

The District's upcoming plans include a reciprocal visit to our sister district to the north, San Fernando Valley District. So, our spring bus trip will be to the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino...where we will enjoy a special

program, club fair, lunch and raffle. And let's not forget...to mingle and enjoy getting together. Our bus will leave from the SCBG at 9:00 a.m. and return at 3 p.m. The program will include 2 short talks about the Southern California Garden Club's Pollinator and Rose Gardens...and then we will go out to enjoy them. We will also participate in a floral design workshop led by the members of Woodland Hills Floral Designers. After lunch we can walk around the community gardens and then board the bus at 1:30 p.m.



SAVE THE DATES: The CGCI 2025 Convention will be held in Laguna Hills on June 2-5, 2025. The theme is *Magic In The Garden*. On Wednesday, June 4th there will be the first ever -- in CGCI history -- a statewide installation of club and district officers. Don't we want to participate and be a part of this historical event. A day pass will be available. There will also be a Marketplace where clubs can have a table for selling their items...more information will be coming soon...but think about holding your installation at this fun event and selling at the Marketplace. See the flyer on page 3.

I'm looking forward to seeing you and to a fun and rewarding 2025!

Alexis Slafer, Director



CVD Meeting
Monday February 24
10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Host: Riviera Garden Club
BYO Beverage

\$5 per person

All are welcome – bring a friend!

Program:

Kelp Forests of the South Bay

Michael Friedman is the Chair of the Speakers Bureau of Los Serenos de Point Vicente. This volunteer organization provides community interpretive and educational services about the natural and cultural history of the PV Peninsula and coastal waters.

RSVP to your club president
by February 20th

October 2024 Meeting Highlights



Guest Speaker Shelly Sparks and First Assistant Director Ellyn Meikle



Refreshments provided by San Pedro Garden Club



We sampled passion fruit juice, and found it had a unique flavor, but was better with sugar.

A few lucky attendees were able to take home a super yum passion fruit vine.



Refreshments provided by Hermosa Garden Club



Centerpieces provided by San Pedro Garden Club



December 2024 Meeting Highlights



Guest Speaker Jorge Ochoa shared his lifelong interest with passion fruit. He was careful to record the taste of each variety he encountered, from yucky to super yum. These are varieties if you are interested in super yum.



Centerpieces provided by the South Coast Floral Designers

Costa Verde District Bylaws Update

CVD bylaws were last updated June 25, 2014. According to Article IX Amendments, the bylaws amendments were provided to Board members January 5, 2025. The Board met on February 3 to discuss the proposed amendments. The Board of Directors approved the revised bylaws and the recommendation that they be presented at the next general meeting.

The next step is to notify the full District membership prior to a general meeting. The bylaw amendments approved by the Board of Directors will be emailed to all Club Presidents by May 9, 2025, and the presidents will forward them to their members. The bylaw amendments will be discussed at the June 9 meeting. Following the discussion, there will be a vote to approve or reject.

The current bylaws call for a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors to approve. The Board of Directors consist of the Executive Committee and the Club Presidents.

The club presidents were provided with the existing bylaws, revised final proposed bylaws, a comparison chart, and the cover letter from Alexis to the Board of Directors. They were notified to forward this to all club members. If you have not received a copy, please contact your club president. Club Presidents are to represent their club and use their judgment in voting to approve or reject the proposed bylaws based on member feedback.

CGCI June Convention



Save The Date

There's Magic In The Garden

First EVER...Mass Installation Event
GARDEN CLUB OFFICER INSTALLATION CELEBRATION

- Celebrate with your fellow clubs
- Become a part of this first ever mass installation of club officers from throughout California
- Encourage your officers to attend
- Make a day of it by attending and participating in educational workshops, activities room, raffle and more

When & Where: The 93rd California Garden Clubs Inc. Convention Luncheon

WEDNESDAY JUNE 4, 2025 LUNCHEON

THE HILLS HOTEL, LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.sanclementegardenclub.com

CLUB REPORTS

Hermosa Garden Club

Our board members have managed to keep busy planning ahead for our Thursday, Feb. 20 Whale Watch Trip (from Long Beach), future restaurant fundraisers, and other activities. The big event of the year will be our annual plant sale scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 26 on the grounds of

Nova Community Church in Torrance. Hermosa Garden Club has invested in some snazzy new signs to advertise this plant sale.

The speaker at our general meeting on January 21 was Linda Meighan, a South Bay area Herbalist/Holistic Lifestyle Consultant. She informed us about the properties of herbs and how they can help us maintain a healthier life.

Walt Warriner, a certified Urban Forester, will be talking to us at our February 18 general meeting about the benefits of maintaining healthy and structurally stable trees.

We have a bus trip to look forward to on Tuesday, May 20. The bus will be transporting our members and guests to the Theodore Payne Nursery in Sunland. Lunch will follow this visit. It is possible that space may be available on the bus for members of other clubs who are interested in attending.

Our last event of the 2024-2025 year will be the June luncheon and installation of new Officers.

San Pedro Garden Club



Back from the Holidays, SPGC held our 1st meeting successfully. We also completed our yearbook for 2025 – it'll be distributed to our members at our next general meeting on Feb 25th. This month's meeting will double as a meeting/field trip at the Madrona Marsh Preserve in Torrance since our featured speaker will be one of the Docents.



We are also re-establishing, hopefully, a previous relationship with a Community Living Center in San Pedro, one I understand used to host our general meetings, and previously, celebrated Arbor Day events. For March, I've connected with the city of

Los Angeles, about a "plant a tree in your yard" program where the City provides trees for free according to what is best for your area.

And of course, it'll be here before we know it, we're already in negotiations for our Spring luncheon.

South Bay Floral Designers



The assignment for January and February is the exploration of color in wood. Any part of the tree can be used, from limbs to branches, even driftwood. The design at right is 12 inches tall' but contains a piece of driftwood in scale.

The container is determined by the wood used. Notice the use of wood branches used in the container at right. The container is made from bark and branches. It sits on four wooden legs.



Texture is another element in the study of color. The bark on trees is especially prominent now. Designs could emphasize smooth or roughness of bark. Texture is especially important when incorporating bark into design.

Leaves may be present. There are some lovely scarlets and gold, and there is always a wide variety of greens.



Trees are so beautiful at this time of year. The shape of the tree stands out. You can see the elegant way the bare branches grace the sky.

South Bay Orchid Society.

The South Bay Orchid Society held its Fall Show & Sale at the Palos Verdes Art Center in September and had a great turnout and signed up some new

members during the event. The society also participated in the 8th Annual Huntington Botanical Gardens International Orchid Show in San Marino and one of our members James Hoyle was the big winner for the event by winning "Best of Show" for one of his specimen plants of Ornithophora radicans. The annual potluck dinner in December brought in members for a good time, great food, and a wonderful Holiday celebration.

The South Bay Orchid Society is planning its annual Spring Show and Sale scheduled for March 29 and 30 at the Palos Verdes Art Center and we are looking forward for the participation of our usual vendors and few new ones. For information on the show please visit southbayorchidsociety.com/Show and please tell your gardener friends and associates about the event.

Long Beach Garden Club

In December, we had our Holiday Celebration and Potluck. We also had a craft project: making decorated bottles with tea lights. In January, our program was on rock gardens, presented by Cindy Kovacs. It included a demonstration of a crevice garden in a container. The following week we have a Rock Painting workshop (different kind of rocks!) In February, our program was Roses 2.0 by Lynn Hillman, featuring all different kinds of roses. We also had our annual fundraiser, a Valentine Tea.



Riviera Garden Club

Riviera Garden Club's welcome back luncheon and meeting in September were held at the Mary & Joseph Retreat Center. In December, we held a fun and well-attended holiday party at SCBG with plenty of scrumptious food and festive centerpieces. Our monthly speakers have been Valeria Brinkers, Ikebana Demo; Jim Montgomery, So. Bay Parkland Conservancy; Carlos Prieto DeLeon, Greenpeace; Dan Manross, Outdoor/Garden Design. We're preparing and working hard getting ready for our plant sale on May

3-4. Our members contribute to city park beautification by planting and maintaining neighborhood park areas. We continue to raise money for the Geneva Martin Scholarship Fund, established in memory of a well-loved member. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating student at El Camino College.

We're all enjoying the rain that makes our plants happy and healthy. Happy Winter!

Altadena Seed Library Seeking Donations

We are seeking seed donations to help reseed Altadena. this community is enormously dedicated to native plants but also had many farmers and growers who lost generations of crops at community gardens and in backyards. wildlife coming down from the foothills has lost habitat and food. the air quality will be poor and temperatures will be higher without the lush greenery that protected us.



If you have any seeds to spare - particularly native plants - we would appreciate them. Contact the Altadena Seed Library on the internet at www.altadenaseedlibrary.com

Donations can be mailed to 37 Auburn Ave. #8, Sierra Madre, CA 91024 care of Altadena Seed Library



UPCOMING DATES

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

Monday February 24, 2025

CVD General Meeting 10 a.m.

Date TBD

Bus Trip to San Fernando Valley District and the Sepulveda Garden Center

Monday, May 12, 2025

CVD Board Meeting

Monday June 9, 2025

CVD General Meeting

Las Brisas Editors, Cindy Kovacs and Myrna Cabanban

