



River Valley Garden Club

“Here’s The Dirt”

Serving the Communities of Rancho Murieta, Sloughhouse and Wilton

September 2010 Volume 8 Number 1

“Rooting For You”

Carol Prinzo, President



New president Carol Prinzo at the fall District Meeting

Welcome to October! I have lived in the Sacramento Region for 50 years and never saw leaves falling and turning color as early as September.

Our first tour of the new season was on September 16 where member Mary Kaems took 13 of us on a fabulous behind-the-scenes tour of the State Capitol. Mary is

a Legislative Assistant at the Capitol and gave all of us the scoop on where the action is. If you ever have a chance to see it, you won't regret it.

Our first meeting of the year was on September 28 and speaker Missy Borel from UC Davis gave a wonderful talk. We also were treated to a fabulous tomato tasting of 11 different varieties of heirloom tomatoes grown by Sue Sheridan, Mindy Cecchetti and Dianna Dodd. The

tomatoes were judged and the winners announced. Thanks to Berniece Jones and her committee for organizing and providing cheese, crackers and refreshments.

Many members signed up to help with our various committees and projects and we thank all of you who signed up. That is what makes this club so special. We are also thinking about the annual Holiday Party and are looking for volunteers who would like to help put it together. Anyone who is excited about that prospect can contact me at 354.0612.

And, of course, I want again to thank the hard-working and dedicated Board members who so efficiently have planned a great year of programs, tours and workshops.

We continue to meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the RMA building at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. on the dot.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting on October 26. And bring a friend!

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
- ✓District3
- ✓Holiday Party2
- ✓Mstr Gard. Calendars6
- ✓Membership.....2
- ✓Penny Pines5
- ✓Program Review4
- ✓Raffle Prize.....2
- ✓Tip of the Month.....6
- ✓Tours5,6
- ✓Web Site of Interest.....7
- ✓Workshops.....3

Problems in Landscapes

Marleen Merchant, Member Programs Committee



Don't miss Michael Glassman, award winning landscape designer and owner of one of Northern California's prestigious landscape design firms, Michael Glassman & Associates. A graduate of Landscape Design and Horticulture from UC Davis and his studies at LaNapoule Art Foundation in Southern France were the foundation for Michael's 30 years in landscape architecture and design. Michael will be our program

speaker for the October 26 meeting presenting *Problems in Landscapes* and his new book *Kinder Gardens*.

Michael Glassman is featured in issues of *Great Backyards*, *Sunset*, *Fine Gardening*, *Better Homes and Gardens* and *Landscape Architecture*. He has been a regular on HGTV's *Gardening by the Yard* with Paul James, and his pool designs were featured on *Spectacular Pools*. His 2006 book *Getaway Gardens - Havens at Home* focuses on the garden and the outdoor "room" as does his more recent 2009 book *Outdoor Designs for Living*.

He is co-host designer on Discovery Channel's new series *Garden Police*. The producer of *Garden Police*, Lisa Ely, is also co-author of their latest collaboration, *Kinder Gardens: Growing Inspiration for Children*. This is the first of the books they are doing on focusing on children in the garden. Mr. Glassman will also have copies of the book for sale at our meeting. It's a must have text for any parent or grandparent for ideas that capture kids attention to become "gardeners." Lisa Ely has "garden tested" the hands-on kid-motivating activities with her own children and groups of neighborhood children in Southern California. Visit these web sites for more information about Michael and his projects ~ www.michaelglassman.com (see page 7 ~ Web Site of Interest) and www.kinderscorner.com

October Raffle Prize ~ Michael Glassman's book
Kinder Gardens: Growing Inspiration for Children
Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 8 for \$5
Raffle 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

October 26
Tuesday
6:30 p.m. Social
7:00 p.m. Meeting

Club General Meeting
Problems in Landscapes
Award-winning designer and author
Michael Glassman
Contact: *Marleen Merchant* 354.2832
mpmerchant@gmail

November 6
Saturday

Club Tour
Sandhill Crane Festival in Lodi
Watch the cranes descend after a long migratory journey
Cost is free. Prices for nature tours vary
Contact: *Sharon Barton* 354.0408
golfbum4@sbglobal.net

November 23
Tuesday
6:30 p.m. Social
7:00 p.m. Meeting

Club General Meeting
All About Lavender
Lesa Hertel
Lavender Farm, Lincoln
Contact: *Colleen Bamett* 687.6863
barnett2004@sbglobal.net
Bonnie Allinger 687.6229
rballinger@frontiernet.net

December 12
Sunday
3:00 p.m. to
6:00 p.m.

Club Holiday Party
RMA Building
Members are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert, and a refreshment

Save the Date



*We need your help!
Holiday Party*

It is time to start planning our annual holiday party!

When: Sunday, December 12
Where: RMA Building
Contact: Carol Prinzo ~ 354.0612



The Holiday Party Committee is looking for volunteers. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the club. If you are a newcomer, this is a great opportunity to meet members and become a part of the club.

Sign up sheets will be available at the October meeting.

Please Welcome Our New Members

Dianna Dodd, Co-Vice President Membership

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

FROM RANCHO MURIETA:

**Bob and Kay Lynn
Valerie Silva
Louise Venturella
David Walters
Terry Wasserman**

FROM WILTON:

Sue Hodgkins

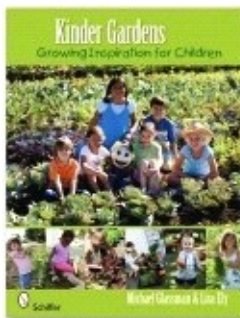
Our garden club has 7 new members, Sue Hodgkins, Bob and Kay Lynn, Valerie Silva, Louise Venturella, David Walters and Terry Wasserman. We also have 1 returning member and 4 renewals. As of our last meeting, we have 81 members.

Saturday, October 2, five of us and 1 guest went to Annie's Annuals. Annie has much more than just annuals. If you like plants you should visit Annie's. It is true that it's a bit of a drive. But, it's worth it. We also had a lovely lunch at the Dead Fish. Why am I telling you this? Because I have been able to become acquainted with many of you and this was an opportunity to become friends with even more members.

Our garden club is fun, interesting and educational. You get to meet and talk about plants with others who share the same interests.

Raffle Prize ~ Kinder Gardens

Peggy DeMello, Chair Raffle Committee



Win a signed copy of Michael Glassman's new book *Kinder Gardens: Growing Inspiration for Children*. Michael has donated a copy of his book and you can win it. If you have already purchased a copy, your money will be refunded. Remember, all raffle prize money goes towards the school garden at Cosumnes River Elementary School.

The book's main purpose is to get kids of all ages jazzed about gardening.

It includes a variety of fruit and vegetable gardens for kids to create whether they live on a farm or only have a small balcony rooftop garden.

Kids and their parents will learn about environmental stewardship while having a lot of fun in the process. We love the idea of encouraging kids to do something with their thumbs next spring besides playing video games, not to mention teaching them about living a green life while they're still young.



Kinder

Member Donna Schiffer won the September raffle prize.

"Keeping Plugged In" ~ District News and More

Dianna Dodd



On Thursday, I joined our President, Carol Prinzo, and members Nicole Sullins, Marleen Merchant and Peggy DeMello at the district meeting. It is interesting to see how many clubs are in our district. There are 22 clubs with 2 affiliates and 9 youth groups totaling 935 members. At the meetings we learn about the other clubs. For example, the Folsom Garden Club is 75 years old.



Davis Flowers Arrangers created the beautiful flower arrangements which graced the tables. We all bought arrangements for \$3 or \$5.

One plant in particular caught our attention. The Mexican Bird of Paradise, *Caesalpinia mexicana*, with its interesting leaf shape and amazing berries and orange flowers, combined with the sunflowers created the perfect fall floral arrangements.

Donn Reiner, the "Chrysanthemum Man," spoke on plant protection against frost. He recently purchased a product called N-Sulate, a light weight fabric type of frost cloth that is easy to use. This type of cloth is sold under a variety of names and is available at your local nursery or online. Donn felt this cloth was easier to use than burlap, plastic or fabric. One layer has 3° protection. The more layers you apply, the better the protection. Anchor pins are also available.

He suggested placing your container plants as close to your exterior wall of your home as you can. He also recommended erecting a support to bear the weight of the frost cloth unless your plant is very bushy and can support the weight. A tomato plant hoop trellis is perfect for the job. And don't forget to remove the cloth once the temperature warms to above 34 °, the plants need sunlight, too.

My favorite part of the district meeting is the plant sale. Members bring in plants and they are sold for a very reasonable price. A served lunch is included for \$6.00. These events benefit clubs in the district.

Mexican Bird of Paradise Characteristics	
Category	Shrub
Size	15' x 15'
Flower Color	Yellow
Flower Season	Spring Summer
Exposure	Full Sun
Water	Low
Growth Rate	Moderate to Fast
Hardiness	18°F
Notes:	Can grow as a small tree

Workshops

Mindy Cecchettini, Chair Workshop Committee

The Workshop Committee recently met and I think we have a nice number of varied subjects planned that you will enjoy. For the most part, our workshops will be "hands on", allowing you to learn new techniques.

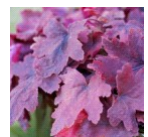
The year's workshops will include:

- ▶ Worm Composting
- ▶ Small Container Plantings (possibly succulents)
- ▶ Preserving Garden Flowers
- ▶ Natural Plant Fauna
- ▶ Bonsai
- ▶ Dormant Pruning
- ▶ Fall Cuttings
- ▶ Holiday Flower Arranging

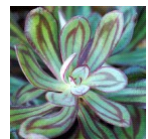
As of this notice, the committee is working on dates, locations and obtaining instructors. The schedule should be set in the next couple of weeks and we should have sign-ups for the fall workshops at the next monthly meeting, October 26.

The committee is very excited about the workshops and is looking forward to your participation.

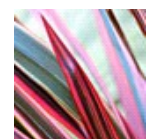
Fall Container Garden



Heucherella 'Sweet Tea'



Echeveria nodulosa



Phormium 'Sundowner'

Themed "Wine Punch," this fall container garden with pops of icy blue in cooling contrast with warm combos of bright pinks and deep purples will brighten your garden.

www.sunset.com

In Case You Missed "Missy" Borel

Jan Fetler, Program Reviewer



Missy Borel and Marianna Hashorva, who coordinated Missy's visit

all chuckle and endeared us to her even though she may have been talking about us!

Here's the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the All-Stars.

What are the UCD Arboretum All-Stars?



All-Stars are a group of 100 plants tested plants that consistently outshine others in California landscapes.

To be an All-Star, the plant must look great all year AND meet at least one but preferably all three

of the following:

- ▶ Be low maintenance (require no chemicals/pruning)
- ▶ Be drought tolerant/water conserving (watered once a month in spring, twice a month in summer, once a month in fall)
- ▶ Attract wildlife (pollinating insects/birds)

Drought tolerance alone is huge. Missy quoted a statistic: landscape water runoff in California is 4.8 times more than a full year of storm water runoff! Plus this 'urban drool' is full of chemicals. Yikes, turn down the sprinklers!

Testing of the plants begins at the campus. Plants are established for one year "and then we try to kill them," says Missy. If they make it past this year of thirst and neglect and still look good, they go on to 14 Master Gardener demonstration gardens representing 14 Sunset zones throughout California where they are tested for growth, insects, and beauty.

Staff at the Arboretum is constantly improving information on the plants. Look for comments about deer resistance coming soon. For details on all 100 All-Stars including the database of plants, the 2010 All-Stars booklet, care instructions, planting plans, plant sales, a list of retailers, and lots more: Web Site - <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/>

Those of you lucky enough to be in our huge audience for the first meeting of the year found Missy Borel to be a knowledgeable, charming and inspiring speaker.

Her clever names for common plants (*Agapanthus overplantus*) and funny

way of describing landscape mistakes like overwatering (*urban drool*) made us

Where Can You Buy All-Stars?

Jan Fetler

UCD Arboretum Plant Sales

See the plants in all their glory in the 100 acres of stunning gardens of the UC Davis Arboretum. Join a guided tour on weekends when parking on campus is free. Check the web site for tour dates.

Several times a year, the Arboretum holds plant sales. This is the best way to buy the All-Stars because all 100 are usually available. The next sale is coming up!

Saturday, October 16, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
UCD Arboretum Teaching Nursery
Garrod Drive (across from the Vet School)
530.752.4880

Local Nurseries



63 All-Stars have completed testing and are currently being propagated by wholesale growers like Monrovia.

Retail nurseries (Green Acres and Capital) carry some of the All-Stars-- usually plants that are in bloom, but will often have evergreens (like Cean-

othus 'Valley Violet') year around. All-Stars will be mixed with other plants. If you have a specific wish, call first. Special order is often possible.

Unlike at an Arboretum plant sale where plants will display the All-Star logo, retail nursery plants will have only the plant name--no logo. Use your All-Star booklet or the web site to identify plants to ask for by name.

Happy planting and here's wishing your landscape is an All-Star!

Learn about Arboretum All-Stars

- Use the **All-Stars database** to find the right plants for your garden
- Browse through a **list** of the 100 UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars
- Watch an **audio slide show** about the All-Stars plants
- Download the **2010 Arboretum All-Stars booklet** (16.5 MB), a full listing of all 100 All-Stars with detailed information on each. Or download the booklet in two parts:
- **Introduction and perennials** (8.9 MB)
- **Groundcovers, vines, shrubs, trees** (7.6 MB)
- Learn about **All-Stars irrigation and climate zone trials**

Capitol VIP Tour

Sharon Barton, Co-Chair Tour Committee



Left to right~ Louise Gumbinger, Cherry Peterson, Sue Sheridan, Carol Prinzo, Sharon Barton, Ann Spivey, Pam McCabe, Bonita Jones, Mary Keams and Peggy DeMello

September 16th was a gorgeous day and 13 River Valley Garden Club members and guests had the pleasure of enjoying it at the State Capitol.

Member, Mary Kaems, met us in the rotunda and guided us on a VIP tour. The message screen in the Assembly displayed a greeting, "The California State Assembly welcomes the River Valley Garden Club."

We continued to feel very special as we were permitted on the floor of the Assembly and Senate as well as in the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Our inside tour of this impressive structure concluded as we met Guide Supervisor, Terry Cook, who was eager to take us outside to the beautiful Capitol Park. These tours are usually conducted by volunteer docents so it was indeed a privilege to have Terry share her special insights and feel the passion she has for the trees and "her park".

We learned that the original four square blocks of the Capitol grounds were planted in 1870 with 800 trees and flowering shrubs of nearly 200 varieties from all parts of the world. Today there are more than 450 varieties represented including one grown from seeds that orbited the earth with the Apollo astronauts.

Capitol Park covers 40 acres and many of the exotic species planted over 100 years ago thrive in Sacramento's climate. Each season provides its own vibrant colors and charm.

Plan a visit with friends and family and have lunch at a nearby restaurant. We enjoyed a delicious lunch at Ambrosia.

Thank you, Mary, for a great day.

Annie's Annuals Tour Just Plain Fun

Sharon Barton, Co-Chair Tour Committee

A group of six eagerly drove to Annie's Annuals in Richmond on the morning of October 2nd. It was an overcast, cool morning but we were greeted by a colorful Court Jester, beautiful flowers and plants and delicious fruit and breakfast snacks.



Annie is such a vivacious lady and she provided great advice on *What to Plant in Fall for Spring Bloom*. She also introduced us to the most interesting and fun plants in her nursery.

Left to right~ Mindy Cecchettini, Cathleen Riebe, The Jester, Candy Hearn, Sharon Barton and Dianna Dodd

The sun soon warmed the day and we enjoyed a scrumptious lunch at

The Dead Fish in Crockett, overlooking the Carquinez Straits. Another lovely adventure for the River Valley Garden Club.

What is Penny Pines?

Cathy Long, Chair Penny Pines Committee

What is Penny Pines? Penny Pines is a US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service Reforestation Program. California Garden Clubs, Inc. has supported this program for many years.



Cathy Long

What is a Penny Pines Plantation? A Penny Pines Plantation is a \$68 donation to purchase one acre.

How are donated funds used? Funds are deposited into an account for each national forest. The account is restricted to use for preparation of sites for new trees, planting seedlings, maintaining existing tree stands and improving wildlife habitat. River Valley Garden Club donates to El Dorado National Forest.

How are donations acknowledged? The USDA Forest Service sends a donation certificate to the donor or to another party when specified.

We collected \$31.02 for Penny Pines at the September meeting.

Tip of the Month ~ Putting the Garden to Bed

Mindy Cecchettini, Lifetime Master Gardener

FALL CLEAN UP

As the seasons change, one of the most important chores in the fall is the clean up. In the spring, we tend to plant all types of annual flowers, veggies, containers, etc. with seasonal plants. By this time of year their growth production is beginning to wind down and in a few weeks their growth will be over for another year.

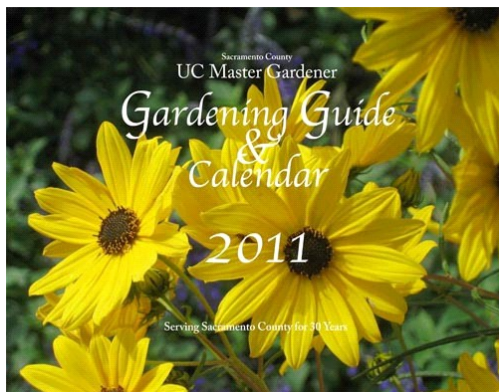


Many insects and diseases live amongst the plants and it is extremely important to pull all the annual flowers and veggies; then clean up the area by removing all the fallen debris, flowers and fruit. If you are sure your plants were not directly subjected to any insects or diseases, you can compost what you pull. If not, bag and put in the green waste container.

After clearing your spring plants, add some compost to the area, work it in, and you are ready for planting next spring.

Master Gardener Calendars are Here

Mindy Cecchettini, Lifetime Master Gardener



The UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardener *Gardening Guide and Calendar 2011* is available for sale at \$10.00 each. This edition is in full color, inside and out and celebrates 30 years of gardening knowledge from the Sacramento County Master Gardeners. The new edition is full of timely remedies for landscape problems, all the planting charts and an extensive section on the most common gardening questions along with proven answers.

I will have a supply available at the October meeting. I will deliver, also. Contact me at 354.1805. Checks made payable to UC Regents, or cash accepted.

Lodi Sandhill Crane Tour

Sharon Barton, Co-chair Tours Committee

If you are interested in the Sandhill Crane Tour, please go on the website www.cranefestival.com and check out the nature tours as many of them sound like fun. There is a link that tells you how many spaces are still available for each nature tour.

Since there are 13 of us signed up already, there are a variety of interests, we could split up and go in smaller groups to accommodate everyone's choices. Remember that the tours are held rain or shine. If you see one that is reaching its limit and you want to go, book it and let me know. Please do so as some are filling up.

Thanks very much.



For 14 years, Lodi's Sandhill Crane Festival has celebrated the return of the cranes. Long before Lodi existed, Sandhill Cranes descended into the rich delta wetlands at the end of a long migratory journey, some from nesting grounds as far away as Siberia. As they greeted California's earliest explorers, these magnificent birds darkened the skies over winter marshes. In awe-inspiring numbers, and with a prehistoric call, stately gait, and elegant choreography, the Sandhill Crane continues to attract and inspire visitors.

Each year thousands of visitors make their way to Lodi area wildlife refuges and farmlands to experience first hand one of nature's spectacles. The abundance of crane habitat continues to nourish our agricultural roots, with water, soil, and climate that sustains the birds, enriches our lives, and benefits our local economy.

Michael Glassman and Associates Landscape Design and Consulting



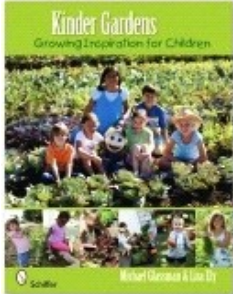
HOME

NEWS

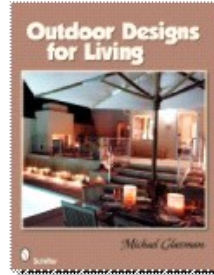
BOOKS

ABOUT MICHAEL

CONTACT US



Join Kinder, a puppet pal who teaches a bucket-load of fun activities that encourage experimentation in the garden. Fun projects include turning umbrellas, rain boots, and old toys into gardens. Learn where vegetables come from, then grow your own. Over 250 color photographs bring the book to life, and start your children on their own horticultural adventure. Visit Kinder at Kinder's Corner, a dedicated website for the book which includes activities for children, coloring books, gardening tips, and more.



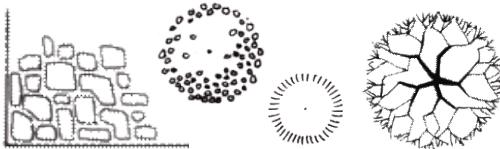
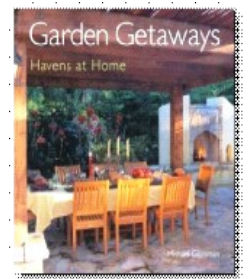
Over 320 beautiful color photos and concise text address reclaiming lost outdoor areas and transitioning them into useful, enjoyable spaces. This delightful book provides ideas to create outdoor rooms for lounging and dining in front and back yards. Before and after images help readers visualize the myriad of possibilities they can create. Professionals will find inspiration with specific examples of design details and solutions for their clients because "good design is in the details."

Several of Michael Glassman's custom residential landscapes are prominently featured in the double issue of Great Backyards. One is a two page front courtyard with an original water feature and a custom fireplace.



There is no need to make reservations, pack and rush to the airport to get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. This book shows you how to transform a neglected portion of your yard into a private sanctuary that you can visit every day, anytime you like.

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