



RIVER VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

A PLACE TO GROW

JUNE 2019
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HERE'S THE DIRT

Japanese Maples and SO Much More Nancy Compton, Programs

Our May speaker was Greg Gayton from Green Acres Nursery whose topic was Japanese Maples, and he brought some beautiful specimens for us to observe and enjoy.

Greg stated that Japanese Maples, initially from Japan and Korea, were considered marginal in the Sacramento area, but they have done such a good job of acclimating to our Mediterranean climate that they are seen all over our area, despite the heat. The optimal conditions are morning sun and afternoon shade. Varieties which have broad, red leaves tend to adapt best, while lace leaf varieties don't fare quite as well. The key to successful adaptation is sufficient irrigation and a thick layer of mulch.

To break up our heavy clay soil, Greg highly recommended adding earthworm castings. It isn't even necessary to dig into the soil to do this. Just add the earthworm castings on top of the soil, and in about six months, they will not only break down the soil, but fertilize your plants and Japanese Maples as well.

Another of Greg's recommendations to help fertilize and loosen our soil is composting. Then he asked the audience how many people compost. The hands went up — after which he said, "Wow. That's more hands than any garden club I've visited!"

He cautioned club members about using synthetic fertilizers like Miracle-Gro. Instead, he recommended using organic fertilizer, such as Happy Frog, anything with fish emulsion, or kelp (your garden may smell like the ocean without the long drive). Greg highly recommended using local products, such as E.B. Stone, which is a family-owned company based in Fairfield and entirely powered by solar.

Another highly-recommended product is Wilt Stop, a spray which protects citrus trees, Japanese Maples, and a huge variety of other plants and trees. This product protects against drying out, windburn, sun scald, transplant shock, and salt damage and should be applied in the spring.

So excuse me from writing any more, but I need to get in my car and drive straight to Green Acres to pick up earthworm castings, organic fertilizer, Wilt Stop, and a Japanese Maple.



*"Waterfall"
Japanese Maple*

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Don't Wait!

Irene Slavens, VP Membership

Gardenistas! Now is the time to renew your membership.

There is no point in waiting, is there? Sign up now for the 2019-2020 membership and check it off your "To Do" list. Of course you want to keep enjoying great speakers, programs, workshops, and the newsletter. More importantly, your membership helps support our Grant and Scholarship Programs for students interested in Horticulture and/or Agriculture degrees. THAT'S the good work we do! Don't miss out! Send your check today. River Valley Garden Club, P.O. Box 711, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

Field Trips and Tours

Sharon Barton, Tours, Co-Chair

Save the Dates! There are some fun events coming up for RVGC members.

1. Apple Hill in June?

Yes! Join us for a field trip to the Bluestone Meadow Lavender Festival and Boeger Winery on Saturday, June 22nd. We will carpool from RMA at 9:30 a.m. and head to Bluestone Meadow at 2025 Carson Road in Placerville for the Lavender Festival. Admission is free and there will be seminars, crafters, train ride, gifts and bouquets. You may also choose to create a wand (\$5.00) or a wreath (\$30.00).

Next we will drive down the road to 1709 Carson Road, Boeger Winery, where we will enjoy wine tasting and a picnic lunch (bring your own). If you didn't sign up at the May meeting, call Sharon at 354-0408 or email golfbum4@sbcglobal.net. Join us and bring a friend.

2. Harvest Day, Saturday, August 3rd, 2019, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Fair Oaks Horticultural Center, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd.

Master Gardeners maintain the one acre center and hold periodic workshops, but the main event is Harvest Day. The schedule of activities will be available soon but there is always a wealth of information with Programs/Mini Workshops/Demos featuring Master Gardeners and Horticulturists. I'll send out a reminder in mid July and arrange car pools for those interested in attending.

Raffles! It's Never Too Early to Donate

Vivian Baier, Raffles Chair

September may *seem* like a long way off, but we know how quickly time flies during the summer. So, if you're planning a bit of summer cleaning and come across new or gently used items, save them for the raffle! The raffle supply has dwindled to next to nothing, so it sure could use some love. Feel free to contribute a home-grown plant, or even a purchased item if you're feeling flush. The raffle is a great fundraiser for the club and it is easy to help it flourish by donating useful and interesting items. Contact Vivian if you have items to donate. (586) 930-2105

The Sacramento Succulent Show – Always Interesting and Surprising

Nancy Compton, Vice-President, Programs

Those of us who attended the Sacramento Succulent Show at the Shepard Garden & Art Center were treated to a huge variety of succulents, including those in the competition area, and those for sale.

Some of the prize-winning succulents had showy pink flowers, some seemed to resemble animals, while others were somewhat frightening.

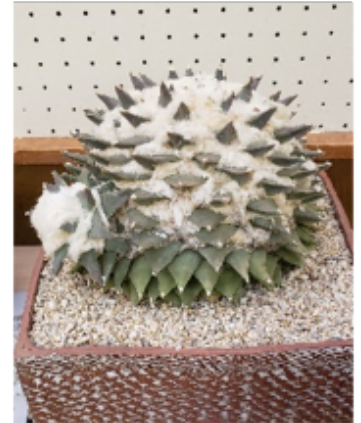
Aside from gazing at the incredible shapes and colors of some rare and exotic specimens, lots of handouts were available, one detailing the characteristics of a well-designed succulent garden which is shared below.

- The overall look should be natural, lush, and sophisticated. It can be sleek, but not barren.
- Plants should be clustered, rather than plunked here and there.
- The terrain has hills and valleys, and perhaps a dry streambed.
- Boulders should be incorporated into the design and serve as a backdrop for plants.
- Major design elements (hardscape, large agaves, decorative pots, boulders) should be in scale with the setting.
- The garden should be user-friendly. Pathways and other design elements (such as benches) make it inviting and accessible.
- Bare dirt should be covered with natural-looking gravel, stones, or boulders, or ground covers such as ice plant, sedum, or blue senecio.
- Hoses and other utilitarian items should be hidden
- Small, medium, and tall plants are combined in pleasing vignettes.
- Intriguing color combinations and textures delight the senses.
- Fundamental design principles, such as contrast and repetition, enhance the composition.

It goes without saying that club members roamed the area that offered hundreds of succulents for sale. If you look carefully, you can probably find new succulents growing in pots and gardens around Rancho Murieta.



2nd Place Winner



Snowcapped Hedgehog?



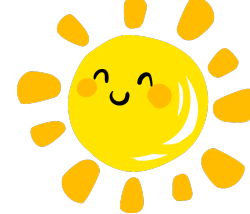
Cousin It?



Hmmm.

Summer Picnic: Twenty-five days and Counting

Carol Prinzo, Chair



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE RIVER VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

SUMMER POTLUCK SOCIAL!

WHEN: TUESDAY, JUNE 25TH

TIME: 5:30 P.M.

PLACE: RMA BUILDING

Bring yourself, guest(s), food, and adult beverage of your choice!

We ask you to bring one (1) of the following:

Hearty Appetizer

Main-Dish Salad

Dessert

The committee will offer iced tea, lemonade, and water.

If you haven't already done so...

Please RSVP to Carol Prinzo by June 21, 2019.

Phone: (916) 354-9688 e-mail: rcprinzo1962@gmail.com

Please indicate which dish you will be bringing and the names of your guests.

We will be raffling off the beautiful centerpieces!