

RIVER VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

A PLACE TO GROW

FEBRUARY 2018

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 6

HERE'S THE DIRT

Rooting for You

Nancy Clark, RVGC President

RVGC Swap Meet - March 10!

What's a swap meet? Well.... it's a fun opportunity to:

- Get rid of unwanted (surplus) gardening-related items;
- Acquire new/used items from fellow club members;
- Contribute to the operating budget*, and
- Market our club and recruit new members.

Put simply, it's a chance for us to get together and sell/trade/give away garden-related items like seeds, plant cuttings, pots, or garden art. The first hour of the sale will be limited to club members (so we can trade/sell amongst ourselves). After that, we'll open things up to the public.

*To collect funds for our operating budget, we'll set up a common club table that participants can contribute items to for sale.

Here are the details:

When: March 10, 11:00 a.m. to noon (members only), noon to 2 p.m. (open to the public).

Where: The Plaza parking lot, in front of the Stonehouse Bistro.

So, how do you participate?

- To reserve a spot, contact Nancy Clark at nancyclark475@sbcglobal.net, or, 916-769-0553;
- Start seeds or cuttings;
- Start looking through your collection of bulbs or plants, garden art, books, seeds, tools, or pots and see what you'd like to sell/trade/give away;
- Consider what you would be willing to donate to a common club table. (In addition to garden-related items, perhaps putting some cookies there might be a good idea.)

Think of the fun we'll have sharing our bounty, and, sharing gardening tips with each other, and the public!



*For You
Happy Valentine's Day*

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2017-2018 Programs and Workshops

Learning never exhausts the mind.

~Leonardo da Vinci



Date	Type	Provider	Location	Details
Feb. 27, 2018	Program	Chuck Cottam	RMA Bldg.	Building a Koi Pond in Your Garden
Mar 27, 2018	Program	Chef Johnny	RMA Bldg.	TBA
Apr 24, 2018	Program	Betty Bloom	RMA Bldg.	All About Orchids
May 22, 2018	Program	Chris Huey	RMA Bldg.	Penny Pines and the Eldorado Forest

Koi Pond Construction and Maintenance

Mary Zellem, Vice-President, Programs

The River Valley Garden Club is delighted to welcome Chuck Cottam who will give a presentation on koi ponds at our monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 27th at 7:00 p.m. at the RMA Building.

Chuck builds, repairs, and maintains koi ponds and water features. After graduating from DeAnza College in 1970, he joined the United States Air Force and became an air traffic controller. After twenty years, Chuck retired from the Air Force as a Master Sergeant. He then completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Golden State University.

After graduation, Chuck started a second career by becoming a general contractor and then moved on to becoming a landscape contractor. In 1995, Chuck launched his business CM Ponds & Stuff. The business was moved to Sun City, Lincoln, when he relocated his family there. Chuck has been active for many years in several koi clubs, such as the Camellia Koi Club of Sacramento, and enjoys raising award winning koi. If you have ever considered creating a koi pond, or simply wondered, *how do they DO that*, you won't want to miss Chuck's presentation. Bring a friend. Everyone can learn how to have colorful fishies in their back yards.



Upcoming Events

Is it Spring Yet?

Rancho Cordova Library Adult Garden Party

Feb. 2, (the First Friday of Every Month) at 1:00 p.m.

The Camellia Society will share a customized presentation on caring for camellias, showing them, and the flower's history in our area. All the Garden Party events are free and refreshments will be served. The event starts at 1 p.m. Feb. 2 and typically lasts an hour.



94th Annual Sacramento Camellia Show

March 3 & 4, 2018, Memorial Auditorium, 1515 J Street, Sacramento

Hours are Saturday, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Produced by the Camellia Society of Sacramento, this is the oldest camellia show in the United States. Enjoy floral designs by the Floral Design Guild, a display by sister city, Matsuyama, Japan, a winning blooms trophy table, the winning photos from the Camellia Society of Sacramento's annual photo contest, and stunning camellias of every size and color. If you're feeling courageous, you too can enter your prized camellias. Visit their website below to learn how.

<https://www.camelliasocietyofsacramento.org/events.html>

San Francisco Flower and Garden Show

April 4 - 8, 2018

After ten years in other locations, the SFFGS returns to the Cow Palace. It is the third largest show of its kind in the USA. Join the return celebration of the fabulous display garden to the center arena. The Plant Market will be in full bloom. You'll find thousands of unique items for your gardening adventures and outdoor living. The seminars will be ongoing at the Discovery and Floral Fantasy stages plus the halls will be filled with beautiful and informative displays. RVGC has been given forty free tickets. Read on to learn how to obtain yours.

<http://sfgardenshow.com/>



Rancho Cordova Library
ADULT GARDEN PARTY

First Friday Every Month at 1 p.m.

Feb. 2: Camellia Care
Did your garden come with camellias or are you dying to plant them? The Camellia Society of Sacramento will offer a custom talk on Camellia history and care.

Rancho Cordova Library
9845 Folsom Blvd.
Sacramento CA 95827

SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY www.soclbrary.org



Return to Paradise

**SAN FRANCISCO
FLOWER & GARDEN
SHOW**

The historic COW PALACE • APRIL 4 - 8, 2018

San Francisco Flower & Garden Show - FREE Tickets!

Nancy Compton, Field Trip Chair

Remember our bus trip to the San Francisco Flower Show last year – the one that was actually in San Mateo? If so, you will recall that although we had a great time, the show was quite a disappointment.

Apparently, the show organizers were disappointed too, and to make amends, have sent out FREE tickets to this year's show, which will actually be in San Francisco at the Cow Palace. The River Valley Garden Club received forty tickets!

The dates are April 4 - 8. This will not be a bus trip, but members can arrange dates and carools, although it would be fun to identify a mutually convenient date so we can caravan to San Francisco together. Please email me at ncompton43@att.net to let me know of your interest in obtaining a ticket to the Flower Show.

District Meeting, Feb. 20, 9 a.m.

Berniece Jones, District Liaison



The next Sacramento River Valley district meeting will be on Feb. 20th at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center. The speaker will be from the Mt. Diablo Restoration Hillside. He will present a talk and slide show on how plants are maintained and discuss the care of the mountain.

There is always a plant sale, (think bargain prices! 0.50 to \$5.00) and a chance to purchase tickets for gift items.

Lunch is included, provided by one of the district clubs, and the cost is \$10.00 per person (meeting is \$4.00 and lunch is \$6.00). We must make reservations for the district luncheon.

Call Berniece if you wish to attend. I need to call in the number of participants from our club by Feb 15th. This is a fun day, a chance to see how other clubs operate, and gain info about other local events in the Sacramento area. We will carpool, so no one has to make the drive alone. Please notify Berniece (354-2873) if you are interested and final details will be sent to you.



State Convention, June 4 - 7

Berniece Jones, District Liaison

The CGCI (California Garden Clubs, Inc.) State Convention will be held close to home this year. We will be able to drive over for the day or can stay a few nights if you like. This is a real get away with a casino to entertain those who want to try their luck.

We will be carpooling, and I encourage lots of you getting involved. It is a fun few days. There are always tours and workshops and great speakers at the luncheons and dinners. Tours and workshops usually are free. I have not seen a schedule of events yet. But will keep you posted.

Our District has committed to hosting the Fall Board for the state in 2020, so this will give you a chance to see the way things are done at these conventions. Our club will be asked to support the Fall Board in 2020. Several years ago, our club had to make several gift baskets for the raffles. We also sent several volunteers to help during the convention. Molly, Marianna, and I volunteered that year. Mark your calendars with date and hope you can join the fun. Need more info? Berniece (354-2873).

Raffle News

Berniece Jones

One of the winners of January raffle was Carol Prinzo, who carted away the large Heavenly Bamboo (*Nandina Domestica*) plant that was donated by Pow Nursery.

In addition, our speaker, Chris Stutz, donated four bags of fertilizer that were also raffled, and Nancy Clark won one of them. Another lucky winner was Ellison Cowles pictured with a bird bath/feeder. Eight tickets cost five dollars or individual tickets can be purchased for one dollar each. If you have a donation for the raffle please call Vivian Baier (586-930-2105), or Berniece Jones (916-354-2873), so that we can plan space on the table.



Time is Running Out!

Logo Contest

Have you started designing that winning logo yet?

No?

What are you waitin' for? There are only twenty-three days left for you to come up with the winning new RVGC logo design. Don't let that \$25 gift certificate from Big Oak Nursery (and bragging rights) fly away. In case you've forgotten about this important event please refer to the [January newsletter](#) where the contest details and timeline are set forth. Some of the highlights:

- All RVGC members are eligible to participate. Collaboration between two (or more) people is allowed.
- The logo must include "River Valley Garden Club" and "Established (or Est.) 2003".
- The logo image must be submitted in a [vectorizable](#) file format.
- February 23rd – submissions are due to Nancy Clark (nancyclark475@sbcglobal.net).

Do you hear that sound?

The clock is ticking.



Ikebana Workshop

Ellison Cowles, Workshop Chair

Ten enthusiastic students were introduced to the basics of Ikebana, the art of Japanese Flower Arranging, in a workshop held January 22nd in the RMA building.

Presenters M.J. Kelley and Bonnie Lopez from the Sacramento Chapter of Ikebana International, provided bowls, florist foam, flowers, branches, cutters, and also folders of instructions. Participants, (*Marlene Merchant, Jude Gaither, Carol Prinzo, Mary Zellem, Ruth Lechler-Moore, Irene Slavens, Berniece Jones, Ellison Cowles, Debbie Kolmodin, and Deb Toft*) learned how to measure, cut, and place floral materials at prescribed angles in their bowls to achieve a balanced structure. Then the arrangement was augmented with ferns, blossoms and shrubbery.

Learning to measure the height of the materials relative to the container was an important insight. In addition, arrangements do NOT have to be full, (less is best) and many different containers can be used to create an exquisite Ikebana arrangement. After a little help from our instructors, each student proudly took home her own creation.



Ikebana Workshop, Cont.



Ruth Bancroft Passes into History

Nancy Compton, Field Trip Chair



Ruth Bancroft, beloved founder of the world-renowned Ruth Bancroft Gardens in Walnut Creek, passed away at her home on November 26 at the age of 109.

Ruth was a collector and skilled horticulturist who created numerous gardens around her home, the most notable of which have become a public garden and plant nursery. The gardens include over 2,000 cactus, succulents, trees, and shrubs native to California, Mexico, South Africa, Chile, and Australia. Also included in the garden are many works of art, including sculptures, folk art, rock art, tile art – all of which are delightful and somewhat surprising, as little gnomes or a pair of lips might be hiding beneath the next bend in the pathway.

The River Valley Garden Club visited the gardens a few years ago and thoroughly enjoyed the tranquility and beauty of this peaceful respite in the middle of rapidly-developing suburbia. Ms. Bancroft's passion for nature and beauty will live on to be enjoyed by many generations to come.



<https://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/>

DID YOU KNOW?

There's a reason the Rose Bowl is in California. The Golden State produces approximately 60% of the roses grown in the United States. The majority of flowers purchased here for Valentine's Day, however, are grown in South America.

"Wearing your heart on your sleeve" is more than just a phrase.

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names to see who their Valentine would be. They would wear the name pinned to their sleeve for one week so that everyone would know their supposed true feelings.

The chocolate box has been around for more than 140 years.

The first Valentine's Day box of chocolates was introduced by Richard Cadbury in 1868.

Men account for 73 percent of Valentine's Day flower sales.

Will you be mine?

yes
 yes



Income from 1/24 RVGC meeting

Ruth Lecheler-Moore, Treasurer

Penny Pines collected: \$40

Raffle collected: \$58



Membership Information

Irene Slavens, Vice-President, Membership

Great news. We are up to 56 members as of the January meeting.

WELCOME to all our new 2017-2018 members: Blossom Perry, Catherine and Jack Blaisdell, Ellie Garcia, Helen Mary Scheinert, Jamie Fox, Jill Shuey, Lynda Smith, and Nancy Pohl.

And of course, a big thanks to all of our returning members!

Description	9/26/17	10/24/17	1/23/18
Total number of Members	41	53	56
Number of New Members this year	5	7	9
Number of Mbrs at meeting/party	33	27	29
Number of Visitors at meeting/party	3	11	1

