



# THE SCARECROW



VOLUME 3-ISSUE 5 MAY 2011

The Gardeners of the Grove is a member of the Sacramento River Valley District of California Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

## A message from our president



Lorraine at Mission Inn, Riverside, CA

Greetings Fellow Gardeners!

As I write this message, I'm hoping you are all outside playing in the dirt. Perhaps you got your vegetable garden going. If not, then maybe you are accomplishing other things to do outside to enjoy our gorgeous weather.

We were fortunate to have Master Gardener Fran Clarke at our April meeting. Her narrated slideshow educated us about many plants that thrive in deep, medium and light "dappled" shade. Hopefully Fran's plant list (handout) will be useful in painting your shade gardens with color. Thank you to Carol Wheeler for coordinating this guest speaker.

It's good to see our members contributing seeds, plants, cuttings, and bulbs at meetings. By sharing a bit of each other's gardens, we can add a variety of plants and flowers to our own gardens. Thank you for taking the time to share your love of gardening with GOTG friends.

### Feature your garden on our website!

This is a shout-out to all of our camera-shy gardeners! We want your garden, or a special place in your garden, to be featured on the GOTG website. It's been a while since our "garden view page" has been updated. This is an opportunity to share your garden with members and other

website visitors. We know that every season provides great photo opportunities, but spring, summer and early fall are especially colorful. Please consider contacting Linda Lichtenberg, our Garden View Photographer. She will schedule a photo session with you, then forward selected photos to our webmaster.

### Reminders:

- ✓ GOTG's May 14 Membership Event will be at the Secret Garden. I encourage everyone to go out on a limb, join the fun and support our Membership Committee in recruiting new members. Remember, we the members, are the roots that make our garden club grow.
- ✓ Our May 30 business meeting will include garden chatter topic "Growing Succulents". This is an interactive session, so come to the meeting with a 'grow & show' plant to share with members.
- ✓ Please send receipts for expenditures to Treasurer Diana Raymond so reimbursements can be paid before June 30.
- ✓ Don't forget to renew your 2011/12 membership. Submit dues to Diana Raymond before June 30.
- ✓ Is your calendar clear for Saturday, July 30? If yes, please "hold that date" for our summer social. Details from our Social Committee are forthcoming.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next general meeting on May 30 as well as upcoming activities. Until then, Happy Gardening!

*Lorraine Radke, President*

## The City Gardener

By Carol Wheeler, Editeur de Jardinage



### Garden Hints for May

Plant, plant, plant! May is the optimal month to get the summer garden growing. It is time to get vegetable starts into the ground. Seeds that can be sown directly such as pumpkins, beans, corn, cucumbers and melons will germinate quickly. Place cages over newly planted tomatoes, peppers and eggplants. Flower seeds and summer bulbs may be planted now.

Buy a rose in full bloom for Mothers' Day. Prune roses lightly 6 weeks before a special event for a lovely show in your garden.

Water early in the day to avoid evaporation, and help prevent moisture-caused fungal diseases. Keep newly planted trees and shrubs well watered with a slow soak that wets the entire root ball. Even if the temperature is not hot, wind can quickly dry out new plantings. Mulch with 4-6 inches to conserve soil moisture. Regular deep watering 1-3 times a week is best for lawns. Be sure sprinkler heads and drip emitters aren't clogged.

Prune and clean up spring bloomers. Dead-head annuals and perennials to encourage growth and continued bloom. Pinch growing tips of plants like petunias, zinnias, fuchsias, coleus and herbs to keep them full and compact.

Lightly trim hedges, shrubs, and vines to shape after blooming and to remove dead wood.

Bring houseplants outside to summer in a shady place. Flush soil with water to remove accumulated fertilizer salts. Remove dead or yellowing leaves. Raise containers off hot surfaces with pieces of tile, brick, wood or "pot feet."

Check plants for aphids, use a blast of water early in the day to remove or spray with insecticidal soap. Examine plants for signs of slug and snail damage.

Watch for powdery mildew on roses, spraying foliage with water in the morning can reduce the disease, but if necessary treat with a fungicide.

Continue thinning fruit on apples and pears. If you didn't do it last month, apply a sticky barrier like Tanglefoot to trunks of fruit trees to control ants.

### Herb of the Month



Oregano

What do you think of when you hear of that herb? - tomato sauce and pizza! The name oregano has caused confusion because there is a whole genus of plants, but one of the most flavorful is *lippia graveolens*, known as Mexican oregano. Oregano has a hot peppery flavor and is used in cuisines of Italy, Greece, Brazil, Mexico, Spain and wherever marjoram, its gentler twin is found.

To grow start with a plant or cutting which you have tasted. It is agreed that *Oregano vulgare* is not very flavorful, try *Oregano heracleoticum*. Oregano is a hardy sun-loving perennial that tends to sprawl. In late summer it blooms pinkish-purple flowers.

Snip sprigs of leaves when about 6 inches high before blooming. Chop fresh leaves and stir into olive oil. Refrigerate and use over pastas and pizzas. Or hang in a dry place and strip leaves when dried. Store in airtight containers. When it is dried the taste is sharper.

Oregano enhances cheese and egg combinations. It adds dimension to yeast breads, marinated vegetables, roasted bell peppers, and stewed meats. Its flavor combines well with garlic, thyme, parsley and olive oil.

**Chef's tip:** Toss thinly sliced red radishes with minced scallions, minced fresh oregano, lemon juice and olive oil, and serve on a bed of shredded spinach.

## Reminders

GOTG's upcoming **membership drive** event **Cupcakes and Bouquets** will be held on Saturday, May 14th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Secret Garden in Elk Grove.

At last month's [March's] GOTG meeting I announced that our committee was requesting that members bring a door prize item (\$10.00 or under) to the April GOTG general meeting. It can be garden related if you wish. We will use these items as door prizes at our event in May. Please don't feel obligated to bring something.

For those of you who signed up to bring cupcakes [or plan on bringing a door prize] to our event, you can bring them the day before (Friday, May 13th) to me or any committee member who lives near you. The committee members are as follows: **Jeanne Williamson - Joyce Byers - Ali Aleman - Ruth Hayes - Sandra Thatcher - Connie Georgiu - Bonnie Jones**. You can also bring them to the Secret Garden the day of the event.

If you signed up to help us out the day of the event, please plan to come to the Secret Garden one hour early (12:00 noon) and stay over at the end to help clean up.

The Membership Committee is getting excited about this event. We invite all members to attend this fun filled afternoon and please bring a friend who loves to garden.

*Bonnie Jones, Vice President  
Membership Committee Chairperson*

Don't forget that the **Point Pleasant United Methodist Church's community garden project** can use gifts of seeds, old garden tools and the like. Bring them to our next meeting and **Carol Wheeler** or **Phil Teeters** can deliver the items.

Remember: The **Photo Contest** Committee moved the deadline for submitting photos to **June 15, 2011**. It was originally May 30, 2011. The Davis Photo Club will judge the contest. Submitted photos need to be in a folder with the contestant's name on it; on the back of each picture there needs to be the category and a title and **NO NAME, please**. If members do not have the pictures in on the meeting day, they can bring them to Roberta's or Rita's house before June 15<sup>th</sup>. Please call ahead to make sure they are home.

For more information visit our Web site at [www.thegardenersofthegrove.org](http://www.thegardenersofthegrove.org).

Our **Lavender & Roses Bus Tour** may still have a few seats available for the June 8, 2011 event. Contact **Diana Raymond** for ticket information.

## Our next meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, May 30, 2011** at the Jessie Wright Suites at 9275 E Stockton Boulevard **at 6:30 PM**. Our **Garden Chatter** topic this month is *Growing Succulents*.

## ¿Que Paso'?



**Ron Schager** (right) and **Al Gates** finished facing the Heritage Park raised gardens (below). Phase I of the Heritage Park landscaping project, the kitchen garden, should be done by the end of May, or thereabouts.



**Good job, men!**



The Elk Grove Community Garden plant sale

Gardeners at the EGCG are encouraged to use organic fertilizers, and to limit the use of pesticides and herbicides. Members are also encouraged to donate excess produce to the local food bank or to adopt a plot devoted to growing produce for the Elk Grove Food Bank. The Gardeners of the Grove maintains a food bank plot at the garden. Contact **Mary Ellen Trapp** if you want to help with the GOTG plot.

## Monterey Trail High School

Hi Roberta,

*On behalf of the MTHS Memorial Garden team, I want to thank you again for the generous donation toward our MTHS Memorial Garden Monument project.*

*This message is to let you know that the presentation to our school staff will be postponed until next school year. The students were only able to complete one of the three designs renderings. For your reference, I've included... [Erick's] rendering.... [See below.]*



*[Student] Gurkirat will be working on the second design over the summer so he may have it completed by the time we start up again in August. We are not sure*

*about the 3rd design because the student responsible for it will be graduating this year and may not have time to complete it over the summer. So we'll need to find someone else to take that project on next school year.*

*I apologize for the delay, but it has been a lengthy process for our students since they only get to meet once per week.*

*I'll be in contact with you and keep you updated.*

Sal Lascola

Monterey Trail H.S.

Industrial Technology Dept. Chair

Design and Technology Academy Coord.

## Plant of the Month

You probably identified "Columbine" as April's plant of the month. Here's an easy one: What is May's plant of the month?



## End-of-Year Kudos

In recognition of the accomplishments of all our volunteers:

- June Daehling for donating plants for the EGHS tea, the GOTG membership drive and other community service efforts;
- Bonnie Jones, Jeanne Williamson, Joyce Byers, Ali Aleman, Ruth Hayes, Sandra Thatcher and Connie Georgiu for planning and implementing our membership drive;
- Sandra Thatcher, Ron Schager, Sue Richter, Jim Entrican and Ken Williamson for building the Heritage Garden's raised planters;

- Gay Rigmaiden and her volunteers for helping the children of Franklin Elementary School;
- Lorraine Radke, Gay Rigmaiden, Joyce Byers, Jeanne Williamson, Pat Teeters and Sandra Thatcher for decorating for the EGHS Spring Tea and planting flowers at the Heritage Park;
- Roberta Gleeson for her work with the Monterey Trail High School student's Memorial Garden Monument Project;
- Rita Achuff, Carol Wheeler and Roberta Gleeson for organizing our annual photo contest;
- Ruth Hayes for being there every month with her raffle tickets and friendly smile;
- Joyce Byers for greeting us at the door and welcoming guests to our meetings;
- Mary Ellen Trapp for her work with the Elk Grove Community Garden Plant Sale and for maintaining our garden plot at the Community Garden;
- Diana Stuck and Lou Jean Thomason for planning and organizing our outings; and helping coordinate our June bus trip;
- Dianne Cadwallader and Sharon Crowe for maintaining the Heritage Garden roses and planting fall flowers;
- Karen and Joel French for spending months decorating their home for our successful holiday home tour/fundraiser;
- Rosie Brown for serving as our Sunshine lady and sending greeting cards to members and thank-you notes to guest speakers;
- Diana Raymond for the financial management of our two fundraisers--the Holiday Home Tour and Lavender & Roses; and for continuously working her magic as our skillful Webmaster;
- Carol Wheeler for scheduling interesting program speakers, facilitating informative garden chatter sessions, writing the *City Gardener* newsletter column and publishing our 2010/11 Yearbook;
- Jeanne Williamson and Ruth Hayes for preparing and maintaining beautiful Historian scrapbooks that reflect everything our club has accomplished this past year;
- Linda Lichtenberg for taking those great photos of members' gardens for our website's *Garden View* page;
- Ken Williamson for always being there when you need him, sharing his vast and varied work experience,

and contributing even when his back and hip were hurting;

- Ali Aleman for her untiring efforts to promote our Old Town beautification project within the Old Town business community and pulling it off successfully;
- Pat Teeters, *The Scarecrow's* copy editor, for meticulously sifting through our newsletter for spelling, grammatical, punctuation errors, and uncomplimentary photos; and Phil Teeters for demonstrating his excellent creative writing skills, providing humor and informative newsy notes as our Editor-in-Chief of *The Scarecrow*;
- And, thanks to the Boss and her officers for putting up with us and doing the yucky work that they do.

**You are all the reasons why  
we have such a great club!**

## The bear went over the mountain...

### Sacramento River Valley District

The SRVD Board Meeting and luncheon is May 26, 2011. Speaker Renee Reibel will share fun and fabulous flower arrangements for summer. *GOTG* and La Perita Garden Club will jointly conduct the raffle.

### California Garden Clubs, Inc. President-Elect Julie West

Say the name Julie West in Sonoma County horticultural circles and the reaction is immediate recognition and respect.

The 56-year-old Sebastopol woman during more than two decades has built a reputation as an expert in butterfly and habitat gardens and the use of native plants. West was exploring and experimenting with backyard ecology long before the idea went mainstream.

But 20 years ago, West, a licensed insurance agent, knew nothing about gardening.

"I had a black thumb. I had lived in apartments for many years," she said. "And I swear I killed everything. I joined the Santa Rosa Garden Club because I needed to learn something about gardening."

West got recruited for a club service project — developing a butterfly garden at the Kenneth M. Stocking Native Plant Garden at Sonoma State University.

Now she shares her expertise with other gardeners, not only within her own club but on a statewide level. She will be installed as president of the 80-year-old Califor-

nia Garden Clubs, Inc., during the organization's 80th annual convention May 15-19 at the Doubletree Hotel in Rohnert Park. She picked the location so her longtime gardening friends can be there.

Garden clubs have evolved over time. While some remain largely social groups for retirees with time to chat about their roses, many have developed into organizations with a mission of community service and education. Baby boomers like West and younger Gen-Xers still working careers and raising kids are joining clubs to learn from their elders and give back while doing something they love.

By Meg McConahey  
 THE PRESS DEMOCRAT  
 Published: Friday, April 8, 2011 at 3:00 a.m.

### Pacific Region of National Garden Club, Inc.

The Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. was the host for the Pacific Region's 2011 Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona which was held April 14-16, 2011. The theme was "Desert Splendor" and was presided over by **Sandra Ford**, the 2009-2011 Pacific Region Director.

### National Garden Club, Inc.

*...Be It Resolved that in an effort to acknowledge the importance of Gardening and the numerous contributions of Gardeners, the National Garden Clubs, Inc. designates the week of June 5-11, 2011 as National Garden Week.*

*Rene D. Blaschke, 2009-2011 President, NGC, Inc.*

### Membership

We are now 39 members strong.

*Please welcome our new member, Kathleen Albiani, who joined our club on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Take a minute to say hello if you see her at an upcoming meeting.*

*Thanks, Lorraine*

Member, **Anna Maes**, has moved to an assisted living facility (The Meadows, 9325 E. Stockton Blvd., 714-3755) and feels she is too ill to attend. Thank you **Bonnie Jones** for finding this out.

### Upcoming events for 2011

- May 14, 2011 – GOTG Membership Drive “Cupcakes & Bouquets” at the Secret Garden, 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm
- May 26, 2011 – SRVD Board Meeting and luncheon. Speaker: Renee Reibel on fun and fabulous flower arrangements for summer. GOTG and La Perita Garden Club will jointly conduct the raffle.
- June 8, 2011 – GOTG bus tour to Lavender Hollow Farm & Rosemary’s Roses, Columbia.

- June 15, 2011 - GOTG Photo Contest deadline.
- June 3 – 4, **2012** – California Garden Clubs, Inc. – State Convention at the Double Tree Inn, Arden Fair, Sacramento. GOTG assignment: Coordinate registration & provide one gift basket for raffle.

### Web sites

**National Garden Club Inc.**

<http://www.gardenclub.org/home.aspx>

**Pacific Region of National Garden Club, Inc.**

<http://www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/>

**California Garden Clubs, Inc.**

<http://www.californiagardenclubs.org/>

**Sacramento River Valley District of California Garden Clubs, Inc.** <http://srvd.org/>

**The Elk Grove Citizen:** [www.egcitizen.com](http://www.egcitizen.com)

### CLASSIFIED

Volunteers–GOTG	2011
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HELP WANTED volunteers for the fund raising, and membership committees.

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## THE SCARECROW

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