



Volume 19

Issue 4 April 2025

Here's the Dirt

A publication of the River Valley Garden Club

*Jayne LaGrande, President
Editor*

Nancy Compton,

Rooting for You.....by Jayne LaGrande, President

Dear Members:

As you know from the last newsletter, our major fundraiser, **the Garden Stroll and Plant Sale Extravaganza**, will be held on **Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Six home garden tours and one bonus garden spread between Rancho Murieta North and South, a plant sale, a raffle, garden art, and a children's event at the RMA parking lot. Organizers need your help to make this event successful.

♦ **Volunteers:**

The Garden Stroll needs 24 volunteers. There will be two shifts with two volunteers needed to staff each house. The shifts are 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 12-3 p.m.

♦ The Plant Sale needs 10 volunteers. There will be two shifts to help customers with sales. The shifts are 9-12 p.m. and 12-3 p.m.

♦ The planting of purchased nursery items will be held on **May 5 at 9 a.m.** at Nancy Compton's home located at 15256 Nueva Drive (on the south).

♦ **Garden Art:**

All kinds of items: wind chimes, bird baths, metal art to hang on a fence, little statuary, garden bench, trellises, etc.

♦ **Pots:**

10-14" diameter ceramic pots are the greatest need. Other pots welcome. Donations can be dropped off at Nancy Compton's house at 15256 Nueva Drive no later than **May 3.**

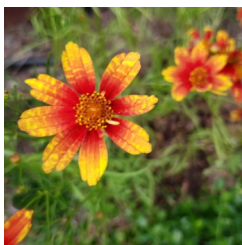
♦ **Plants:**

Plants such as succulents, herbs, perennials, and lavender are highly desirable. They should already be grown and potted for pricing. Donations can be dropped off to Nancy Compton's home at 15256 Nueva Drive no later than **May 6.**

For questions or volunteer signups, please contact Peggy DeMello (916-612-2522) or Nancy Compton (916-600-1992.)

Cheers,

*Jayne LaGrande, President
River Valley Garden Club*



Plant Sale 2024



Garden Stroll 2023

House Plant Expert Provides Memorable Presentation

A self-described bratty teenager, our February presenter, Lori Ann Asmus, saved her best attitude for the houseplants that she now surrounds herself with. Owner of Emerald City Interior Landscape Services, Lori is a true plant whisperer. Her presentation was lively, interactive, and fun.

The essence of her talk focused on plants that are not only beautiful, but make our homes and interior spaces healthy. Properly designed indoor planting can provide an inexpensive, refreshingly low-tech means of removing pollutants from the air in commercial and residential settings. Did you know that one potted plant per 100 square feet of floor space can help clean the air in the average home or office?

Virtually every indoor plant and many flowering plants are powerful removers of indoor air pollutants. Below is a chart of the plants in the NASA study that most effectively remove pollutants from the air.

| Pollutant | Sources | Solutions |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Formaldehyde | Foam insulation Plywood Particle board Clothing Carpeting Furniture Paper goods Household cleaners | Azelea Dieffenbachia Philodendron Spider plant Golden pothos Bamboo palm Corn plant Chrysanthemum |
| Benzene | Tobacco smoke Plastics Inks Detergents | English ivy Chrysanthemum Gerbera daisy Peace lily |
| Trichloroethylene | Dry cleaning Paints Lacquers | Gerbera daisy Peace lily Marginata |



Lori Ann Asmus, Master Gardener and houseplant expert



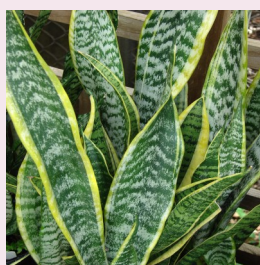
Golden pothos

Although her mother was a gardener, it wasn't until Lori Ann was in college at U.C. Davis that she fell head-over-heels in love with houseplants. Her friends used to tease her when she moved from one apartment to another, saying that her volume of houseplants took up more space than all her other belongings combined.

The following are some of the easy-care houseplants Lori Ann recommends for best results:



Pothos



Sanseveria



ZZ plant



Peace Lily

Raffle Items Needed to Fill Cart



Julie Davis, owner of Rancho Murieta ACE Hardware has donated a sturdy garden cart for our Garden Stroll raffle.

Now we're looking for garden items to fill the cart. What can you contribute? A bag of garden soil? Leather gloves? A new pair of pruning shears? How about a sunhat to keep off the hot summer sun? Herbs? A ceramic pot? There is no end to the number of garden-related items that we can fill this garden cart with.

Please contact Nancy Compton at ncompton43@att.net or bring to the April meeting,

Sturdy Garden Cart donated by Rancho Murieta ACE Hardware for the Raffle at the Garden Stroll



Celebrate Spring in the Garden!



To celebrate the beauty of spring, the River Valley Garden Club is offering a two-fer —

(1) A presentation about so many aspects of growing and enjoying roses by two renowned rosarians — Charlotte Owendyke and Linda Knowles, both of whom have had their rose gardens featured in national magazines. This program will be offered on Tuesday, April 22, at our regular meeting. You won't want to miss it.

(2) A tour to visit Charlotte's and Linda's rose gardens, appropriately located in Roseville, both of which will take your breath away.

The tour has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, at 10 a.m.

Both Charlotte and Linda are cheerful, energetic, and knowledgeable, and you will learn more about roses than you ever thought possible. Sign-ups for the tour will be at the meeting on April 22nd or contact Sharon Barton at golfbum4@sbcglobal.net.

March Speaker — Chris Strutz

Our March speaker was Chris Strutz of Strutz Farms, noted for their Heirloom tomatoes and a good-sized citrus orchard which he planted in 2010.

Specializing in mandarins, the farm grows multiple varieties of citrus including clementines, blood oranges, naval oranges, Valencia oranges, Meyer lemons, kumquats, pomelo and lime. The orchard also includes persimmon, apples, pomegranate, peach, cherry, jujube, and plum trees.

Chris' presentation to the club covered multiple ways to organically control pests and keep weeds at bay. One of his methods for controlling weeds is to plant cover crops, which are grown primarily to benefit the soil, rather than to harvest, and are often used during fallow periods or between cash crops.

Cover crops improve soil health, reduce erosion, suppress weeds, and enhance nutrient cycling. Common examples include clover, vetch, rye, oats, and radish. They also help prevent soil loss from wind and water erosion.

Chris invited club members to tour his farm, which was scheduled for April 12. No matter how many times a person visits the farm, there are always new things to see and learn. And the farm store continues to offer fresh vegetables, herbs and related products for farm-to-table freshness.



*Chris Strutz of Strutz Farms
(file photo)*