



River Valley Garden Club

“Here’s The Dirt”

Serving the Communities of Rancho Murieta, Sloughhouse and Wilton

March 2011 Volume 8 Number 6

“Rooting For You”

Carol Prinzo, President

We have some openings on the Board and for Committee Chairs, many of which have co-chairs and this makes the commitment even easier. We need a Co-Chair for Membership and a Chair or Co-Chairs for Hospitality, to provide refreshments at our meetings. As with all these positions, the volunteers who have held them have refined and simplified the process so stepping into them is very easy. There’s a lot of support provided for each.

February brought us a whole comucopia of weather and events. Gardens and gardeners got a sweet taste of spring to come before being plunged again into frigid temperatures. Sure makes you look forward to those 70+ degree days to come.

February also brought us many a very interesting and informative presentation by members, Joanne and Roger Brandt, who took us on a delightful tour of the flumes in the Sierras and updated us on all the open spaces and trails available to us in this region. We were also treated to a wonderful Bonsai

workshop by Rancho Murieta resident and Bonsai expert, Jay Beals. It turned out potting a Bonsai wasn’t as scary or difficult as I thought it would be and now the challenge is in keeping it healthy!

At the meeting many of you signed up for volunteer help with Trash ‘n Treasure which will be held on June 4. Your help and dedication is greatly appreciated by all of us on the Board.

At the District general membership meeting, our very own Marleen Merchant agreed to be nominated for Secretary for the upcoming 2011-2012 Program year. Thank you Marleen, for stepping up! You’ll do a wonderful job.

March includes a very popular tour to Boonie Lang’s Japanese garden and a transplanting workshop at the Glackens’ in Wilton, to prepare plants for Trash ‘n Treasure.

Happy gardening!

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Pacific Region
California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Sacramento River Valley District

General Meetings 6:30 p.m.
4th Tuesday (September to June)
Rancho Murieta Assoc. Bldg.
7191 Murieta Parkway
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683-9556

Officers
President Carol Prinzo
Co-Vice Presidents Membership
Dianna Dodd & Lois Neumayer
Vice President Programs
Jan Fetler
Treasurer Bonnie Thalken

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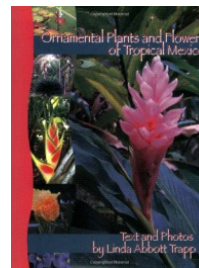
Ornamental Plants and Flowers of Tropical Mexico

Marie Hanson, Member Programs Committee



Our program presenter for March 22 became an avid lover of the tropical wonder flowers in her Puerto Vallarta garden while a recent five-year resident there. Dr. Linda Abbott Trapp was taken by the variety, size and color

of these special horticultural delights and was encouraged to explore their realm by promptings of recurring inquiries from visitors to her home. She then applied her advanced skills as a professional researcher to delve into the study of these stunning and glorious blooming gifts of her garden. Linda’s later well developed knowledge and appreciation for these alluring flowers evolved into a book, now touted as a first to explore these tropical wonders, *Ornamental Plants and Flowers of Tropical Mexico*.



This book includes everything about these ornamentals and specific tropical plantings, including Common/scientific names, Use/care information, Cultivation/propagation tips, Flowering habit and History/little-known facts

Linda will bring to our session her knowledge, enthusiasm, and recommendations for duplicating such treasures in our own climate, even if a bit reduced in size.

Members may preview Linda’s book on the topic of presentation at www.amazon.com. She will bring copies of this work, along with a limited number of her other most recent book, *Intentional Living: Lessons from the Tree of Life*.

March Raffle Prize ~ A bonsai plant in an attractive bowl created by Jay Beals, who conducted our recent bonsai workshop
Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 8 for \$5 ~ Proceeds benefit CRE5 garden

Join us at 6:30 p.m. for social time. Program starts promptly at 7:00 p.m. at Rancho Murieta Association Building

Calendar of Events

March 12 Saturday
 Rain day 10:00 a.m. to noon
Club Workshop **Need 3 more helpers**
Potting & Division (in preparation for TNT)
 At the Glackens' in Wilton
 Bring 4" plastic pots
 Contact: Mindy Cecchetti 354.1850
 mindyc@wildblue.com

March 16 Wednesday
 District Bus Tour (see page 6)
Bouquets to Art **Cancelled!**

March 22 6:30 p.m. Social 7:00 p.m. Meeting
 Club General Meeting
Ornamental Plants and Flowers of Tropical Mexico
 Dr. Linda Abbott Trapp, Garden Book Author
 Contact: Marie Hanson 354.2257
 ranchoduo@sbcglobal.net
 Barbara Keil 354.9706
 chesterkeil@att.net

March 26-27 Saturday Sunday
 District & Shepard Gardens & Arts Center (SGAC) Fundraiser
Spring Festival (Garden Club Café)
 Benefits SRVD district and SGAC
 Contact: Marianna Hashorva 354.2233
 hashorva@ranchomurieta.org

March 31 Thursday
 9 AM Meet at Rancho Murieta North gazebo
 Club Tour **A few spots left**
Myo Wa En Japanese Garden
 Tour a private garden in Granite Bay
 Donation of \$5 or \$10 is suggested
 Lunch at Akebono restaurant after tour
 Contact: Sharon Barton 354.0408
 golfbum4@sbcglobal.net

April 16 Saturday
 10 AM Meet at Lake Clementia in Rancho Murieta
 Club Tour (see page 7)
Wildflower Walk in Rancho Murieta
 Led by member Chris Wassemann
 Sign up by April 9
 Contact: Sharon Barton 354.0408
 golfbum4@sbcglobal.net

**SATURDAY, MARCH 26 AND SUNDAY, MARCH 27
 SPRING FESTIVAL
 AT SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER (SGAC)**



Volunteers are needed in half-day segments to work the Garden Café at the SGAC Spring Festival. Five RVGC members have volunteered to prepare lunches for the sale and we will work with members of other clubs. This is a fundraiser that benefits SGAC and our district. Anyone else who wishes to help, please contact me by March 20 and

I'll sign you up! Call Marianna Hashorva at 354.2233 or email her at hashorva@ranchomurieta.org.

If you do not want to work in the kitchen for half-day, we hope you will still make the effort to attend the Craft and Plant Sale. If you have never been to the SGAC you may want to take this opportunity to go since the spring festival has something for everybody including the reasonably priced lunches that are sold by the District Garden Clubs.

Member Handbook/Directory/Yearbook Committees

Dianna Dodd, Co-Vice President Membership

**WELCOME
 NEW MEMBER
 MARY KAEMS
 RANCHO MURIETA**

Mary Kaems is our 99th member. The question now is, who will be the 100th member?

This month's subject is our *Member Handbook*. It is often called the *Directory* and CGCI refers to it as the *Yearbook*; however, handbook is much more accurate.

Nicole Sullins produces and provides these for us every October and they are always attractive and useful. The handbook contains a short listing of our club officers, our purpose and history. Also included is information on committee chairs and their duties, our speakers and their topics, a detailed listing of our tours and the nurseries who participate in our discount program. We now finally get to the directory information, i.e. the names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mails of our members.

Next is the Sacramento River Valley District information and how we fit into the National Club, the Pacific Region, and our state organization, CGCI. Our Continuing Projects, such as our Photography Contest and Penny Pines Plantations are next followed by our club Bylaws. Finally, Nicole has provided gardening reference phone numbers and e-mails. She also provides lovely quotations throughout the handbook.

The word "committee" conjures up images of numerous, endless meetings, but that is not the case. For example, the Hospitality Committee, one of our most popular, does not hold meetings. The members of this committee provide the goodies at our general meetings. This committee consists of the chairs and 13 members.

Photos Wanted!

The RVGC 2011 photo contest is underway. To enter the contest, you must submit an 8" x 10" photo with plant material as the focal point. There are two categories:



1. **My Home** (within 10 miles of your home)
2. **My Travels** (more than 10 miles from your home)

Members may submit one photo for each category. First place winners will receive a free 2011-2012 RVGC membership and runners-up will receive \$10 gift cards from a local nursery.

All photos must be turned in by May 24. Bring your photos to the April or May garden club. More information will be included in the April newsletter

Winners will be announced at the June meeting.

SGAC provides a meeting place for clubs whose main focus is in horticulture, flower arranging, conservation, history, antiques and the arts, including painting, photography, ceramics, metal work, weaving, and other related arts and crafts. The facility is owned by the City of Sacramento Recreation and Parks Department.

In Case You Missed the February Meeting

Chris Wassermann, Member Programs Committee



On February 22, we heard Roger and Joanne Brandt tell us about many trails in the Sierra foothills that can bring us closer to nature. They had several beautiful photos of lovely vistas, both near here (Deer Creek Hills) and farther away in the foothills. The Independence Trail, near Grass Valley, is built on an old miner's ditch and is wheelchair accessible. Other trails, using water ditches, old abandoned and some still in used, can be an adventurous, but fairly level way to explore the woods in the mountains. A video travelogue gave a good impression of the experience. The Brandts also gave us some good advice on what to take when hiking. Most important is to take your group's skill and physical ability into consideration when planning the route, to keep everyone safe.

Another interesting bit of information was how long it takes for litter to decompose. Bottles, both glass and plastic, take practically forever, that is common knowledge, but who knew that even banana and orange peels take up to two years. Also cigarette butts can hang on for as long as five years. I know that I will be more careful to pack everything out from now on.

Hiking Tips

Always pick a route that is suitable for you and your group's skill level.

Know where you are going. Navigational tools can be physical landmarks, compass, maps, GPS, location of the sun.

If going to a remote area, let someone know where you are going and when you plan on returning. Cell phones often do not work in ravines or in mountainous areas.

Take water, food, and a friend ☺

If going to a remote area, take a water purifier for emergencies.

Basic first aid supplies are a good idea even for short hikes.

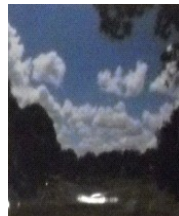
Layered clothing, hat, sunscreen, and appropriate shoes are a must!

Deer Creek Hills Preserve Schedule - 2011

Hiking			
Day	Date	Time	Event
Saturday	February 26	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Geology, Adventure, Explorer, Self-Guided Hikes
Saturday	March 12	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Free Green for no Green St. Patrick's Hike
Saturday	March 26	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Wildflower, Adventure, Explorer, Self-Guided Hikes
Saturday	April 23	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Birds and Wildflowers of DCH, Adventure, Explorer, Self-Guided Hikes
Saturday	May 28	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	History/Archeological Interests of DCH, Adventure, Explorer, Self-Guided Hikes

Litter Decomposition Rates

- Cigarette ButtsOne to five years
- Aluminum Cans 80 to 100 years
- Plastic Bottles Indefinitely
- Banana/Orange PeelsUp to two years
- Plastic Bags 10 to 20 years
- Glass Bottles1,000,000 years
- Tin Cans50 years
- Plastic Six Pack Holders100 years



Equestrians			
Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	February 27	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Equestrian Ride
Sunday	March 13	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Free Green for no Green St. Patrick's Equestrian Ride
Saturday	March 19	7 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Full Moon Equestrian Ride
Sunday	March 27	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Equestrian Ride
Sunday	April 17	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Equestrian Ride

Mountain Biking

Day	Date	Time	Event
Saturday	June 25	7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Mountain Biking
Saturday	July 23	7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Mountain Biking
Saturday	August 27	7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Mountain Biking
Saturday	September 24	7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Mountain Biking
Saturday	October 22	7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Mountain Biking

Three ways to register for events:

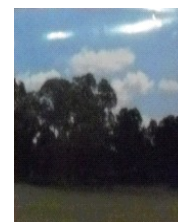
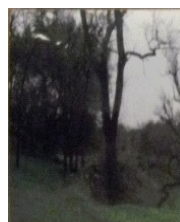
www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar

Contact Gina Silvernale, Outreach Coordinator - (916) 612-3719

Email: outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Special Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Saturday	April 16	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Service Project Day – Rain Date April 30th
Saturday	May 7	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Cowboy Breakfast
Thursday	May 19	5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Twilight Wine and Cheese Celebration
Thursday	June 16	5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Summer Social
Saturday	August 6	7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Sunset Hike – Bat Night – Astronomy Night
Thursday	October 6	5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Treasures of the Valley Silent Auction
Saturday	October 15	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Service Project Day



Special Events to Enjoy with Friends & Family

Sharon Barton, Co-Chair Tours Committee

DAFFODIL HILL TO OPEN MARCH 18

Despite the crazy winter weather, Daffodil Hill expects to open on time for another spring gold rush. A magnet for flower lovers of all ages, the famous McLaughlin Ranch in Volcano will open its gates for a 71st daffodil season on Friday, March 18, the owners announced Thursday, March 3. After that, the garden will be open to the public seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting. For safety reasons, the garden is closed during rainy weather due to slippery paths.

Considered the No. 1 tourist destination in Amador County, Daffodil Hill features about a half million blooms in more than 300 varieties squeezed into six acres.

The Ryans schedule opening day when about a quarter of the bulbs are ready to bloom. The display continues into mid-April, although extreme heat or cold can shut down this unique flower show early.

Admission and parking are free, but donations are welcome. No pets are allowed.

Daffodil Hill is at 18310 Rams Horn Grade, Volcano. Call 209.296.7048 for daily updates. For directions and more, click on www.amadorcountychamber.com and follow the links to Daffodil Hill under "Historic Attractions."

-- -Sacramento Bee

MATHER FIELD VERNAL PONDS

Each year trained docents provide tours of the Mather Field Vernal Pools during the peak flowering phase. In 2011, tours will be offered:

Sunday ~ April 10, April 17, April 24
10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.



All tours leave from the Splash Education Center and last two hours. (Visitors may leave early, if necessary.) The cost for adults is \$5. For children (ages 6 -18) it is \$2. Children under the age of 6 are free.

Please make your reservation at least 48 hours in advance to allow time to confirm. Space in tours is not guaranteed unless you have a confirmed reservation. If there is space available when the tour is ready to leave, it may be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. You can make a reservation online at www.sacsplash.org or by calling 916.364.2437.

CALIFORNIA STATE FLOWER, FOOD & GARDEN SHOW

Held on April 7, 8 and 9, this is practically in our backyards at Cal Expo! It has fantastic landscaping displays and lots of vendors of both food and crafts. Last year I worked in the "Kids Growing Strong" area and loved every minute of it! You can see more at www.calstategardenshow.com.

SACRAMENTO ORCHID SOCIETY

Sacramento Orchid Society
Orchid Show & Plant Sale
April 16-17th, 2011
"Orchid Adventures"
featuring Orchid Exhibits & Plants, Free Seminars & How-To Classes, Orchids & Orchid Supplies for Sale, Art Exhibit & Educational Displays
Scottish Rite Temple
6151 H Street Sacramento, CA 95819
Just across from Sac State University
Plenty of FREE PARKING
Admission \$6.00, info 916 489-3263
Sat 10am - 5pm 64th Annual Show
Sun 10am - 4pm Hourly Door Prizes
www.SacOrchidShow.com

Free tickets (\$6.00 value) are being sent to the River Valley Garden Club. Contact me at 354.0408 by April 9 if you would like tickets.



LOOMIS IRIS TOUR AT 2 LOCATIONS

Free Tours
April 30 and May 1, 2011
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sponsored by
Horton Iris Garden
7440 King Road, Loomis
and
High Hand Nursery
(member of our Discount Program)
3750 Taylor Road, Loomis

Maps available at each place. Lunch can be purchased at High Hand Café or bring your own and picnic in the gardens.

Go to www.hortonirisgarden.com for more information

The Iris Garden was a hobby that grew quickly and got out of hand. In 1990, Mary Ann started gathering many historic irises in the surrounding countryside to landscape down the long driveway and around the 95 year old farm house. In 1999, she opened her gardens to the public. She now has over 1,300 varieties of irises. Today, a 5-acre park-like setting is dotted with labeled iris plantings of fragrant, re-blooming, historic or new irises, over 75 varieties of daylilies, several varieties of lavender, with picnic areas. Order iris plants during your visit and pick up your order in August. Potted iris plants of many varieties will be available for immediate purchase.

There is symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of the birds, the ebb and flow of the tides, the folded bud ready for the spring.

Rachel Carson

High-Hand was taken from the High-Hand Fruit sheds central packing plant that was constructed in 1926 and offers a unique shopping experience. Tour the grounds and unwind in a world of unusual plants, pottery and inspiring garden art. You can relax next to the Koi ponds and wander through uniquely landscaped venues. Here you will find one of the largest selections of unusual trees, shrubs and beautiful hand-picked plants and garden art.

2010-2011 Discount Program

Ann Spivey, Chair, Discount Program Committee

AMADOR FLOWER FARM

22001 Shenandoah School Road, Plymouth
209.245.6660 ~ www.amadorflowerfarm.com
15% discount on plant purchases
Indicate you are a member of the RVGC

Over 800 daylily varieties, demonstration gardens with grasses and perennials, picnic tables under oak trees, gift shop, soda machine, bottled water, snack items, handicap access bathrooms, most areas wheelchair accessible, gorgeous color catalog: order by fax, email, mail and select varieties online. Open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

BIG OAK NURSERY

10071 Grant Line Road, Elk Grove
916.686.1180 ~ www.bigoaknursery.com
20% discount off nursery items up front
Show current RVGC membership card

Annuals. Wholesale price of \$12 per flat, primrose \$14 per flat; cyclamen \$36 per flat (4" pots, 16 pots/flat). Sold by flat only, with limited mix and match. Seasonal vegetables and 1-gallon container plants also available. Open Monday to Wednesday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Thursday to Saturday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday (weather permitting 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Check, cash or credit card

HIGH HAND NURSERY

3750 Taylor Road
Downtown Loomis
916.652.2065 ~ www.highhandnursery.com
20% discount at nursery
Show current RVGC membership card

High Hand nursery offers a unique shopping experience. Tour the greenhouse where hundreds of plants are propagated. Unwind in a world of unusual plants, pottery and inspiring garden art. Relax next to the koi ponds and wander through uniquely landscaped venues. Open Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

POW NURSERY

12724 Quince Lane, Wilton
916.687.7176 ~ www.pownursery.com
10% discount
Show current RVGC membership card

Wholesale prices; open to public; large selection of landscape trees, shrubs, fruit trees, roses and more. Note: can labels are recycled and may not reflect what's actually in the can. If in doubt, ask

THE SECRET GARDEN

8450 W. Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove
(North of Sheldon Rd., along Hwy. 99)
916.682.6839 ~ www.secretgarden-online.com
10% discount on all purchases
Show current RVGC membership card

Offering Sacramento residents an extensive fountain selection, broad range of decorative iron, pottery and garden statuary. Its indoor showrooms offer hundreds of unique gift ideas; Open Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Closed Monday

SIERRA NURSERY & ROCK

3985 Douglas Blvd., Roseville
916.791.1154 (rock) 916.791.7077 (nursery)
www.sierranurseryandrock.com

10% discount on all nursery items, does not include sod
Show current RVGC membership card

Full service nursery provides unusual plants, shade plants, citrus, fruit trees, annuals and perennials, organic and non-organic products, seeds, soil amendments, yard art. Open Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Friday to Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SILVERADO NURSERY

9297 Jackson Rd., Sacramento
916.361.7374 ~ www.silveradoonline.com
10% off nursery, garden and home art
Show current RVGC membership card

Discount can also be used with sale items

Full service nursery provides trees, low water plants, new and unusual perennials, deer resistant plants, organic soil conditioners, amendments, yard art. Check their web site for "Do It Yourself" classes.

TALINI'S NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER

5601 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento
916.451.8150

10% discount on everything at the nursery
Show current RVGC membership card

East Sacramento nursery with organic gardening supplies, vegetable plants, herbs, roses, indoor plants, aquatic plants, bonsai, plants up to 15 gallons, landscaping & planting services available. Open 7 day a week 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

VILLAGE NURSERIES

6901 Bradshaw, Sacramento
916.366.3966 ~ www.villagenurseries.com
15% discount

Show Village Nurseries discount card
If expired, they will renew

New members show RVGC membership card to receive Village Nurseries discount card

They grow and supply a variety of popular plants, native plants, succulents, specimen trees in containers up to 48 inches, drought tolerant plants, vines and flowering shrubs. Open Monday to Saturday 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WINDMILL NURSERY

5750 Windmill way, Carmichael
916.972.0794 ~ www.windmillnurseryinc.com
10% discount on all purchases
Show current RVGC membership card

A full service nursery and gift shop specializing in hard to find perennials (from: Annie's Annuals, Blooms, Monterey Bay, etc.), shrubs and water plants, full selection of bedding, shrubs, trees, fertilizers, and water gardening supplies. Gift shop includes garden art, great selection of fountains, and pottery. Open 7 days a week 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mar. - Aug. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sep. - Feb.

Bonsai Workshop

Mindy Cecchettini, Chair Workshop Committee

Ten members plus five guests participated in our Bonsai Workshop on Saturday, February 26, held at the RMA building.

Mr. Jay Beals, resident of Rancho Murieta and owner of 80 plus bonsai plants, taught us all the necessary points of planting and caring for our bonsai plants. Some participants worked with deciduous elms and others worked with evergreens. His instructions included how to root prune, wire the plant for stability, actual planting, and finally how to prune the upper growth of the plant.

The club is planning on selling a few extra bonsai plants at the upcoming Trash 'n Treasure event.



Trash 'n Treasure ~ An Important Club Event

Sharon Barton, Co-Chair TNT Committee

The date is set - Saturday, June 4 from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon. Members of our club will be busy selling plants, garden art and raffle tickets to benefit our scholarship fund. We have raised close to \$2,000.00 the past two years and hope to equal or better that amount this year. To accomplish our goal, we are depending on support from every RVGC member. How can you help? You can donate garden art or supplies, plants or money to buy plants - \$12.00 is suggested as that amount buys a flat of plants, but any donation is appreciated. We will rent two spaces and you may want to volunteer to help set-up at 6:00 a.m., tear-down at noon, or assist with sales for a couple of hours.

Thank you to those who signed up at our February meeting. Sign-ups will continue at the March meeting or you can email or call to volunteer or if you have any questions or suggestions. Debra DeVerter: 354.8669 or ddeverter@sbcglobal.net and Sharon Barton: 354.0408 or golfbum4@sbcglobal.net



You will see Master Gardeners Patty Peterson, Mindy Cecchettini and Bonnie Thalken at the Transplant Workshop and Trash 'n Treasure



Consult with Mindy Lifetime Master Gardener

Consultation Program

As a Sacramento County Lifetime UC Master Gardener, Mindy Cecchettini offers a consultation program at the member's home, which consists of assistance with landscape design, pest and disease monitoring and identification, pruning, and a variety of other horticultural subjects.

The program is \$30 per visit and the proceeds are split:

- 🌸 \$10 to the Sacramento County Master Gardener Program
- 🌸 \$20 to our club

Contact Mindy at 354.1805 or mindyc@wildblue.net to make arrangements.

Keeping Plugged In ~ District News

Marianna Hashorva, District Liaison

March bustles in on windy feet
 And sweeps my doorstep and my street.
 She washes and cleans with pounding rains,
 Scrubbing the earth of winter stains.
 She shakes the grime from carpet green
 Till naught but fresh new blades are seen.
 Then, house in order, all neat as a pin,
 She ushers gentle springtime in.

Susan Reiner, *Spring Cleaning*

And gentle springtime ushers in increased activities... here's what's happening.

We had a good District meeting on February 17. The speaker, Bill Judson, was very informative. He spoke on gardening as exercise. Gardening nourishes your soul and your body. We will look into having Bill speak at our club next year.

Marleen Merchant, Publicity Chair, was nominated for District Secretary. She accepted the nomination. Kudos and thanks to you, Marleen. Jeff Higday of the Shibui Arrangers Guild was nominated as Assistant Director. He accepted. This position was not filled last year and will help the district immensely.

A motion was made to allow the District Assistant Director's state convention expenses be paid. The District Director's expenses will be paid.



**MAY 16-18
 CGCI 80TH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

The CGCI annual convention will be held in Rohnert Park. Our president, Carol Prinzo, or her representative, plans to attend and anyone in the Garden Club is encouraged to make a day trip to attend. The Theme is "Nature's Beauty and Bounty." Any club who has between 50-100 members is asked to send three delegates to represent our club at the convention.

The Webmaster is working on updating the website (www.californiagardenclubs.com) and we should know in a few days what the costs and events will be. I'll keep you posted.

At the February meeting ~

- ▶ Members and guests contributed \$44.45 to Penny Pines for reforestation
- ▶ The raffle, which will benefit the CRES school garden, raised \$52.00

Third Annual Wildflower Walk

Sharon Barton, Co-Chair Tours Committee

What Wildflower Walk in Rancho Murieta
When Saturday, April 16
Time 10:00 a.m. meet at Lake Clementia (Rancho Murieta North)
Directions Enter Rancho Murieta North gate
 Continue up Murieta Parkway to end
 Turn right on Camino del Lago
 Proceed through gate onto dirt road
 Turn left at sign and proceed to parking lot
Attire Good walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, bottled Water, walking stick
Caution Terrain is uneven



You are invited to join Chris Wassermann on Saturday, April 16, for a Wildflower Walk in Rancho Murieta. This is the third year that Chris has taken us on this popular tour and many of us who have walked with her were truly amazed to learn of the beauty in our own backyard.

You are welcome to bring your friends and family and we recommend good walking shoes, a hat, sunscreen and bottled water.

Sign ups will continue at the March meeting or call Sharon at 354.0408 by April 9. After April 9, I will be on a long cruise, so please contact Chris as 354.0411.



Wildflower watercolor by Chris Wassermann

~ Website of Interest ~



Lifetime Master Gardener Fred Hoffman is the host of the "KFBK Garden Show" on NewsTalk 1530 KFBK each Sunday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., followed by "Get Growing" on Talk 650 KSTE , 10 a.m. to noon. And, you can listen to the shows, live, via the KFBK.com and KSTE.com websites.

Visit the Farmer Fred Rant Blog Page (farmerfredrant.blogspot.com) for These Garden Tips & More:

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March 4, 2011
Starting tomatoes from seed



River Valley Garden Club
c/o Nicole Sullins
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- Q. Why do we celebrate Arbor Day on March 7 in California?**
- A.** March 7th is Luther Burbank's birthday! I can't think of a better way to honor one of our nation's greatest horticulturists. He was born in Lancaster, Mass. in 1849. He moved to Santa Rosa in October 1875.

