



Riviera Garden Club

COSTA VERDE DISTRICT, CGCI, PACIFIC REGION, NGC

March, April, May 2021 Volume 63 issue 4

From Our President, Ellyn Meikle

Hello Ladies and Gent:

As summer approaches we must once again conserve water due to the drought in our area. Consider planting a waterwise garden to minimize water usage. You can create different areas to plant waterwise plants and another for perennials. Watering is for your perennials. Succulents require little to no water. Succulents come in many shapes, colors, and sizes.

As many of you know, I was the owner of WaterWise Garden Center on Crenshaw Blvd for a number of years. The nursery may not be there anymore, but I am still here - consultations still happening. That being said, you can have an expert come to your home, free of charge, for a consultation to assist in helping you to create your waterwise friendly garden.

Email myWaterwiseGarden@gmail.com for more information. I am standing by for your request for consultation.

On a different note, it looks like we are getting close to gathering again. We have not gotten an okay to meet as of yet, only small groups. The Board's next meeting will be held at Marie's home, with Zoom for a couple of members who are not able to attend in person. Once the "all clear" is given by the Governor, we will start to have all meetings in person. Until such time there will only be Zoom General Meetings.

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and in good spirits. Feel free to pass this newsletter on to those who may enjoy reading it.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions we are continuing to meet via Zoom and have postponed all in person events through June 2021.

Upcoming Events

May 25,2021 **General Meeting**
Speaker **Susie Vanderlip – Monarch Butterflies**

June 8, 2021

Mad Hatter” Celebration Installation of Officers

Dues

- Zelle banking is set for our checking account. Payments and deposits can come from or go directly to the RGC checking account. The treasurer can decide whether to use this option to make disbursements. Members and new members have the option to send in their dues or payments for events via online banking OR by check via the U.S. mail to RGC’s P.O. Box 10112 Torrance, Ca. 90505-0812
* The address for the club to receive payments that will go directly into the checking account is: president@rivieragardenclub.org

Riviera Garden Club is a member of several parent organizations. One can learn more about them by subscribing to their online publications.

The state’s (California Garden Clubs Inc.) newsletter is called Golden Gardens eNews. Subscribe at <http://californiagardenclubs.com/enews-subscription-form> or just access the current issue from the home page: <http://californiagardenclubs.com/> Articles include a message from the state president and news from clubs around the state. There is also an article on how to attend the virtual yearly convention.

The national organization (National Garden Clubs) has also moved their quarterly publication on line. Subscribe at or read the current issue at <https://gardenclub.org/national-gardener>

Geneva Martin
genevamartin@verizon.net

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March

Cecilia Ceasar	1
Gloria Rezek	8
Marlene Ennis	18
Toni Sargent	20
Alberta Brice	26
Eunice Hargrove	28
Carol Lefevre	31

April

Carolyn Bazak	7
Joani Thompson	9
Pam Barrett-Hill	11
Susan Tyree	23
Phyllis Roth	27

May

Irma Chiota	4
Marjorie McKarns	4
Marybeth Muir	11
Terri Grijalva	24
Toni Ziegler	25

Executive Board 2021-2022

June 8, 2021

Installation for the President Ellyn Meikle

First Vice Presidents – Programs

Excursions Marie Hoffman
 Hostesses Geeta Gupta
 Speakers Laurie Vaillant

Second Vice Presidents – Publications

Yearbook Geneva Martin
 Newsletter Cynthia Lundin
 Proofreader Toni Ziegler

Third Vice Presidents – Membership

Regina Taylor
 Lynn Fernandez

Treasurer Geneva Martin

Secretaries

Board Meetings Marilyn Rubin
 General Meetings Bertie Woods

Parliamentarian Geneva Martin



RGC Gifting

Gifts to date this year:

South Coast Botanic Garden (\$2,000)

Victor School (\$400)

Valmonte Farm and Garden (\$500)

Torrance Memorial Learning Center/Judy Gerber (\$300)

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (\$400)

New information:

We have given a \$1,000 scholarship to South High School senior Jaye Liang. She will be attending Cal State Irvine.



Remaining gift:

We are still waiting to hear from El Camino College with the name of the student who will receive our \$1,000 scholarship.

Report by Gloria Balcom

General Meetings

March 23, 2021

Jorge Ochoa from Long Beach State University Presented a zoom lecture on wildflowers and Pollinators.

Thank you, Jorge for the very interesting and informative presentation.



April 27, 2021

Andy Lipkis Founder of Tree People

Thank you, Andy for the very informative and entertaining presentation.

Andy Lipkis started organizing thousands of people to plant trees to rehabilitate smog and fire damaged forests as a teenager. By age 18, he founded TreePeople, and served as its president from 1973 to 2019. Lipkis is a pioneer of the Urban and Community Forestry and Urban Watershed Management movements and worked to integrate their principles into programs with the City and County of Los Angeles. He has consulted for cities in the United States, Australia, Hong Kong, and the UK, assisting them in engaging their communities to confront and respond to their vulnerabilities to severe and extreme climate threats with green infrastructure approaches. The Society of American Foresters and the American Society of Landscape Architects have, respectively, granted Lipkis the honorary titles of Forester and Landscape Architect in recognition of his life's work.

After retiring from TreePeople in 2019, Andy launched Accelerate Resilience L.A. (ARLA), a fiscally sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors) to inspire and enable people and local governments to equitably accelerate climate resilience in Los Angeles.



Landscape awards

The Hilton/Zillow residence 732 Calle de arboles.

They do their own garden and manage a magnificent color pallet with their North facing home.



South Coast Botanical Gardens

We're soaring to new heights with our new butterfly experience.

SOAR features **tropical butterflies** in our newly built pavilion. Your SOAR ticket allows you to enter the pavilion, but the experience begins outside with our new garden area featuring host and nectar plants, and an emergence chamber. Throughout the experience you'll see butterflies in every stage of the life cycle. Once inside the pavilion, you'll have the opportunity to watch them in their natural habitat, and, if you're lucky, have a personal encounter with one! Most important, every step of the way you can learn all about these beautiful insects while having an experience to remember.



Before visiting, please read our [Ultimate How-To Guide for Visiting SOAR](#)

Spring Exhibit (April 1-July 31) Features Tropical Butterflies

Check the website for addition events

Ongoing Garden Beautification Projects:

Los Arboles “Rocketship Park”:

Members: Toni Ziegler, Wendy Tsuji and Geeta Gupta.

El Retiro Library Garden:

Members: Gloria Balcom, Carolyn Bazak and Jodi Rhodes.



El Retiro Succulent Garden

Member: Kathryn Joiner

Environmental Art Exhibition and Competition Environmental Art Exhibition

You are invited to view artists as they display their work, via Zoom, on May 25th from 3:30-5 p.m. during the CGCI 2021 Virtual Convention.

Any member interested in participating should contact us immediately. Your participation can help the environment while boosting your creativity. Any recycled or repurposed object can be incorporated into a design.

There are five categories for competition including Fiber, Collage, Sculpture, Assemblage, and Jewelry. We are looking forward to seeing how the different materials you use will create many variations on the theme of art. Carl Jung said, “The creative mind plays with the objects it loves.” Join this exciting experiment by creating a new form from a found object.

Please contact this chairman immediately for an application and guidelines:

Judy Unrine

judysgarden01@gmail.com

[1-310-378-0227](tel:1-310-378-0227)

RGC MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLE submitted by Carolyn Pohlner

“Spring is just around the corner and there’s nothing like seeing the first robin of the season, which is a sign that warmer days are ahead. Now, a new study conducted in Germany has found that the more often we see and hear birds chirping and singing, the happier we are. A team at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research discovered that being surrounded by a wide variety of birds can offer increasing life satisfaction equivalent to \$150 per week of added income.

According to the study, seeing 10% more bird species generates satisfaction on par with a comparable increase in income. “We also examined the socio-economic data of the people who were surveyed, and much to our surprise, we found that avian diversity is as important for their life satisfaction as is their income,” said Dr. Katrin Bohning-Gaese.

Another study from the California Polytechnic University found that placing speakers with a variety of bird sounds on hiking trails improved the outdoor experience. The study was conducted in Colorado, but the findings may improve hikers’ happiness everywhere. There was no difference in the hikers’ happiness whether the bird sounds were artificial, pre-recorded, or natural.

During an unprecedented year of loss, stress and uncertainty, the comforting sounds of nature have been crucial. A recent report from the Audubon Society found that sales of bird feeders, bird food, and birding apps have all increased during the pandemic, and participation in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s Annual Global Big Day 2020 broke records.”

(This article, by Kelly Vaugan, first appeared in the March 16, 2021 issue of Better Homes and Gardens magazine.)

RGC MAY Newsletter Article – “Wildflower for our Winged Friends”

(Submitted by Carolyn Pohlner to accompany Birds Make Us Happier article)

When you plan your garden, consider planting wildflowers to attract bird visitors. Hummingbirds prefer tubular, red flowers. Among these are salvia, trumpet creeper and cardinal flowers.



Songbirds, such as cardinals and finches, are attracted to sunflowers, coneflowers, asters, and wild strawberry.



To learn more about creating a willife friendly garden, please visit the National Wildlife Federation at ; www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildfie/Wildlife/Attracting-Butterflies

To the Garden Club women,

I thought I would remember what each one of you so generously donated, but I am having “brain freeze.”

So, if you donated books, pads, or money, it was greatly appreciated. The money went towards bras, underwear, and leggings.



Thank you again for your generosity.
Best,
Linda

The baggage

Weighing in at 55 lbs. each checked bags, and 15lb carry on. Free carts at Kilimanjaro Airport.

Here is the story of the pads. And the story continues. I am having some local women create some, and we’re refining the process as we go. There are some local women who make them, and I have checked you, their styles.

This is Careen the girl whose parents own the Airbnb next to the orphanage. She is the one who told me of her dream to get the girls cloth sanitary pads. This was quite a coincidence because my sister-in-law in the Bay Area sews some for Days For Girls (so I had heard of them)

These are the ones donated by ladies from the Riviera Garden Club. Careen is organizing them, so each girl gets a variety of thickness. We also wrote with a Sharpie the names/initials of each girl on each pad.



They are extremely happy and grateful. Careen (in pink pants) is the daughter of the Airbnb owners. The orphanage is next to her house in a small village. The girls are her friends. The local kids play with the kids from the orphanage

The girls told me about all the issues the lack of sanitary napkins.

They expressed their wish for underwear and bras (no hooks or underwire) and leggings.

Careen and I shopped all day for the girls. Careen has hardly ever left her village. It was an eye-opening experience for her in the nearby city. We went to the local market, and the local secondhand market. It's full of tons and tons of clothes shipped here from thrift store clothes that didn't sell in the U.S. Lots with tags from the U.S. still on them i.e., Thrift Town, Goodwill etc.

After our shopping trip, we distributed the bras, underwear, and leggings. The woman is Careen's mom, Veronica (the owner of the Airbnb) Veronica talked to them in Swahili about good hygiene and helped them choose bras that would fit.

THE BOOKS

The levels were great. Thank you. And special thank you Marybeth for the books with black characters.

I decided to read the books with the son of the Airbnb owners. He is 6, and just learning to read in English. (He goes to private school, otherwise they start English much later.)

After reading the books with him, I took some of them to an orphanage (different from the one with the girls and the sani pads) , and they were devoured. So many kids at this orphanage. I would like to create a system of a library of some sort between orphanages where the books could get circulated. Maybe a book mobile??



RIVIERA GARDEN CLUB, General Meeting Minutes, March 23, 2021

- Call to order
Time: **10:00am**
1. Secretary's Report - consensus) **CP**
• **Feb 23, 2021 General Meeting Minutes** (to be approved by general
2. Treasurer's Report – **\$15,691.20**
• Balances checking & savings accounts 02/28/2021 **\$6,185.41**
• Report will be filed subject to review.
3. President's Report -
• **Gloria Balcom reported that this is the 5th year RGC has donated to Victor School.** Our \$400 donation was appreciated and put to good use. The staff was able to order: reusable colorful plastic planting containers with seeds/planting mixture, a variety of seed pod kits including heirloom herbs, greens, tomatoes, Peat planter starter seed pots, and some Coco Coir (pron. KOY-UH) brick substrate. **As Tim Magnus, Victor Teacher, along with April Pages and Jeff Jennewein, who help oversee the Ecology Program and 5th grader's garden, said in reference to our donation, it helped them "rise above the wreckage" (during COVID)**
4. 1st VP
Hostesses
• Hostess(es) will continue to go online 9:45 to greet before the 10:00 start.
- Speakers
Laurie Vaillant
Mar 23: Jorge Ochoa – Wildflowers and Pollination.
Apr 27 : Andy Lipkis - tentative
May 25: Susie Vanderlip – Monarch Butterflies
June : "Mad Hatter" celebration
- Excursions
• N/A
5. 2nd VP
Directory
Newsletter
• N/A
• **Another wonderful newsletter was published by Cynthia! Ellyn especially liked the garden tips from the National Wildlife Fund.**
6. 3rd VP
Membership
• **New and returning members?_RT reported last month's speaker , Linda Meighan became a new member.**
- Old Business:
• El Camino Food Pantry – Gifting committee has already donated all funds that were allocated. This would have to come out of the general fund.
• **Pati Johnson - Scholarship recipients update Gloria B. reported that the South High recipient, Joy Ling was awarded \$1,000. RGC received scholarship applications from South High ONLY. The \$1,000 El Camino recipient TBA. A final Gifting contribution of \$400 was awarded to the Palos Verdes Land Conservancy.**

Pati Johnson's daughter, Janan Johnson, was a guest speaker today and told us about the El Camino Warrior Food Pantry, which is a part of their Student Assistance Program. Open to registered students on

Tuesday and Thursdays for drive through only operating hours from 11am to 2pm. Janan has graciously volunteered to pick up food donations from RGC members for El Camino's Warrior Food Pantry on Mar 29 and Mar 31. All members wishing to donate are requested to place their non-perishable food items on their front porches and Janan will pick them up after 3pm. To schedule a pickup, please call or text her at (215) 421-5529. Some suggested items include: oatmeal, grits, cereal, granola bars, packaged cheese and cracker snacks, cup of noodles, ramen, canned soups, canned meat and fish, fruit cups, applesauce cups, pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, toiletries including toothpaste, shampoo, sanitary products, etc. See complete list that Ellyn already emailed. Members also have the option of dropping off their donations DIRECTLY to the El Camino College Warrior Pantry on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, BEFORE 9:30am. The drop-off point is located on the College Campus, on Manhattan Beach Blvd, between Prairie Ave and Crenshaw Blvd.

New Business:

- **The Nominating Committee submitted a list of officers for Board positions for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. It was decided that everyone currently serving on the Board would remain on the Board for next year- 2021-2022. Diane Hayden and Carolyn Pohlner will not be returning next year as Co-Recording secretaries. Mary Alessandra-Cook will record minutes for all General meetings and Marilyn Rubin volunteered to record minutes for all Board meetings. Linda R. made the motion to approve the new slate of officers and Dina W. seconded. The membership all approved. Ellyn thanked the Nominating Committee members, Kathryn Joiner and Connie Mosely for all their hard work and contributions to RGC!**

- **Zelle banking is set for our checking account. Payments and deposits can come from or go directly to the RGC checking account. The treasurer can decide whether to use this option to make disbursements. Members and new members have the option to send in their dues or payments for events via online banking OR by check via the U.S. mail to RGC's P.O. Box**

- * **The address for the club to receive payments that will go directly into the checking account is: president@rivieragardenclub.org**

**A telephone number or email address must be used for this application. Geneva and I do not want our personal information used. The alternative option is to use the only information generally used, which is the club's email address.*

Looking ahead:

- **The next Board Meeting is Tuesday, April 20th at 10:00am.**
- **The next General Meeting is Tuesday, April 27th at 10:00am.**

Questions, Comments, Suggestions:

***Toni S. announced that the "Miracle on Living" Program is offering a special lecture on Apr 15 about "Coping with Anxiety" at TMMC at 6:30pm.**

***Toni also reported that the Fruit Trees are currently being planted at Lago Seco Park with a City Celebration TBA (possibly later in June?)**

***Marie Hoffman's Real Estate company is generously offering their Annual Shred Day on Sun, Apr 18, from 12-4pm at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center on Aviation and Manhattan Beach Blvd. See Marie's email sent Mar 23 for all the relevant information.**

***Marilyn Rubin announced she has more lemons. Please make arrangements directly with her for pickup.**

***Eunice Hargroves announced her daughter's imminent visit at the end of March to Tanzania where she will be teaching English to school children and would greatly appreciate small books, and/or donations for sanitary products for girls. Look for all the pertinent details in an email sent from Ellyn.**

Adjournment Time: **10:53am**

In attendance: See attached list.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Pohlner, Co-recording Secretary, Mar 23, 2021