



# Here's The Dirt

## River Valley Garden Club Newsletter

Serving the Communities of Rancho Murieta, Sloughhouse and Wilton

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September 2011 Volume 9 Number 1

### "Rooting For You"

Carol Prinzo, Co-President

Summer is almost over and we were treated to another mild one. We had a wonderful indoor picnic at our June meeting with great food, great guests, and a great speaker, Merlyn Leamer. Merlyn was a delight and had gorgeous succulents for sale. Mine are even still alive.

And, of course, who could forget Trash 'n Treasure - in the rain, no less. And to top it off, we made more money this year than ever. Maybe it should rain more often.

As our club moves into fall and our upcoming year, we are very excited about the newest members of our Board: Nancy Compton joins our Board as Co-President; Candy Heam who will work with Lois Neumayer as Co-Vice Presidents

Membership; Joanne Brandt will chair the Publicity Committee; and Toni Mayer and Louise Venturella will Co-Chair Refreshments Committee.

It is great to have new input and expertise join us in bringing you, the membership, the best educational experiences we can provide. And we have an exciting year planned.

So please renew your membership if you haven't already and join us on Tuesday, September 27 for the first meeting of the new year.

" Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor and autumn a mosaic of them all."  
Stanley Horowitz

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  
Co-Presidents Carol Prinzo & Nancy Compton  
Co-Vice Presidents Membership  
Lois Neumayer & Candy Heam  
Vice President Programs Jan Fetter  
Treasurer Bonnie Thalken

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Sunflowers (*Helianthus annuus*)  
Watercolor

### Gardening for Wildlife

Patty Peterson, Member Programs Committee

### An Ecological and Conservation Look at Gardening

Genelle Treaster will be our first speaker this year on September 27 at 7:00 p.m.. She will be speaking on gardening for wildlife. The presentation will introduce the ecological and conservation based look at gardening. Genelle will start with the big picture and narrow it down to our own area. She will discuss how the average person can increase their yard's carrying capacity for native wildlife species, while saving money and energy.

She opened "All Things Wild" in March 2006 in Wilton. She sells native and drought tolerant plants at local Farmer's Markets on Wednesdays at Chavez Park (10th and J), on Saturdays at Sunrise Mall (behind Sears). and on Sundays downtown Sacramento at 6th and X Streets.

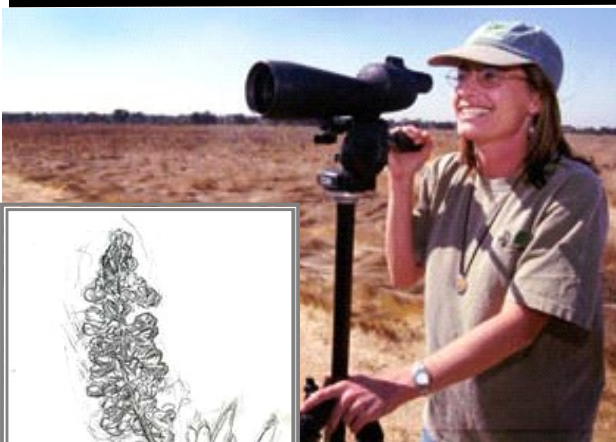
Come and get inspired and make a difference in your yard. It will improve our world.

Genelle will have her plants for sale after the meeting. If you want to purchase a specific variety, call and place the order a few days before our meeting. Her grow list is on her web site.

Telephone ~ 916.396.1518  
Email ~ gtreaster@jps.net  
Website ~ allthingswildca.com

September Raffle Prize ~ Succulent Garden  
Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 8 for \$5

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



I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.

Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

## How Garden Club Dues Are Used

Bonnie Thalken, Treasurer

### River Valley Garden Club

Our club is involved in many activities to help us grow our gardens and grow our own knowledge of the many aspects of gardening. In addition to the fun things, there are always necessary things that need to be done to keep us "growing."

#### DUES

Our club is under the umbrella of the Sacramento River Valley District (SRVD) and the State organization California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI). We are required to pay dues to each of these clubs. The SRVD dues are \$1.50 per member and CGCI dues are \$2.25 per member.

#### INSURANCE

In addition, the club carries Liability Insurance through CGCI at the rate of \$.75 per member.

#### FILING NON-PROFIT STATUS

Of course, government always gets involved, so each year we must file for non-profit status with the IRS. This is handled through the CGCI and involves a \$15.00 processing fee.

#### OTHER EXPENSES

So you are thinking, that's a little more than \$4.50 per person. What about the rest of the membership dues money? Here are just a few of the items where your dollars are used to keep us informed, learning and having fun:

- Speakers
- Meeting refreshments
- Annual holiday party
- Office supplies
- Directory
- Newsletter
- June Picnic

I think that is a full program for just \$20.00 per year!

## This is Your Last Newsletter

unless you have sent in your dues and renewal form. Take a moment and write out the check and fill out the form and mail to:

Lois Neumayer  
15253 Nueva Drive  
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

Without the monthly newsletter *Here's The Dirt* you will be missing out on great information on our programs, tours, horticultural subjects, social activities, valuable workshops and much more.

You will help Lois Neumayer and Candy Heam by allowing them time to process your paperwork and prepare your name badge before our next meeting. Just Do It! When you attend the September meeting, you will pick up your badge and then enjoy some refreshments prepared by Refreshments Committee Co-Chairs Louise Venturella and Toni Mayer.

## Calendar of Events

September 20 District General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday Shepard Garden & Arts Center  
Leave RM at 7:45 a.m. *Contact: Marianna Hashorva 354.2233*  
Meeting 9:00 a.m. *hashorva@ranchomurieta.org*

September 25 Club Tour  
Sunday **Strutz Farm in Sloughhouse**  
9:45 a.m. Chris Strutz, owner  
Leave RM Sign up by September 22)  
10:00 a.m. *Contact: Dianna Dodd 354.0201*  
Tour Begins *ddoddx1@sbcglobal.net*

September 27 Club General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday **Gardening for Wildlife**  
6:30 p.m. Genelle Treaster  
Social Proprietor, All Things Wild  
7:00 p.m. *Contact: Patty Peterson 682.3783*  
Meeting *lakepetersschulz@cilink.net*

October 6 Club Board Meeting  
Thursday Home of Sue Sheridan  
10:00 a.m. *Contact: Carol Prinzo 0612*  
*carolnbob1962@att.net*

October 25 Club General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday **Watering Gardening in Containers**  
6:30 p.m. Cindy Elliott  
Social Flora Tropicana Aquatics  
7:00 p.m. *Contact: Jan Fetler 689.5545*  
Meeting *janfetler@gmail.com*

## Non-Club Events

September **Annual Gourd Festival**  
17-18 Davis Ranch, Sloughhouse  
Sat. & Sun. [www.davisranchproduce.com](http://www.davisranchproduce.com)

September 24 **75th Anniversary Plant Faire & Sale**  
Saturday UC Davis Arboretum  
Public 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. [www.arboretum.ucdavis.com](http://www.arboretum.ucdavis.com)

October 1-2 **Fall Festival**  
Saturday & Sunday Shepard Garden and Arts Center  
*Contact: Marianna Hashorva 354.2233*  
*hashorva@ranchomurieta.org*

October 18-20 **Flower Show School Course III**  
Tuesday ~ Shepard Garden and Arts Center  
Thursday *Contact: Mary Arakelian 663.0220*  
*arranger1mka@yahoo.com*

## 2011-2012 Program Series

Jan Fetler, Vice President Programs

Jan Fetler and her committee have put together a great program series for the upcoming year. Jan chairs the Programs Committee and a member (or members) coordinate a speaker for a specific month. She has included websites so that you can visit the site and learn more about the speakers. "Contact" indicates the member or members who worked with the presenter.

**September 27, 2011**

**GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE**  
Genelle Treaster, Proprietor,  
All Things Wild

Look at gardening through an  
ecological & conservation  
perspective  
[www.allthingswildca.com](http://www.allthingswildca.com)  
Patty Peterson, Contact

**October 25**

**WATER GARDENING IN CONTAINERS**  
Cindy Elliott  
Flora Tropicana Aquatics, Inc.

Learn how to create fountains and water  
gardens in containers  
[www.floratropicana.com](http://www.floratropicana.com)  
Jan Fetler, Contact

**November 22**

We will not hold a meeting in November

**December 11**

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**  
Rancho Murieta Building

**January 24, 2012**

**HOUSEPLANTS**  
LoriAnn Asmus  
Owner

Selecting, planting and care of indoor plants  
The Emerald City Interior Landscape Service  
Marianna Hashorva, Contact

**February 28**

**WILD BIRD HOUSES**  
Frank Flaherty  
Wild Birds Unlimited

Learn about bird houses, habitat  
and feeders  
[www.sacramento.wbu.com](http://www.sacramento.wbu.com)  
Donna Schiffer, Contact

**March 27**

**WILDFLOWERS**  
Chris Wassermann  
RVGC Member & Deer Creek  
Hills Docent

Take a walk with Chris through a year  
of local wildflowers  
Jan Fetler, Contact

**April 24**

**OUTDOOR CONTAINER GARDENING**  
Andrew Smith  
Windmill Nursery

Selection, planting & care of your  
outdoor containers  
Marie Hanson & Barbara Keil,  
Contacts

**May 22****FUCHSIAS**

Rodney Berquist, Board Member  
American Fuchsia Society Board

Selection, planting and care of fuchsias  
[www.americanfuchsiasociety.org](http://www.americanfuchsiasociety.org)  
Jan Fetler, Contact

**June 26****PICNIC**

A program will not be  
presented at the Picnic

**CRES Garden Project Update**  
Mindy Cecchetti, Chair CRES Garden Project

It has been a long time coming but we finally have the beginnings of the school garden project. During this summer the concrete block beds have been built and the soil has been added. Before planting can take place, the irrigation system needs to be installed and, as I understand it, this will be done very soon.

I am very excited to be at this point as I know we will have something growing very soon.

Please stop by during the week to see the beds (they are in the back, on the south side of the main building).

As we progress, I will keep you updated. And thanks for all your interest.



Progress is apparent as the Cosumnes River Elementary School (CRES) garden project raised beds are created. This project has been years in the making and we are finally seeing results.



**Master Gardener Calendars are Here!**  
Mindy Cecchetti, Lifetime Master Gardener



River friendly gardening is based on seven easy principles that help you create a healthy, beautiful landscape while protecting and caring for our environment, even if you don't live right by a river! Every month the Gardening Guide features tips based on one of the principles of River-Friendly Landscaping:

A well designed and maintained River-Friendly Landscape can cost you less in the long run. Work less, save money, help improve air and water quality, and have a beautiful landscape. What's not to like about that? The 2012 Gardening Guide suggests how you can follow these principles in your own landscape to benefit both you and your environment.

I will have a supply available at the September and October meetings. Checks and cash are welcome; checks made payable to UC Regents.

See a preview ~ [http://ucanr.org/sites/sacmg/2012\\_Gardening\\_Guide\\_and\\_Calendar/](http://ucanr.org/sites/sacmg/2012_Gardening_Guide_and_Calendar/)

**September Raffle Prize**  
Berniece Jones, Chair Raffle Committee

**Welcome to My Garden**



The September raffle prize is a whimsical painted wooden pail with a rope handle containing all kinds of succulents. Succulents are so beautiful and interesting, you will want to purchase many tickets and win this great prize.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 8 for \$5 and benefit the Cosumnes River Elementary School garden project.



2011-2012 Tours

Sharon Barton & Dianna Dodd, Co-Chairs Tours Committee



**Strutz Farm in Sloughouse**

Sunday, September 25

(Sign up by September 22)  
10:00 a.m.

Visit the 11.77 acre "Little Farm on Indio" that member Chris Strutz purchased just 2 years ago and has developed into a beautiful little farm that produces delicious produce.



**Flora Tropicana**

Friday, October 28

Flora Tropicana Aquatics, Inc. is Northern California's largest water garden nursery. Come enjoy this 5 acre oasis of flowing ponds and waterfalls; feed the colorful Japanese koi; view the unique garden decor and sculptures from local artists and the colorful, hand-chosen pottery from around the world; stroll through groves of rare Japanese maples and bamboo, shop the 4000 square foot showroom for the most unique gift and garden decor around. Come see what Sunset and Via Magazines have called a must-see destination. [www.floratropicana.com](http://www.floratropicana.com)

**Bird Watching**  
Saturday, November 5

Meet at Lake Calero in Rancho Murieta North at 10:00 a.m.

The tour will be led by Bernie Kalscheuer and Ellen Covairt, who have shared their expertise with our club on several tours.

More information in our October newsletter



2012



**Camellia Show**  
Saturday, March 3

Memorial Auditorium on J Street. The 87th Annual Show in 2011 had a great turnout! Mayor Kevin Johnson opened the show and former mayor, Heather Fargo, also made an appearance. Special thank you to our surprise guest, Governor Brown, for dropping by with the 1st dog Sutter! [www.camelliasocietyofsacramento.org](http://www.camelliasocietyofsacramento.org)

**Wildflower Walk**  
Rancho Murieta  
Date to be determined  
Led by Chris Wassermann

Join RVGC Member and Deer Creek Hills docent Chris Wassermann for a walk among the wildflowers around Rancho Murieta.

**Horton's Iris Farm**  
Saturday, May 5

Located in Loomis, California (20 miles from Sacramento), you will experience a peaceful country visit to our iris farm that includes 1200 varieties of irises to see in bloom and purchase.

Irises will inspire all your senses! Some are fragrant; some are historic; some have flounces or fuzzy horns; some are lacy, and most are very ruffled. [www.hortonirisdgarden.com](http://www.hortonirisdgarden.com)



**Dragonfly Peony Farm**  
Late June

In an enchanting and whimsical forested Sierra foothill setting, overlooking the Mokelumne river in Wilseyville, Julia Moore operates Dragonfly Peony Farm, one of only a handful of Peony farms in the entire state. Among gardeners and landscapers there is a growing awareness of the Peony: a lovely old-fashioned, cold-hardy plant that produces large, flamboyant flowers each spring and carries a legacy dating back to ancient China. Colors range from pure white to varying shades of pink, lavender, yellow, coral and red. [www.dragonflypeonyfarm.com](http://www.dragonflypeonyfarm.com)



**More...**

No. California Home & Landscape Expo  
January 27-29  
Friday ~ Sunday

California State Flower/Food/Garden Show  
April 13 or 14  
Friday or Saturday

Rancho Murieta Women's Club  
Garden Tour  
Friday, April 27

## 2011-2012 Discount Program

Ann Spivey, Discount Program Committee Chair

The Discount Program offers members of the River Valley Garden Club a variety of discounts at local nurseries and businesses. It is important to carefully read each program as the discounts vary.

We have included websites for additional information. We suggest you keep a copy of this information in your vehicle so when you are ready to select and purchase plant material, you will receive the best deal.

# Support your local nurseries and businesses

## Daylilies come in hundreds of colors

### AMADOR FLOWER FARM

22001 Shenandoah School Road, Plymouth  
209.245.6660 ~ [www.amadorflowerfarm.com](http://www.amadorflowerfarm.com)

15% discount on plant purchases  
Indicate you are a member of the RVGC

Note: Amador Flower Farm was the first business to offer us a discount and our first speaker was from Amador Flower Farm.

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

## You don't have to buy in flats

### BIG OAK NURSERY

10071 Grant Line Road, Elk Grove  
916.686.1180 ~ [www.bigoaknursery.com](http://www.bigoaknursery.com)  
20% discount off nursery items up front  
[You don't have to buy whole flats of flowers]

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). Seasonal vegetables and 1-gallon container plants also available. Open Monday & Tuesday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Wednesday thru Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday (call for hours). Call after October as they might close on Sundays thru the winter). Check, cash or credit card.

## Visit the nursery; stay for lunch

### HIGH HAND NURSERY

3750 Taylor Road  
Downtown Loomis  
916.652.2065 ~ [www.highhandnursery.com](http://www.highhandnursery.com)  
20% discount at nursery

Show current RVGC membership card

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. Nursery open Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Purveyors of hand grown, hand crafted cuisine, the Conservatory restaurant offers brunch, lunch and dinner derived from the finest flavors Placer County offers, including fresh grown produce from our own garden.

## Just down the road

### POW NURSERY

12724 Quince Lane, Wilton  
916.687.7176 ~ [www.pownursery.com](http://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. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed September 4 & 5.

## New location; lots more stuff

### THE SECRET GARDEN

8450 W. Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove  
(Hwy. 99 between Calvine and Sheldon Roads)  
916.682.6839 ~ [www.secretgarden-online.com](http://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 thru Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Monday.

## Worth the drive

### SIERRA NURSERY & ROCK

3985 Douglas Blvd., Roseville  
916.791.1154 (rock) 916.791.7077 (nursery)  
[www.sierranurseryandrock.com](http://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 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## Bigger and better

### SILVERADO NURSERY

9297 Jackson Rd., Sacramento  
916.361.7374 ~ [www.silveradonline.com](http://www.silveradonline.com)

10% off nursery, garden and home art  
Show current RVGC membership card

Discount can also be used with sale items

Carries a large selection of both your favorite and hard to find trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials and vines, a wide variety of fountains, pottery, benches, tables, and statuary, garden accents to complete your outdoor or indoor living space, and lot of great natural stone.

## An old-fashioned nursery

### 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 days a week 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## A great variety of plants

### VILLAGE NURSERIES

6901 Bradshaw, Sacramento  
916.366.3966 ~ [www.villagenurseries.com](http://www.villagenurseries.com)  
15% discount

Show Village Nurseries discount card. If expired, they will renew. New members show RVGC membership card to receive Village 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.; after October, call first.

Website of Interest ~ All Things Wild



# All Things Wild

Spreading California native plants,  
helping ensure native wild life

Home

Plant Inventory

Services

Contact

Wild News

Visit us at these Farmers Markets:

Saturdays

*Sunrise Mall (behind Sears)  
Citrus Heights*

Sundays

*Downtown Sacramento  
(6th & X streets)*

*8 a.m. to noon*

*February-December*

Wednesdays

*Chavez Park  
(10th & J)*

*10 a.m.- 2 p.m.*

All Things Wild specializes in plants native to the State of California. From the coast and valleys to the deserts and mountains, California's plants are as beautiful and diverse as the its landscapes. Native plants are also easy to grow, water wise and wild life friendly.

While California native plants provide property owners spectacular visuals year round in urban and rural landscapes, they also attract a menagerie of wild life species, providing valuable habitat (food, shelter, cover). As native wild lands and wild species continue to decline, the

role of property owners, both urban or rural, becomes increasingly important.

All Things Wild's farm is located in the heart of the Great Central Valley in Wilton, a rural hamlet along the wild

All Things Wild  
P.O. Box 977  
Wilton, California 95693  
(916) 396-1518  
gtreaster@jps.net  
Genelle Treaster, Proprietor

Cosumnes River in southeastern Sacramento County.



## 2011-2012 Workshops

Mindy Cecchettini, Chair Workshops Committee

Thanks to Workshop Committee members, Debra DeVerter, Bonnie Thalken, and Cathy Glacken, we have three excellent workshops planned for you.

### FALL TRANSPLANT WORKSHOP

Glacken Ranch in Wilton  
First Week in October

The fall Transplant Workshop will be held the first week in October (date to be determined) at the Glackens ranch in Wilton. The plants transplanted at this event will be offered for sale at our next Trash 'n Treasure event in June 2012.

### SUCCULENTS WORKSHOP

Merlyn Lenear  
Saturday, January 28

Our winter workshop will be held on Saturday, January 28 at which time we have confirmed Merlyn Lenear for beautiful succulent containers.

### SPRING/EASTER WREATH WORKSHOP

Barbara Simas  
Early March

We round up the workshops with our Spring/Easter Wreath, planned for early March (specific date TBD), presented by Barbara Simas.

Much more detailed information will be forthcoming. So, stay tuned!

If you have extra 4 inch plastic pots, please bring them to the September meeting or call me at 354.1805 to make arrangements.

Please make sure they are clean. Thank you.



## The Strutz Ranch Tour

Sharon Barton, Chair Tours Committee

**What:** Tour of the Strutz Ranch "The Little Farm on Indio"  
13751 Indio Drive, Sloughhouse  
**When:** Sunday, September 25 (Sign up by September 22)  
**Time:** Tour begins at 10:00 a.m.  
**Carpool:** 9:45 a.m. meet at Rancho Murieta North gazebo  
**Sign Up:** Dianna Dodd ~ 354.0201 ~ ddoddx1@sbcglobal.net

Dianna Dodd and I just had a preview of this ranch and it's amazing.

Chris Strutz, a member of the RVGC, purchased this 11.77 acre property just 2 years ago and has developed a beautiful little farm that produces delicious produce.

Chris has been involved in horticulture most of his life. In 1987 he graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in Agriculture and has worked for the Agriculture Crop Production Services as a PCA (Pest Control Advisor) for 23 years. His dream was to have a farm and with the help of one part-time worker, he is making his dream come true. His fields are covered with pumpkins, fruit, vegetables and herbs. The citrus crop is vast and in addition to lemons and limes, there's a great variety of mandarins, grapefruit and oranges, including a new variety of Clementine's called Tangos. The "fruit cocktail" orchard has several varieties of apples and pears and there's a great array of figs, pomegranates and jujubes.

### PUMPKIN SALES DONATIONS

Chris will donate 25% of the sales from his pumpkin patch to benefit the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society.

### PURCHASE ON THE HONOR SYSTEM

There is also a stand set up by his front gate where you can purchase produce on the honor system - just put your money in the mail box.

Stop by and do some shopping at your convenience and tour the property with Chris and our group on September 25. Please email ddoddx1@sbcglobal.net or call 354.0201 to sign up for the tour by September 22. You can meet us there or carpool from the Gazebo at the RM north gate at 9:45 a.m.



### GRAND OPENING ON SEPTEMBER 17

The grand opening of his Ranch for the public will be September 17 and his goal is to be open on weekends through the winter.



## Tomato Tasting

Sharon Barton, Chair Tours Committee

**Tomato Day** at Morningsun Herb Farm in Vacaville on August 28 was once again a tasty treat enjoyed by Louise Venturella (right), Sue Sheridan (left) and me.

Over 50 varieties of tomatoes were offered for "tasting" and the opportunity to vote for your favorites. Each tomato was rated (see below) and the winners were announced.

Cooking demonstrations were given by professional chefs and recipes and small servings were provided for all.

A great variety of tomatoes and fruit were available for purchase as well as almonds, pet treats, garden art, jewelry and herbal soaps and body care products. It was a lovely day in a beautiful setting.



## 2011-2012 Officers &amp; Committee Chairs

# River Valley Garden Club

## 2011-2012 Officers

CO-PRESIDENTS	Carol Prinzo	354.0612	carolnbob1962@att.net
	Nancy Compton	354.0354	ncompton43@att.net
CO-VICE PRESIDENTS MEMBERSHIP	Lois Neumayer	354.1729	loisneumayer@sbcglobal.net
	Candy Hearn	354.1486	imshuga@sbcglobal.net
VICE PRESIDENT PROGRAMS	Jan Fetler	689.5545	janfetler@gmail.com
TREASURER	Bonnie Thalken	687.8554	bthalken@elkgrove.net

## 2011-2012 Committee Chairs

AWARDS	Nicole Sullins	354.1018	nsullins@sbcglobal.net
BUDGET	Bonnie Thalken	687.8554	bthalken@elkgrove.net
COMMUNICATION	Nicole Sullins	354.1018	nsullins@sbcglobal.net
DISCOUNT PROGRAM	Ann Spivey	685.3283	bananas@frontiernet.net
DISTRICT LIAISON	Marianna Hashorva	354.2233	hashorva@ranchomurieta.org
GREETERS	Patty Peterson	682.3783	lakepeterschulz@citlink.net
HOLIDAY PARTY	TBD		
MASTER GARDENER	Mindy Cecchettini	354.1805	mindyc@wildblue.net
MEMBERSHIP	Lois Neumayer	354.1729	loisneumayer@sbcglobal.net
	Candy Hearn	354.1486	imshuga@sbcglobal.net
NEWSLETTER	Nicole Sullins	354.1018	nsullins@sbcglobal.net
PENNY PINES PLANTATIONS	Cathy Long	354.4090	cathylong1@hotmail.com
PROGRAMS	Jan Fetler	689.5545	janfetler@gmail.com
PROMOTION	Nicole Sullins	354.1018	nsullins@sbcglobal.net
PUBLICITY	Joanne Brandt	354.2346	flumewalker@sbcglobal.net
RAFFLE	Berniece Jones	354.2873	bjones@ranchomurieta.org
REFRESHMENTS	Toni Mayer	354.1302	sfm3@sbcglobal.net
	Louise Venturella	354.1769	louise@venturellas.com
SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS	Sue Sheridan	354.1111	suemikes@sbcglobal.net
SMOKEY BEAR POSTER CONTEST	Sharon Barton	354.0408	golbum4@sbcglobal.net
SURVEY COORDINATOR	Dianna Dodd	354.0201	ddoddx1@sbcglobal.net
TOURS	Sharon Barton	354.0408	golbum4@sbcglobal.net
	Dianna Dodd	354.0201	ddoddx1@sbcglobal.net
TRASH 'N TREASURE	TBD		
TREASURER	Bonnie Thalken	687.8554	bthalken@elkgrove.net
WORKSHOPS	Mindy Cecchettini	354.1805	mindyc@wildblue.net

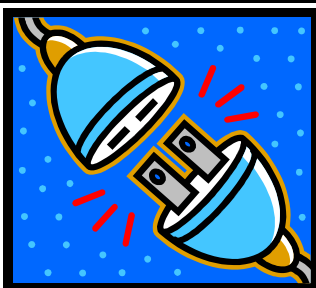
## Keeping Plugged In ~ District News

Marianna Hashorva, District Liaison

Welcome back everyone! Here is a comforting autumnal thought from the poet, Samuel Butler:

*Youth is like spring, an over-praised season more remarkable for biting winds than genial breezes. Autumn is a mellow season and what we lose in flowers, we more than gain in fruit.*

Here's to a fruitful autumn for all of us. Since it's always important to be "Plugged In," here are some district dates to note for future reference.



WEBSITE [www.srvd.org](http://www.srvd.org)

This project is under the direction of Judy Smith, our very capable leader. So once again we encourage your attendance and hope you will experience the fun of the Fall Festival. You'll be glad you did!

For those who wish to do more than just go (anyone, anyone?), there are KP duty assignments just waiting for takers. So if you'd like to help out either Saturday, October 1 or Sunday, October 2, even for a few hours, please let me know and I'll sign you up.

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- ☞ They are held on Tuesdays this year on September 20, January 17 and May 15
- ☞ The meetings are held at the Shepard Garden and Art Center (SGAAC) at 33<sup>rd</sup> and McKinley Blvd (in town)
- ☞ They are held from approximately 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Those who have duties to perform there go earlier
- ☞ The schedule for the meeting is as follows:

8:45	Arrivals (for those who don't have duties)
9:00-9:30	Plant Sales, Raffle Ticket Purchase Hospitality (coffee, tea and muffins, etc.)
9:30-10:30	Meeting
10:35	Guest Speaker, Short Break
12:15	Lunch
1:00	Adjournment

We have been asked to encourage more attendance from our local clubs, and so I'm reminding you once again that you are cordially invited, actually, cordially *urged* to attend one or more of these District Meetings. Last year's attendance from our club was better than usual, but we hope for an even greater participation this year. The meetings are pleasant, interesting and helpful. Attendance enlightens us, as well, about the important connection between the local clubs and the district, state and national organization of garden clubs.

A bonus is the camaraderie enjoyed there!

If you would like to go please let me know ASAP (354.2233 or hashorva @ranchomurieta.org) because I must make advance reservations for the luncheon. No garden should be without turnips...so "tum up for service" to your club in this regard, please!

### DISTRICT FALL FESTIVAL

The always popular Fall Festival at the Shepard Garden and Art Center is to be held on Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2.

There is a huge variety of plants, gifts, pottery, art and crafts sold there. It serves as a fundraiser for the Center and since we use the Center for our district meetings, we are asked to help with the event. For the third time our district has opted to prepare and sell lunch food for the many who flock to the sale.

### SGAAC WEBSITE

WEBSITE [www.sgaac.org](http://www.sgaac.org) For future events at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, check on the website to see all the plant sales coming up in the fall.

### DISTRICT TOURS

There will be no tours originating from the district this year because that endeavor hasn't been successful. If individual clubs are planning a tour that involves a bus rental and cannot fill the bus, the district advises that it be posted on their website to open it up to the rest of the clubs. That website is [webmaster@srvd.org](mailto:webmaster@srvd.org).

### 2012 CGCI CONVENTION

Last but not least, it would be good to put *these* dates in your 2012 calendar to avoid conflicts: the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual State Garden Convention will be held in Sacramento this year from June 3 to June 7. More information will be forthcoming.

## Scholarship & Grants Committee Update

Sue Sheridan, Scholarship & Grants Committee Chair

### THREE \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to everyone's hard work at our annual Trash 'n Treasure fund raiser, the River Valley Garden Club will be able to award (3) \$500 scholarships this fall. They will given to students who attend the local community colleges (Cosumnes River, American River and Folsom Lake) planning a career in some area of horticulture, gardening, landscaping or related areas. The students will receive their checks at a River Valley Garden Club event.



### TWO GRANTS

In the spring, we will be able to award 2 grants. (1) \$500 and (1) \$300. The club is sponsoring these grants to promote Sacramento County youth interest and participation in gardening or related ecological pursuits.

A big thank you to everyone who made this possible.

The Scholarship and Grant Committee members: Mindy Cecchetti, Nancy Compton, Marie Maschmeyer, Nisi Rooney, Sue Sheridan and Chris Strutz