

RIVER VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

A PLACE TO GROW

HOLIDAY EDITION 2019

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 2

HERE'S THE DIRT

Rooting for You

Pam McCabe, Co-President

Take the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge

The Million Pollinator Garden Network is a partnership between conservation organizations, gardening groups, volunteer civic associations, and participating federal agencies. Its mission is to inspire people and organizations to create more pollinator habitats. The Million Pollinator Garden Movement announced last month that they have surpassed their goal of registering a million gardens and landscapes to support pollinators but the need to continue to build on the movement still exists. You, too, can plant a pollinator garden – any size is great from window and patio planters to home gardens and acres of land.

I want to share some milestones in my journey to encourage and protect pollinators in my own yard. Thirty-two years ago my husband and I apparently built our house on a scorpion nest. We quickly learned to never go barefoot in our house! In our quest to get rid of the scorpions we hired a monthly pest control company. It took many years but we are now scorpion-free. But we have continued the pest control service, since my husband doesn't like bugs in the house.

One day I was watching the pest control service representative as he sprayed the shrubs in my backyard and it dawned on me that this could be the reason I never saw butterflies or bees in my backyard. I asked him to stop spraying my shrubs and I contacted the company to put this direction in my profile. The next month I saw him spraying my shrubs again. I fired the company and switched to a "green" pest control company that utilizes Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

The University of California defines IPM as "an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and



*Poinsettias
They're Legendary*

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Rooting for You, Cont.

treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment.”

I first became aware of the need for pollinators after our garden club visited the Häagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven on the University of California, Davis campus. There we learned that bees are responsible for pollinating about one-third of all the food we eat. Bees also pollinate many of our wild plants that in turn provide food and habitat for other wildlife. There have been many articles recently about the decline of bees and butterflies.

In addition to changing pest control companies, I focused on planting plants that attract pollinators and beneficial insects. I also continue to learn ways to control unwanted pests in my vegetable garden and flower gardens without using toxic pesticides. In the past few years, it has been very gratifying to enjoy watching bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds in my yard.

The Sacramento County Master Gardeners produced a helpful publication called, “Attracting Native Pollinators”. It can be found at www.ucanr.edu/sacmg, click on publications, then look under Garden Notes #156. The article emphasizes the use of masses of color and a diversity of flower shapes, plus the need to ensure blooms through as many seasons as possible.

The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Integrated Pest Management website www.ipm.ucanr.edu has a wealth of information to help you learn how to reduce or eliminate the impact of pesticides on pollinators. You can look up specific plants or specific pests to find answers to your pest problems. You can even register your email to receive monthly IPM checklists for our county.

Take the Pollinator Garden Challenge and learn how to help revive the health of pollinators and take action. With only a few more weeks of fall, you still have time to plant some pollinator-friendly plants and then take time this winter to study and make a plan.



2019-2020 Programs

It's not polite to keep an adventure waiting....



Field Trip	November 22, 2019	Friday		Hollendale Nursery, Lodi	RMA Bldg.	Poinsettie Grower	TBD
Program	January 28, 2020	Tuesday		Jan Goehring	RMA Bldg.	Decorating with branches and twigs	
Workshop	February 21, 2020				RMA Bldg.	Painted Wine Glasses	TBD
Program	February 25, 2020	Tuesday		Jan Fetler	RMA Bldg.	Summer Vegetables	
Field Trip	March 14, 2019	Saturday		Ironstone Winery, Murphy's	RMA Bldg.	Daffodil Show	TBD
Workshop	March 21, 2020	Saturday	10am	Stephanie from the Lacey Sunflower	RMA Bldg.	Terra Cotta painted pots	\$25 for Members, \$30 for Non-Members. All materials are included.
Program	March 24, 2020	Tuesday		Roxie Jones	RMA Bldg.	Wildlife Habitat	
Workshop	April, 2020			Loomis Aquatic	RMA Bldg.		TBD
Program	April 28, 2020	Tuesday		Jan Fetler	RMA Bldg.	Bees	
Field Trip	May 6th or 8th	Wed. or Friday		Baldo Villegas Rose Garden, Citrus Heights	RMA Bldg.	Roses	TBD
Program	May 26, 2020	Tuesday		Nancy Hutton	RMA Bldg.	California Project: Botanical	
June Picnic	June 23, 2020	Tuesday			RMA Bldg.		

Jan Goehring - January Speaker

Nancy Compton, Programs

This presentation will highlight and explain the similarities and differences between Eastern floral designs and Western designs. Jan will explain how flowers, branches and unusual materials are used by National Garden Club arrangers and Ikebana arrangers.

Jan Goehring is a retired English/speech and drama teacher. Her interest in horticulture began when she owned a prune farm in Sutter County before moving to Davis four years ago. Jan is pursuing a National Garden Club accreditation as a flower show judge. Her designs have been published in the Vision of Beauty, National Garden Club yearly calendar for two years. Jan is Vice President of the Davis Flower Arrangers and Furyu Floral Design Artists in San Jose. She currently serves on the Boards of Sacramento River Valley District, Ikebana International San Francisco and the Shepard Garden and Art Center in Sacramento.

You can find Jan stopping on the side of the road collecting "materials" for her designs or haunting a thrift store for unusual containers.



What does
SANTA
like to do
in his
GARDEN?



Hollendale Nursery, Field Trip
Sharon Barton, Tours Chair

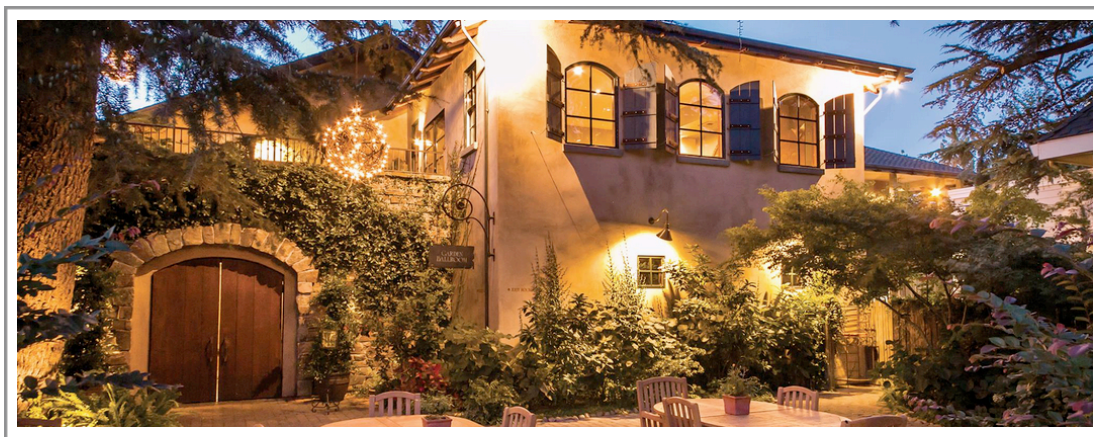
Hollendale Nursery Field Trip

You are invited to join us on November 22 for a trip to Hollendale Nursery in Lodi where we can purchase Poinsettia's and other plants at great prices. We will meet at the RMA to carpool at 9:30 a.m. and following our visit to the nursery, we will have lunch at the Town House Restaurant at the [Wine and Roses](#) hotel.

Many of you signed up at the last meeting, but if you didn't, please contact Cathleen Riebe at realty@softcom.net or call (916) 354-2020. You are welcome to invite a friend!



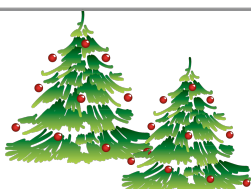
Hollendale Nursery



Wine and Roses Hotel

The Flower Farm, Field Trip
Sharon Barton, Tours Chair

A lovely morning and a delicious lunch were enjoyed by these lucky ladies who visited [The Flower Farm](#) in Loomis on Oct 21.



No Turtle Hurdles at this Workshop
Nancy Compton, Workshops

October 16 was the date when these clever artists turned ordinary river rocks into appealing little turtles.



Artists



Hatchlings



Earn a Certification in Gardening Nancy Compton, District Liaison

The National Garden Clubs, Inc., is offering a Consultant Certification for those attending a Gardening School to be held in Turlock in 2020. This program consists of a series of four 2-day courses and will be held in Turlock on the following dates:

Course 3*	February 15-16, 2020 (*not required to take courses in sequence)
Course 1	March 7-8, 2020
Course 2	March 28-29, 2020
Course 4	April 18-19, 2020

The purpose of the Gardening School is to provide an opportunity for garden club members to become accomplished horticulturists. The series of four courses has been designed to:

- Stimulate interest in the growth of plant materials to their peak of perfection;
- Provide an understanding of how and why a plant grows;
- Teach soil structure and methods for making soil more productive;
- Provide an understanding of plants' reaction to certain weather conditions and how to modify these conditions to encourage optimal growth;
- Provide an understanding of commercial and natural fungicides and pesticides, growth regulators, and other chemicals used in general horticulture
- Illustrate methods for rapid propagation;
- Offer plant identification instruction;
- Explore growing techniques for garden plants, vegetables, fruits, house plants, trees, shrubs, and specialized styles of gardening;
- Develop a respect for and appreciation of plants and their roles in our lives and activities.

The curriculum has been developed by the National Garden Clubs, Inc., and customized by course instructors. The cost for each two-day session is only \$75.00.

For further information about this program, you may contact Nancy Compton at ncompton43@att.net. You may also go onto the National Garden Clubs, Inc., website. It would be fun to get a group together to attend this Gardening School.

Christmas Riddles

1. What is red and white, red and white, and red and white again?
2. If the end of the year is on December 31st, then what is the end of Christmas?
3. What does the snowman eat for a snack?
4. How do Mexican sheep say Merry Christmas?
5. Does Santa have any money?
6. Where does Santa go swimming?
7. What do reindeer say before they tell a joke?
8. What is Santa's primary language?





To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow

Nancy Compton, District Liaison

In 2018, the [Paradise Garden Club](#), of Paradise, CA, had a vision that involved planting daffodils throughout their community with the thought that this effort would bring a breath of spring after a long and dreary winter.

The club planted thousands of daffodils in the fall of 2018 and invited clubs, organizations, and individuals to join them in this mission. Many planted hundreds of bulbs in their own areas, as well as donating daffodils throughout Paradise. By October 2018, 162,000 daffodil bulbs were in the ground.

Then came November 8, 2018, and the devastating Camp Fire. Thousands lost their homes and businesses; some residents even lost their lives. But the spring of 2019 brought a surprise: daffodils started pushing up through the charred ground, bringing hope and joy to this devastated community. Apparently, the daffodil is the symbol of hope, and these beautiful flowers rose to the occasion.

The Paradise Garden Club vows that this is only the beginning. They are committed to continue planting daffodils to create a beautiful new community in place of the poor neighborhoods that burned.

As we plant our bulbs this fall, perhaps we can dedicate some daffodils to the rebirth of Paradise as it struggles to rebuild and look toward the future.



Raffle Gratitude

Vivian Baer, Raffle Chair

At we start to prepare for Thanksgiving, I would like to thank *all* the club members who have kept the raffle going over the years. In particular, Sharon Barton, Marianna Hashorva, and Peggy DeMello are raffle champions who seem to have an endless well of raffle items. If you have donated an item and haven't yet seen it up for raffle, never fear. I have it, and the item is just waiting its turn.

A special thanks goes to Rosann Stevenson who has assisted me with the raffle table. We endeavor to decorate the raffle table with a theme for the month and Rosann's display of raffle prizes on the table are always artful and clever.

If you are reorganizing or cleaning closets, please keep the raffle in mind before you donate elsewhere. I can pick up! Thanks again to everyone for supporting the raffle. Vivian (586) 930 2105





RIVER VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019
3:00PM – 6:00PM
RMA BUILDING

Members are asked to bring:

- A guest or guests
- Either a side dish, salad, or dessert
- Adult beverage of your choice
- A garden-related gift for the gift exchange not to exceed \$15

The party committee is providing the entrée, hot mulled cider, and coffee.

Centerpieces may be raffled off.

Please **RSVP** no later than **Monday, December 9, 2019** to:

Carol Prinzo at rcprinzo1962@gmail.com, or 916-354-9688. Please indicate number of guest(s) and your choice of dish to share. Plan on feeding 8-10 with your offering.

SEE YOU ALL THERE!



Photo Contest - The Results Are In!

Fran Hawkins, Chair

There were two categories in the photo contest this year. Here are some of the artistic winners.

Critters in a Garden – Artistic & photogenic

1st place – Judith Embree

2nd place – Rosann Stevenson

3rd place – Ellison Cowles

Critters in a Garden – Funniest/Cutest

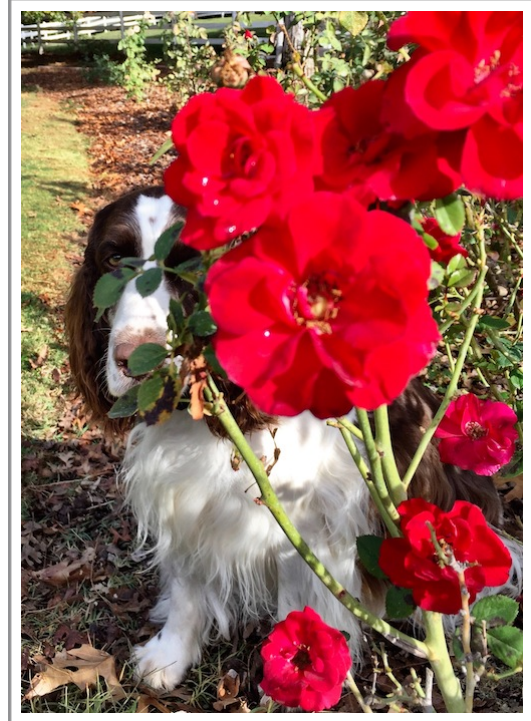
1st place – Irene Slavens

2nd place – Bonnie Kyser

3rd place – Nancy Compton



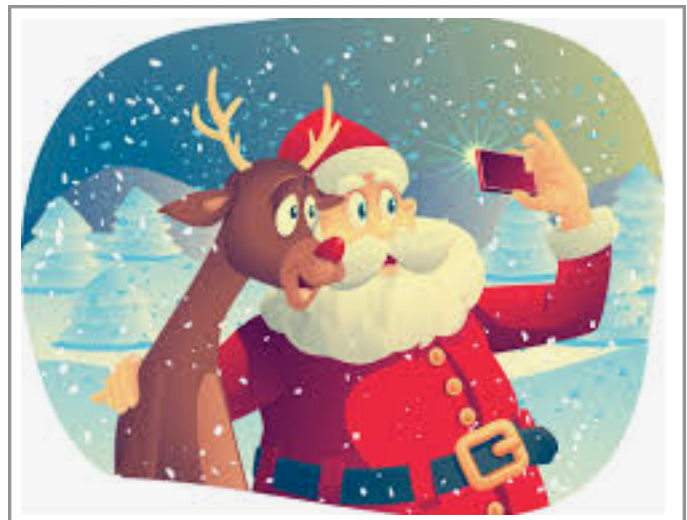
Bonnie Kyser



Irene Slavens



Ellison Cowles



DID YOU KNOW?

The first artificial Christmas tree wasn't a tree at all. It was created out of goose feathers that were dyed green. The first artificial Christmas trees were developed in Germany in the 19th century, due to a major continuous deforestation. The feather trees became increasingly popular during the early 20th century and finally made their way to the US.

In Germany, Heiligabend, or Christmas Eve, is said to be a magical time when the pure in heart can hear animals talking. They can also see that rivers turn into wine, Christmas tree blossoms bear fruit, mountains open, revealing gems hidden inside and bell ringing can be heard from the bottom of the sea.

In Mongolia, when the reindeer are not busy pulling Santa's sleigh, they double as a resting place for children.



The Legend of the Poinsettia

It is said that a poor young peasant girl in Mexico was on her way to celebrate Christmas at church. She followed scores of people carrying brilliant gifts to honor baby Jesus and felt embarrassed because she had no gift to give. The little girl so desperately wanted to give something of great value and when she could think of nothing, she began to cry.

Some say that a friend of the little girl saw her crying and went over to console her. The little girl confessed that she had nothing to give and her friend told her that any gift from the heart would surely be appreciated. Others say that an angel appeared and told the young girl to pick a bouquet of weeds from the roadside.

Either way, the girl picked a handful of weeds from the roadside and continued to church. At church people lined up to place extravagant gifts at the foot of the nativity scene. People looked at the little girl in disbelief as she placed her weeds near the manger.

Suddenly the weeds transformed into beautiful red flowers, and everyone who witnessed the gift swore they had witnessed none other than a Christmas miracle.

After that, each year at Christmas time, beautiful red poinsettias bloomed on the roadside. People began to spread word of the miracle witnessed, and the red flowers were called 'Flores de Noche Buena' - Flowers of the Holy Night.

The story of the poor peasant girl is told each year in Mexico, inspiring all that a gift from the heart is the most precious gift of all, and even the simplest of gifts can be wonderful.

Riddle Answers

1. Santa Claus in a laundry dryer.
2. The letter 'S.'
3. A snowcone.
4. "Fleece Navidad."
5. No. That is why they call him Saint Nickleless.
6. The North Pole.
7. This will sleigh you.
8. North Pole.

Santa Likes to Ho-ho-hoe in his garden

HERE IT COMES!

