



THE SCARECROW



VOLUME 3-ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2011

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

A message from our president



Lorraine at Mission Inn, Riverside, CA

Dear Garden Friends,

Thank you everyone for your support this past year. During December, we're taking a break from the Board and Business meetings. Most of our gardens are at rest now, with the exception of leaf patrol, pruning, and caring for our winter crops. So, this extra time on our hands will allow us to concentrate on adding our special interior and exterior holiday décor and preparing for holiday festivities. The club's next gathering will be on December 19th --our Annual Holiday Social. I'm sure our Social Committee is planning an enjoyable event for all members and guests. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there.

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to extend our best wishes to you and your family for a very happy and healthy holiday season.

Lorraine Radke



Christmas is in the Air

*Carols and candles aglow in the night,
Hearth fires blazing all cozy and bright,
Red-leaved poinsettia, a white Christmas rose,
Ice skaters whirling on ice as it snows,
Sleigh bells and Santa's,
Tinsel-trimmed trees,
Mistletoe magic and warm memories,
Angels all bringing glad tidings anew,
Season's best wishes especially for you!*

By Joanna Fuchs

The City Gardener

By Carol Wheeler, Editeur de Jardinage



Garden Hints for December

December can be a low activity month in the garden, although there is always something to do.

Select poinsettias with tight flower buds; firm, colorful bracts; and full, deep green foliage all along the stems. When you bring home your poinsettia remember to remove or poke holes in the foil wrapper to allow for good drainage. Poinsettias like a warm sunny location away from heating vents and drafts.

If you have a living tree for the holidays move it inside for only 10 days. Before you do, spray branches with water to remove insects, water well. Place away from heating vents.

Bring in branches of berries, such as cotoneaster, Toyon, or pyracantha to decorate your house.

Later in the month bare-roots trees, shrubs, and vines will begin to arrive at nurseries. Shop early for the best selection.

December typically has temperatures below freezing. Be prepared to offer protection for frost-tender plants. Use a cloth sheet, burlap or frost blanket. Remove covers during the day.

Now is a good time to get hand tools like pruners sharpened and oiled and ready to use. Wash dirt off shovels, rakes and other garden tools before putting them away for the winter.

Begin to prune roses. Plan to attend a rose pruning clinic next month if you need to sharpen your pruning techniques. Spray pruned roses with horticultural oil to kill overwintering aphid and mite eggs.

Pull or hoe new weeds while they are small and easy to remove.

Sacramento County Master Gardeners



Bulb of the Month—*Hippeastrum*

Amaryllis

A favorite at Christmas time, amaryllis are in stores from October on. If planted then, they flower for the holidays. I bought a blub on the Boonie Lang field trip and it is now sprouting. Almost all amaryllis sold are hybrids. Named varieties or color selections are available in reds, pinks, salmon, near-orange and white, some striped. Newer forms include double-flowered varieties. Plant in rich, sandy soil mix. Set upper half of bulb above the soil surface. Firm soil, water well, then keep barely moist until growth begins. Keep in a warm dark place until rooted. (I have mine next to the computer for the warmth.) Increase watering as leaves form. When plant blooms, move it out of the direct sunlight. When flowers fade, cut off stem, keep watering. When leaves yellow, withhold water. Let plants dry out. They can be planted outdoors where they bloom in spring. Leaves appear after blooms, growing through summer and disappearing in the fall. I have successfully planted mine outdoors for years, most of the time in containers, that I can move to the front door when they bloom for a spectacular display.

Autumn color

While walking the dog the other day, we were admiring the fall color in our neighborhood. Knowing this resplendence would soon submit to winter drab; I retraced our steps with camera to record memories of the brilliantly warm reds, oranges and yellows for the wintry days ahead.



Later in the week, while Ron Schager and I were walking our mutts, Hanna and Tank, we stopped to admire the puddle of gold beneath a neighbor's tree. Ron remarked that it looked like a reflection pond. We want you to enjoy it too.



The Parade of Trees—Kudos

These brave folks bundled up and braved a cold, brisk fall afternoon to decorate the Gardeners of the Grove's live Christmas tree at the Heritage Park's Christmas Tree Parade.



Gathered around the tree, beginning at the inside lower left and working around the tree to the bottom right are: Gay Rigmaiden, Lorraine Radke, Joyce Byers, Ruth Hayes, Jeanne Williamson, Ron Schager, Dianne Cadwalader, Mary Ellen Trapp, Sandra Thatcher, and Bonnie Jones. Thank you ladies and gentleman for taking time out of your busy day to decorate our tree.

The live Christmas tree was donated by Big Oak Nursery (June Daehling and family) and will be planted at Franklin Elementary School after Christmas in anticipation of Arbor Day. Thank you.

Elk Grove Hotel and Stage Stop Museum

Jim Entrican has enlisted two Boy Scouts from Troop 59, Aaron Bernechi and Dakota Usher, to undertake the landscaping of the fountain area and the future flower beds in front of the museum. Dennis Buscher of the Elk Grove Historical Society has been researching the cost and design of potential water fountains for the project. Much of what is on the market are mission style fountains. Hopefully, we'll be able to find a Victorian style fountain at a reasonable price.

Letter of support

Funding for the Monterey Trail High School academy ends at the close of the current school year. The California Department of Education has announced that they will be offering new Clean Technology and Renewable Energy grants to 21 programs statewide and the funding is for \$150,000 per year.

The grant which the school submitted required letters of support from all parties that worked with the academy; including business partners, community members, parents, teaches, etc. Since the Gardeners of the Grove have

supported the academy's memorial garden project, a letter of support from GOTG was requested.

In response to the school's request, GOTG President Lorraine Radke provided MTHS the following letter of support:

Gardeners of the Grove
PO Box 2418
Elk Grove, CA 95759-2418

October 28, 2011

California State Department of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Gardeners of the Grove (GOTG) heartily supports Monterey Trail's Clean Technology and Renewable Energy proposal.

Our organization has been working with the Design and Technology Academy's Memorial Garden project for two years. The participating students have consulted with a professional landscaper, designed several potential plans and worked up models of the garden. The final design will be chosen this year and completed by 2012. The garden which is located near the entrance of the school is a significant addition to the school and community. The landscape design calls for drought resistant and native plants which will conserve water; and is an example to the community that beautiful landscaping can go hand in hand with water conservation.

The GOTG has successfully been involved in short and long term community service projects. In addition to the Monterey Trail Memorial Garden project, the GOTG has:

- In participation with the local Merchants' Association and Community Service District, successfully completed the beautification of Old Town Elk Grove;
- On an on-going basis, supervised the work of Franklin Elementary School students during their after school gardening program;
- For the last three years, been involved in our own five-year landscaping project at the Elk Grove Hotel and Stage Stop Museum; and
- Actively supported and is supporting the Elk Grove Community Garden and its effort to grow organic produce for the Elk Grove Food Bank.

We also host public meetings featuring guest speakers on conservation, drought resistant plants, composting and alternatives to chemical use on plants.

We look forward to a continuing relationship with the staff and students of the Design and Technology Academy at Monterey Trail High School.

Sincerely,

*Lorraine Radke, President
Gardeners of the Grove, Elk Grove, CA*

Boonie Lang's Garden

We had an excellent turn out for the tour of Boonie Lang's *Garden of Inspiration and Harmony (Myo-Wa-En)*.

Boonie Lang...gets my vote as a living treasure. She is a lovely woman with grace, charm and wit to match.

Michelle Helzer of Roseville's Lotus Designs.





The bear went over the mountain....

The Sacramento River Valley District

In our own **Sacramento River Valley District**, the UC Davis Arboretum will present a *Garden Club Invitational* tour and presale Wednesday April 18, 2012.

U C Davis has created a special day just for Garden Clubs! Ever want to visit the arboretum with your club? Contact Margaret Kralovec at Kralovec@caes.ucdavis.edu for more info on arranging a tour for your club on this special day!

California Garden Clubs, Inc.

The Riviera Garden Club in Southern California participates with a community homeowners association in awarding local residents for their outstanding landscapes—a nifty idea.



The Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

Washington, Arizona, California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Alaska, Hawaii are the eight states that make up the **Pacific Region**.

Within the region, the junior gardeners at **Desert Mesa Elementary School [Yuma, Arizona]** had a busy year. After their garden was designated a Monarch Watch Garden, larvae for five painted lady butterflies were ordered and the students watched them evolve into pupas and then emerge as beautiful adult butterflies. The butterflies were released in the junior garden club garden. Some rested on students' hands before flying away into the sky.





National Garden Clubs, Inc.

In 1997 **The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.** designated the **Martha Franck Garden** as its official South Atlantic Region Unified State Project. To date, the Garden is a work-in-progress with sponsoring leadership, fundraising, and volunteer labor provided by GCNC members.



This unique 1.1 acre garden is on the campus of the **Governor Morehead School for the Blind** in Raleigh, North Carolina. It is used as an outdoor classroom that allows visually impaired students and those with multiple physical challenges to experience scent, sound, and touch. Signage and labeling throughout the garden is done in Braille or raised letters.

Martha Franck met Helen Keller when Miss Keller made a speech in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1935. Afterward, Ms. Franck had a recurring dream of a sojourner seeking out a certain flower on the basis of its smell. This dream evolved into her vision of a garden for the blind. Eventually, the Martha Franck Fragrance Garden became a reality on the grounds of the Adult Rehabilitation Center for the Blind in Butner, North Carolina. In 1984, the garden was dismantled and relocated to the campus of the 165-year-old Gov. Morehead School, the eighth-oldest school for the blind in the United States.



Our Holiday Social

The Gardeners of the Grove's 2011 Holiday Social will be held on **Monday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m.** in the beautifully decorated **Elk Grove Hotel & Stage Stop Museum** at E.G. Regional Park --- 9941 E. Stockton.

Members and their spouses, or BFF's, are welcome.

Please indicate by email to **Linda Lichtenberg** if you plan to attend. The meal will be served buffet style.

Joyce Byers, Social Committee

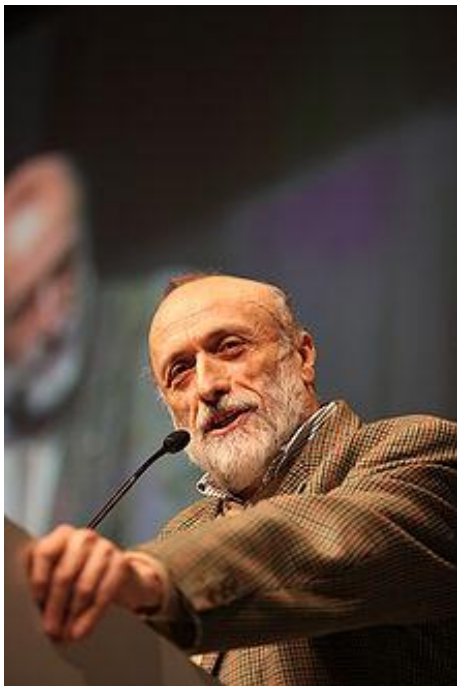
Our next meeting

There is no General Meeting in December. Instead, there will be a catered **Holiday Social** at the Elk Grove Hotel and Stage Stop Museum on **Monday, December 19, 2011.**

Our next general meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 30, 2012** at the Jessie Wright Suites at 9275 E Stockton Boulevard **at 6:30 PM.** Our guest speaker is Karen Auwaerter.



Karen is the president of Slow Food Sacramento. Slow Food is an international movement founded by Italian activist Carlo Petrini (below) in 1986.



Promoted as an alternative to fast food, it strives to preserve traditional and regional cuisine and encourages farming of plants, seeds and livestock characteristic of the local ecosystem.

The Slow Food philosophy is not just about taking more time to cook and enjoy a meal, he says. It was born 20 years ago in opposition to the concept of fast food, and

specifically to the prospect of McDonald's opening a branch near the Spanish Steps in Rome.

However, the bulk of its work today rests in the promotion of local networks of small farmers and artisan food producers whose products either face extinction or whose agricultural methods are less damaging to the environment.

Material culled from a variety of Internet sources including *The Independent* & Slow Foods International.

Editor's note: Obviously, your editor gets carried away on this topic; and staff was unable to curtail him.

Membership

Let the holiday shopping begin!
Wait, just back it up for a minute. I can't believe it's this hectic season of the year again. I'm retired now with lots more time to get things done. Not really!

This message is from the Membership Committee reminding each of us to make time and connect with friends this busy time of year. Slow down and enjoy each other. Most of all keep a "Ho Ho Ho" spark in your heart!!

Bonnie Jones, Membership Committee

Upcoming events for 2011-2012

Dec 19 6:30pm GOTG Holiday Social @ Elk Grove Historical Hotel Museum
Jan 17SRVD Luncheon Meeting 9:30 -1pm @ Shepard Garden Center, McKinley Pk.

Jan 23 GOTG Board Meeting - 10am Bonnie Jones' home

Jan 30 6:30pmGOTG General Meeting; Speaker: Karen Auwaerter, President Slow Foods Sacramento, (an international org)

Hmmm

Well, we've tucked away this year's newsletters in the 2011 file folder and are ready to report a new year. In case you've ever wondered whence this newsletter comes, below is *The Scarecrow's* newsroom. We've spent many

enjoyable hours in front of this computer. Sometimes it is the scene of heated staff arguments about the merit of an article or whether the editor has gone over the brink. But the job gets done without any bloodshed—maybe an occasional deflated ego.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Lorraine Radke, President,
GOTG

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MEMBERSHIP Bonnie Jones

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS:

Joyce Byers

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<http://www.gardenersofthegrove.org>

*Everyone have a very merry Christmas
and a wonderful New Year!*

The Scarecrow staff

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



CLASSIFIED

Volunteers—GOTG

2011

HELP WANTED volunteers for the fund raising, and membership committees.



THE SCARECROW

EDITOR Phil Teeters