



River Valley Garden Club

“Here’s The Dirt”

Serving the Communities of Rancho Murieta, Sloughouse and Wilton

May 2011 Volume 8 Number 8

“Rooting For You”

Carol Prinzo, President

It’s May and it’s glorious! What a wonderful, mild spring we are having. The flowers and I are loving it!

The State Flower, Food, and Garden Show held at Cal Expo was a hit. Several of us volunteered in the *Kids Growing Strong* booth and helped children learn about food and gardening. It was so much fun and so worthwhile. Thanks to Sharon Barton, Sue Sheridan, Marianna Hashorva and Helen Scheinert for volunteering.

We are really gearing up for Trash ‘n Treasure. Sharon Barton and Debra DeVerter’s TNT volunteers have been so busy getting ready. Thanks to all of you who have donated your time, expertise, and money for this worthwhile project. For those of you who are donating plants, be sure to bring them to the May 24 meeting. Plants will not be accepted after the meeting. We saw the fruits of our last TNT fundraising at the April meeting when two educational grants were awarded to worthy candidates.

We need a coordinator and volunteers to

work on the June Picnic Supper. This is our last meeting and it is held at Lake Clementia. I have the guide used for planning and Marianna Hashorva was chair last year and we would be happy to offer advice and direction to help you get going. Contact me at carolnbob1962@att.net or 354.0612 to volunteer.

Another area of need is someone to chair or co-chair the Refreshments committee and coordinate refreshments for our general meetings.. Debra DeVerter and Bemiece Jones have done such a fabulous job this past year and will help whomever wants to take over refreshments. They are so well organized that they have it “down to a science,” as the saying goes. It will be super easy to take over.

And one of the loveliest celebrations in May is Mother’s Day. So, for all of you who are mothers and grandmas, I wish you a marvelous Mother’s Day!

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

In this issue:

- ✓Calendar of Events-----2
- ✓District-----4
- ✓Officers 2011-2012-----2
- ✓Photo Contest-----2
- ✓Picnic Supper -----2
- ✓Programs Survey-----3
- ✓Review of April Speaker.-----7
- ✓Scholarships/Grants -----6
- ✓Tour-Maple Rock Gardens-----5
- ✓Trash ‘n Treasure-----4
- ✓Trash ‘n Treasure Workshop--3
- ✓Web Site of Interest-----8

Taking Backyard Habitat to the Next Level ~ Being Bee Friendly

Patty Peterson, Member Programs Committee



What’s the Buzz About?

On Tuesday May 24, Julie Serences, former Education Chair of the Sacramento Audubon Society (SAS), will speak on native bees and their growing importance in our urban landscapes.

You will learn about what bees are commonly found in our gardens and about their fascinating life cycle, their

importance to the ecology of our home landscapes and how we can welcome them to our landscapes. Gardening for and with bees can add a whole new level of excitement and entertainment to our outdoor experiences.

For the past eight years Julie has been working on her own backyard restoration project. While researching this project, she realized how important honeybees and native bee populations are to the life cycle of plants and other creatures

in her garden. As she says, " they are the keystone species in our gardens." With all bee populations in trouble, Julie thinks it is important for gardeners to learn how they can create habitat that is bee friendly. She will tell us about the fascinating native bees in our area. With over 1600 species of native bees in California, she says, learning about and observing bees can add to the entertainment value of the gardening experience!

Julie will be selling the following:

- ▶ SAS Birding 101 \$8
- ▶ Bee ID Cards \$2.50
- ▶ Sacramento Audubon
- ▶ Birding Places \$10



We will be selling raffle tickets for the TNT Raffle. Tickets are \$1 each or 7 for \$5 ~ Proceeds our Scholarship/Grant Program

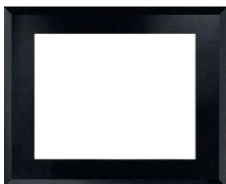
Join us at 6:30 p.m. for social time. Program starts promptly at 7:00 p.m. at Rancho Murieta Association Building

Calendar of Events

May 16 to 18	State Convention ~, 80th Annual Convention Nature's Beauty and Bounty Doubletree Hotel Rohnert Park Contact: <i>Marianna Hashorva 354.2233</i> <i>hashorva@ranchomurieta.org</i>
May 24 6:30 p.m. Social 7:00 p.m. Meeting	Club General Meeting Taking Backyard Habitat to the Next Level ~ Beeing Bee Friendly Julie Serences, Sacramento Audubon Society Contact: <i>Patty Peterson 682.3783</i> <i>lakepeterschulz@citlink.net</i>
May 26 7:45 a.m. Meet at Rancho Murieta North gazebo	District General Membership Meeting \$6 for lunch (club covers the \$4 registration fee) Contact: <i>Marianna Hashorva 354.2233</i> <i>hashorva@ranchomurieta.org</i>
June 4 8:00 a.m. to noon	Club Event Trash 'n Treasure Major fundraiser for scholarships Contact: <i>Debra DeVerter 354.8669</i> <i>ddeverter@sboglobal.net</i>
June 18 10:00 a.m. Meet at Rancho Murieta North gazebo	Club Tour Maple Rocks Gardens , Penryn \$5 donation to benefit Sacramento Children's Home Contact: <i>Sue Sheridan 354.1111</i> <i>suemikes@sboglobal.net</i>
June 28 Time TBD	Club General Meeting and Picnic Supper Succulents Meryl Lenear Camichael Cactus & Succulent Society Contact: <i>Peggy DeMello 354.2140</i> <i>pdemello@ranchomurieta.org</i>

Photo Contest Deadline ~ May 24

Nicole Sullins, Chair Photo Contest Committee



I have 6 beautiful frames waiting for the winning photos. 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. An identification label must be taped to the back of the photo. Include:

- ▶ Your name
- ▶ Category (My Home or My Travels)
- ▶ Location where the photo was taken
- ▶ Botanical name and Common name

All photos must be turned in by May 24. Bring your photos to the May garden club meeting and submit to Nicole Sullins. Winners will be announced at the June meeting. First place winners will receive a free 2011-2012 RVGC membership and runners-up will receive \$10 gift cards from a local nursery.

Helper Needed for Membership

Dianna Dodd, Vice President Membership

You have probably met Lois Neumayer, who will be the Vice President Membership 2011-2012. She and I have been working together on the membership duties and she will take over membership in June.

She will need someone to help her with the membership duties. I will continue to help with some of the duties, but it is important that we have someone in place to learn all the duties and assist Lois.

Membership is a good way to become acquainted with other members. Now that we have moved into the board room, membership can spread out and we can visit with one another. We do have quite a few members, but I can share my tricks for making sure that the membership list is accurate. Please volunteer to help with membership

2011-2012 Slate of Officers

Carol Prinzo, President



President
Carol Prinzo
Vice President Membership
Lois Neumayer
Vice President Programs
Jan Fetler
Treasurer
Bonnie Thalken

Thank you all for volunteering to serve in these vital positions. We appreciate your dedication to the future success of the River Valley Garden Club. The election will take place at the May 24 meeting and the installation of officers at the June 26 meeting and Picnic Supper.

Picnic Supper Committee ~ We Need You!

It's time to plan our annual Picnic Supper! Our first planning meeting will be held:

May 19 ~10:00 a.m (Thursday)
Home of Carol Prinzo
6531 Chesbro Circle, Rancho Murieta North

Please contact Carol at 354.0612 or carolnbob1962@att.net to volunteer or for more information.

What is the Picnic Supper?

Our Picnic Supper will be held at Lake Clementia on June 28. It starts at 6:00 p.m. when members and guests enjoy appetizers and refreshments. Dinner follows. A sign up sheet will be available at the next meeting.

Congratulations Jan Fetler!

Our Programs Chair, Jan Fetler, is now a Master Gardener. Jan submitted her application and was accepted in the Master Gardener program. After an extensive educational program, Jan officially became a Master Gardener on Tuesday evening. We appreciate her dedication and commitment. Jan will join club members Lifetime Master Gardener Mindy Cecchetti and Master Gardeners Patty Peterson and Bonnie Thalken.

2010-2011 Programs Survey Results

Jan Fetler, Chair Programs Committee

I want to thank those of you who attended the last meeting where Mary Arakelian demonstrated her skill as a flower arranger.

I also want to thank you for your participation in a survey conducted with members attending the April meeting. We wanted to find out what you want to hear about during our meetings. Thirty surveys were returned and we will use this 'sample' in the hope that those of you who were not able to attend the meeting agree with your fellow members.

The Programs Committee and I will do our best to bring you your favorites beginning in September.

Here is a list ranked in order of your preferences:

1. Outdoor Containers
2. Native Plants
3. Wildflowers
4. Houseplants
5. Birdhouses for Wild Birds
6. Fuchsias
7. Orchids
8. Water Gardening
9. Carnivorous Plants, Bromeliads
10. Garden Fitness Tips

We also had interesting 'write ins' mentioned once each unless noted:

- ▶ Growing Vegetables (4 votes)
- ▶ Fruit Trees
- ▶ Community Gardens
- ▶ Canning
- ▶ Raised Beds
- ▶ Cooking Vegetables
- ▶ Rain Barrels
- ▶ Economical Gardening ~ the best places to buy fertilizer, soil, tools, plants, etc.

If you would like your preferences added to this list, please send me your votes at janfetler@gmail.com or 689.5545.

Please rank your selections:

3 - Yes! 2 - Okay 1 - Not so much

Trash 'n Treasure Update

Sharon Barton, Co-chair TNT Committee

If you are going to donate plants ~

- ☼ Plants will not be accepted after the May 24 meeting.
- ☼ Plant suggestions: herbs, strawberries, varieties in bloom.
- ☼ If possible, select a plant that blooms in early June.
- ☼ If selecting one plant, pick out a plant that can be used as a focal point.
- ☼ If selecting 4 inch pot size, pick out at least 4 plants.
- ☼ Do not donate pony-packs, they do not sell very well.
- ☼ All plant material must be healthy, please no plants with drooping leaves.
- ☼ All plant material must have ID labels including common name, botanical name (if possible), water and light conditions, bloom color, annual or perennial, and if the plant is recommended for our planting zones.
- ☼ If you are donating a plant from your yard, please transplant it now in the appropriate size pot.
- ☼ Do not wait to transplant.
- ☼ Make sure any pots you use have drainage holes in the bottom.

Contact Mindy Cecchetti at mindyc@wildblue.net or 354.1805 for more plant information or if you have questions

If you are going to donate \$12 ~

- ☼ Make checks out to RVGC or River Valley Garden Club
- ☼ Give your donation to Treasurer Bonnie Thalken at the May 24 meeting
- ☼ Or mail your donation to Bonnie Thalken at P.O. Box 302, Wilton, CA 95693 so it will arrive before May 24.
- ☼ Deadline for donation is May 24 meeting

TNT Workshop



Debra DeVerter and Marianna Hasorva

On Tuesday, April 19, Berniece Jones hosted the Trash 'n Treasure workshop where this year's promotional items were created. In addition to handing out CGCI and RVGC bookmarks, we are handing out pieces of screen that can be put at the bottom of a container before the soil is added.

Debra DeVerter, Marianna Hashorva, Mindy Cecchetti and Berniece cut the screen and fastened the screen to a card with raffia. RVGC Information is included on the card. One hundred screen cards were created.



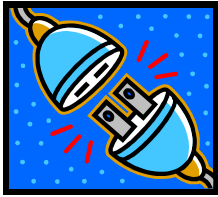
Berniece Jones, Mindy Cecchetti and Debra DeVerter

Berniece served refreshments and the event ended with everyone admiring her gorgeous garden, especially her dogwood tree.

It looks like they worked hard, but had some fun, too.

Keeping Plugged In ~ District News

Marianna Hashorva, District Liaison



The State Flower, Food and Garden Show was bigger and better its second year! I can only imagine how grand it will be next year and in the future.

There were many activities at the 'Make and Take Courtyard' with hands-on



Sofia White and The Veggie & Fruit Man

projects like floral arranging and gourd decorating with some of the best instructors in the area. Carol Prinzo, Sharon Barton and Helen Scheinert enjoyed Frank Bielec, experienced florist and a TLC Network star. They made and took home lovely floral arrangements as well as the lessons they had learned.

Afterward, Carol and Sharon spent a few hours working at the Kids Growing Strong educational project center. The Kids Workshop Program was simply amazing. Kids got to make worm bins, small floral arrangements and receive a gourd which they could design for use as a decorative bird house. The



youngsters got to take home these items, along with all of last year's Kids Growing Strong projects that were available. Again...all free..

On Friday, Sue Sheridan and I worked at the Kids Growing Strong center for a few hours and then attended Farmer Fred's seminar on identifying certain types of harmful insects and diseases along with pest solutions.



The next day I took my granddaughter, Sofia, into the show where she had such a good time she didn't want to leave. I finally coaxed her to leave with her

box chocked full of crafted fun things she made and one of the heirloom tomatoes. For those who missed it, tune-in next year. It's well worth it.



On May 16 and 17 our president, Carol Prinzo, will represent our club at the 2011 California Garden Club, Inc. Convention in Rohnert Park. Nicole Sullins and I will join her on Wednesday, the 18th, and attend the Youth Recognition Luncheon where our Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl poster contest winners from Rancho Murietta will be honored. Annie Carmichael, 1st grade - First Place winner and her family will attend the luncheon.



1ST GRADE ~ FIRST PLACE
Annie Carmichael



*Final 2011 District
General Membership Meeting*



Sofia's finished floral arrangement

On Thursday, May 26, our last District Meeting will be held at Shepard Garden and Arts Center at 33rd and McKinley Boulevard, Sacramento.

Anyone from the club is welcome to come. We will meet at the North Gazebo at 7:45 a.m. The general meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. and is followed by lunch. We usually arrive home by 1:30-2:00.

If you are interested, please contact me at hashorva@ranchomurieta.org or at 354.2233 by Friday, May 20 as I have to make luncheon reservations in advance.

A delicious homemade lunch is \$6.00. The Registration Fee of \$4.00 is covered by the River Valley Garden Club.

At the April meeting ~

- ▶ Members and guests contributed \$32.02 to Penny Pines for reforestation
- ▶ The raffle, which will benefit the CRES school garden, raised over \$157.00.

Maple Rock Gardens ~ Tour

Sue Sheridan, Co-chair Tour Committee



What: Maple Rock Gardens Tour
 When: Saturday, June 18
 Time: 10:00 a.m. ~ meet at the Rancho Murieta North gazebo to carpool
 Address: 100 Clark-Tunnel Rd., Newcastle
 Website: www.maplerockgardens.com
 Email address: maplerock1@earthlink.net
 Contact: Sue Sheridan
 suemikes@sbcglobal.net or 354.1111

Maple Rock Gardens is named for the numerous Japanese maples and moss covered rocks found throughout the garden. Owners Frank and Ruby Andrews have laid out an extensive garden covering three acres of their 30 acre ranch.

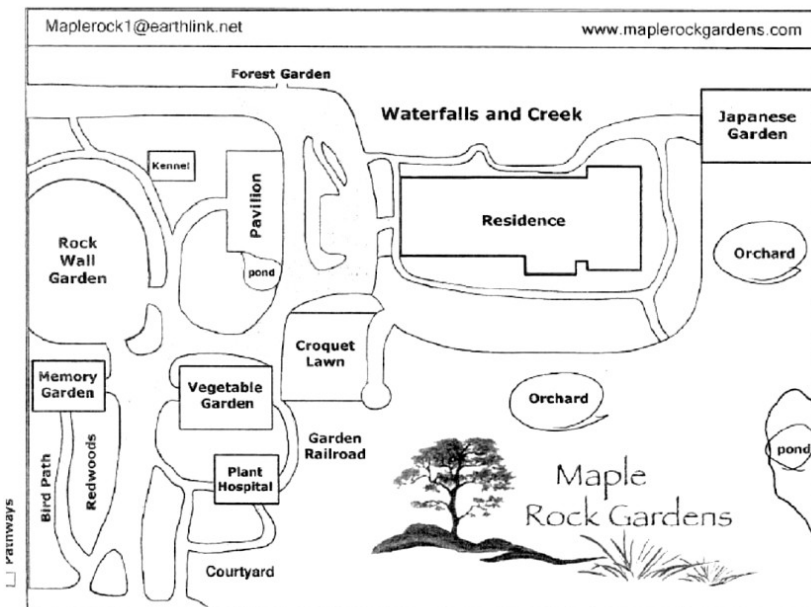
Pathways lead guests through gates and arbors to a number of enchanting garden rooms, including a spectacular formal

English vegetable garden. A tall walled garden area is home to a wide variety of perennials and trees. Shade loving plants are nestled under an enormous vine covered redwood pavilion where visitors can also find a respite from the sun. A favorite hideaway across from the pavilion is the 'secret garden' nestled in a nearby wooded area.

The garden path continues in front of two awe inspiring waterfalls surrounded by ferns, conifers, maples, dogwood and azaleas. Visitors who wander across a small bridge over a creek will discover a Japanese meditation garden with unique plants, rocks and statuary.

Throughout the gardens, colorful trees, shade plants, shrubs and grasses combine with the use of rock, redwood and water to provide a peaceful setting for visitors. Each season brings special charms to the gardens with color, motion and sound.

Although Maple Rock Gardens is not open to the public on a daily basis, the gardens can be reserved for weddings and other special events.



Visitors can view garden trains as they travel on railways throughout the garden.

To be nobody but yourself, in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else, means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight; and never stop fighting.

~e.e. cummings, 1955

Youth Garden Related Project Grants Awarded

Marie L. Maschmeyer, Member Scholarship/Grant Committee

The Winners

The River Valley Garden Club awarded two newly created *Youth Garden Related Project Grants* at their April 26 meeting. A \$500 grant was awarded to the Soil Born Farms Urban Agriculture and Education Project and a \$300 grant was awarded to Grant Union High School, Grant's Environmental Organization otherwise known as the GEO program.



Scholarship/Grant Committee members Nisi Rooney, Mindy Cecchettini, Marie Maschmeyer, Chair Sue Sheridan, and Soil Born Farms Education Director Guy Galante

Soil Born Farms ~ \$500

Stimulated by an encounter last year when one of the youth was unable to access the garden in his wheelchair, Guy Galante, Education Director of Soil Born Farms was moved to come up with a plan to make the youth garden wheelchair accessible. To better provide access, his grant proposal will facilitate a youth-led project that will yield three raised beds and a decomposed granite path that will provide more direct access for handicapped individuals as well as all individuals to connect with the garden. Over the past three years Guy has worked tirelessly to develop the youth garden which has since served hundreds of school groups, clubs, volunteers and visitors. Co-Founder and Co-Director of Soil Born Farms Urban Agriculture and Education Project Janet Zeller said the \$500 Grant "will be a huge step towards making the special place we call the Youth Garden accessible to all of our community members".

Representatives from each program accepted the "big" checks and were invited to explain to the RVGC membership what and who their programs involved and how the grants would benefit their program. Proposed garden maps and organization charts were shown to help explain each program.



Scholarship/Grant Committee members Nisi Rooney, Mindy Cecchettini, Marie Maschmeyer, Chair Sue Sheridan. Grant High School recipients Angie Cha, Becky Cha, Sue Cha and Der Lor

Grant High School ~ \$300

Toua Vang, a leader and author for the Grant High School GEO program grant application, was not able to be in attendance because he had to study for a history exam that he had the evening of the awards. [He later reported that he received a "fantastic" score on his exam.] However, he sent a very adept entourage, Becky Cha, Angie Cha, Sue Cha, Der Lor and supervised by Ker Cha, to receive the \$300 grant and tell about their program. GEO has three programs: The GEO business is a non-profit organization where dedicated students train to manage a business. The GEO Environmental Academy is a course of study in the school that has a certain career focus related to Environmental and Architectural Design. The GEO after school program works with other schools and programs to maintain healthier living. The grant will enable this group to buy more native plants for the Kids Garden Tour (KGT) portion of the program. They will teach how important these plants are in the ecosystem by attracting pollinators, saving water and not over polluting with fertilizer. Ann Marie Kennedy, GEO environmental Science and Design Academy head advisor, says "This is the ninth year that the GEO students will

be leading this service project. They develop positive relationships and the peer-peer relationship makes learning fun and effective."

Initially, only one \$500 grant was going to be awarded by the RVGC. When the scholarship/grant committee reviewed the applications, they were so impressed by both of these applications that the committee encouraged the chair, Sue Sheridan, to go back to the board and ask if there was additional funds in the scholarship/grant club account. Luckily, there was!

In Case You Missed the April Meeting

Patty Peterson, Program Coordinator

We learned so much about flower arranging at our April 26 meeting. Mary Arakelian gave us lots of ideas and pointers to improve our flower arranging skills. She showed us 6 versions of creative floral designs. We raffled the flower arrangements after the demonstration. The money raised went into our school garden account.

Mary explained and demonstrated some of the principles and elements of design: balance, dominance, rhythm, proportion and scale. She showed us how to work in a triangle to create depth, use odd number of flowers, and use unusual items in our arrangements for examples; asparagus, eggplant, fruits and other found objects. The table setting demonstration was done as if it was in a competition and didn't include silverware. She showed us how to add wire to a large leaf to bend it where you wanted it to stay. The leaves could also be cut into interesting designs.

Your floral designs will last longer if you add 1 tablespoon of bleach or floral preservative or some diet sprite to a quart of water. Cut your stems underwater with sharp scissors. Before you begin to arrange flowers, have the following supplies ready: stapler, sticky tape, pins, needle and thread, ties, floral tape, wire, wire cutters, oasis or frogs, and sharp scissors.

I hope you were one of the lucky RVGC members who got to come to your meeting to see how a flower school judge arranges flowers. Mary is a very talented arranger and teacher.



Marie Hanson won this arrangement



Tony Mayer won the succulent donated by April speaker, Meryln Lenear, from the Carmichael Cactus & Succulent Club



Mindy Cecchettini was happy when she won 2 bouquets of flowers



Barbara Keil won the glass swan and the arrangement



Berniece Jones won the orange glass vase and the arrangement



Marion Connelly won the pink glass vase and the arrangement

A very unusual vase and very unusual plant material



In friendship's fragrant garden,
There are flowers of every hue.
Each with its own fair beauty
And its gift of joy for you.

Website of Interest ~ www.sacramentoaudubon.org
Sacramento Audubon Society

SOCIETY INFO

BIRD QUESTIONS

ACTIVITIES

PROGRAMS

LINKS

BOBELAINE SANCTUARY

GALLERY

White tailed Kite © Dan Brown



Sacramento Audubon Society

The Society's mission is to:

1. promote the protection and scientific study of wild birds;
2. promote the enjoyment and appreciation of wild birds through community outreach;
3. provide, encourage and support environmental educational opportunities; and
4. provide proactive leadership in the conservation of open space in the Sacramento region.

SAS is an incorporated 501c3 non profit organization located in the Central Valley of Northern California.

Membership

Why should you become a member of the Sacramento Audubon Society? To do your part to help save our dwindling bird populations and the habitat that is so necessary to the survival of each species.

\$25.00 per year per household (these funds stay with the Sacramento Audubon Society).

Dues-paying members will receive the Society newsletter "The Ob-

server". They may attend local field trips; general meetings; serve on and chair committees and serve on the Board of Directors. Joining SAS does not automatically make you a member of the National Audubon Society - see below how to join National Audubon. The only way to get the local newsletter "The Observer" is to become a member of the Sacramento Audubon Society. Your dues are used for local programs

To join

1. print and fill out the [Membership Form](#)
2. make your check payable to Sacramento Audubon Society and
3. send to:

Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Chair
11054 Autumnwind Lane
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Send email to membership@sacramentoaudubon.org

The Sacramento Audubon Society does not share, sell, or trade its members names or contact information with other organizations or interests.



River Valley Garden Club

c/o Nicole Sullins
15081 Cozumel Drive
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

