



BAKERSFIELD GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB
THE CALIFORNIA SEQUOIA FOOTHILLS DISTRICT
NGCI, PACIFIC REGION, CGCI



www.bakersfieldgreenthumb.org

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President's Message

from Gloria Aminian

Winter has positively arrived with its cold weather and fog. The fog is supposedly good for our plants but I can't say that I enjoy it much.

Now is the time we should be outside cleaning up the flower beds, pruning roses and other bushes, raking up all the remaining leaves; generally getting ready for spring. Every weed pulled up now will keep you from having to pull out at least 10 others come April. Somehow I have difficulty in going outside to do all this in my yard. All the dead lily 'leaves' await me as does any number of things I should be doing. It is hard to convince myself to start filling up the green waste cans before Monday rolls around. If only the sun would shine! At least the cut up Christmas tree will fill up at least one can when I finally have all the decorations off it. Isn't it strange how much fun it is to decorate for the holidays and how reluctant we are to put everything away for another year?

I am looking forward to the New Year with all its ups and downs. Each year is a new beginning. All the flowers are asleep, just waiting for their awakening when the temperatures are warmer. I can hardly wait to see what spring will bring.

Gloria

Calendar Events - 2010

Monday, February 1st

BGTGC Board Meeting

6:00 p.m. Lorene's Ming and Ash

Tuesday, January 19th

Floral Design Class in Hanford

Two speakers on Floral Design - Cost \$10 1st Presbyterian Church on Erwin Street.

January 16th - General Meeting

Social at 9:00 - Meeting 9:30

Program: Citrus Trees in your Yard

Craig Kallsen, Farm Advisor UC Extension

Refreshments: Julia & Lyman Linfesty, Barbara Loudon, John & Galina Lucas, Augie & Steve Lyster, Helen Maas, Esther Magana
No Home Tour this month

January 23rd & February 13th

Floral Design Class at Gloria's

Saturday, April 3rd Another FUN Trip!

Don't Miss the Bus to . . .

Descanso Gardens

More information: Rose Mary Maguire

Membership Matters . . .

Because you are a member of Bakersfield Green Thumb Garden Club, you are a member in California Garden Clubs. The membership cards entitle the bearers to certain discounts and/or free admission throughout the state at nine Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. They include Arboretum at California State University, Fresno, California Living Museum, Conejo Valley Botanic Garden, Dunsmuir Hellman Historic Estate, Japanese Friendship Gardens, San Diego, Markham Regional Arboretum, Rancho Los Alamitos Historic Ranch and Garden, San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden and The Gardens at Heather Farm. See Barbara Loudon for these membership cards at the General Meetings.



Bakersfield Home and Garden Show February 18-19-20

This is a chance to be an ambassador for our club. As always, for this to be a successful community outreach we need your involvement. Please help by volunteering your time for setup on Friday; the monitoring of the booth in 2 hour shifts for three days and/or break down on Sunday evening. The more people we have the more fun and enjoyable it is for all. We will need two or three people for each two hour shift.

To make the booth as interesting and educational as possible we would also like your floral designs and /or plant or foliage specimens. Please bring them to the show or call Barbara Loudon for pickup.

The signup sheet will be passed around at the January 16th general meeting. Please sign up for at least one shift. All volunteers of at least one shift will get free passes. Call Barbara Loudon, home answering 661-633-9952 or cell 530 305 2825 This should be great fun!

Are You Practicing Safe Gardening?

from Audrey Cochran

I thought I was until I fell a Saturday afternoon, and realized how close I came to ending up in ICU with a punctured lung. When I carried out of the garage the tools I was going to use in planting, and the 3 tomato cages which were going to protect my little plants until they were large enough to be easily visible and not get broken by a careless gardener who doesn't always look where she is going, I just dumped them on the lawn. The cultivator with 4" long tines landed pointing up.

I dug three holes, put in some Dr. Earth planting mix, then the cauliflower, red cabbage, and brussels spouts from their 4 pots. I decided to rake from under my Meyer Lemon the leaves from my Chitalpa tree so I could put Dr. Earth there, also. I turned and took a step forward without looking where I was going, and tripped over the rusty tomato cages, landing on my right shoulder on the soft lawn. When my sons were in elementary school we took a course in Jiu Jitsu, which included lots of practice in falling flat preferably on one's side, to absorb the energy of the fall instead of trying to block the fall with an outstretched arm and breaking an arm or wrist in the process. I ended up with a couple of small bruises on my thigh muscle on which I put Arnica, and a sore muscle on my upper arm on which I put Ultra Blue MSM + Emu oil.

I will try to remember to follow the same practice I do in driving, look in the direction in which you are moving. I will also lay down all gardening tools with the points down.

The time has come to ask not what the Garden Club can do for you, but what can you do for the Garden Club?

There is much you can do to help raise funds toward the \$10,000.00 goal set to give as an endowment to Bakersfield College for a perpetual annual scholarship to a horticulture student in our garden club's name.

Saturday, May 1, 2010 will be our big fundraiser. A steering committee is planning an elegant garden tour of six of the finer gardens in the Oleander area and the northeast Country Club area. If you know of a spectacular garden that our selection committee can check out with the owner's permission contact Helen Maas.

If you are interested in spending two-hour shifts between 10 am and 4 pm in the gardens as docents to check ticket/brochures, serve iced tea and cookies, and keep an eye on the garden contact Rob Rephan.

Meanwhile, mark your calendars for May 1st and seek out friends and family interested in seeing such fabulous gardens. The ticket/brochure with maps of the areas may be ordered through Monica Lewis at \$20.00 per person.

Rosemary - Rosmarinus Officinales

By Monica Lewis

The name of this lovely aromatic herb, with its needle like leaves and delicate light blue flowers is derived from Latin and means "dew of the sea." This plant is a shrub and thrives in the calcium rich soil, dry climate, and the salty sea spray of the Mediterranean. The thin, dark green, needle like leaves are very aromatic with crisp, woody perfume.

It is a symbol of remembrance and friendship and is often carried by wedding couples as a sign of love and fidelity. Tradition says that Rosemary will grow for 33 years, until it reaches the length of Christ when he was crucified, then it will die.

Sprigs of Rosemary were placed under pillows at night to ward off evil spirits and bad dreams. The wood was used to make lutes and other instruments. We continue to use Rosemary in many of the same way our ancestors did: in potpourris to freshen the air, in cosmetics, disinfectants and shampoo.

Rosemary is an excellent addition to a herb garden due to its fragrance and culinary taste that goes well with food. Growing Rosemary is beneficial to the garden appearance as it will develop small flowers in late spring,

Rosemary is a perennial and can be grown all year. It will grow to a height of between three and five feet. This thick shrub tolerates clipping so that the size

can be kept in check.

If your soil is very heavy then you can help drainage by digging in some sandy soil. Rosemary is harder to germinate than most herbs, make sure to buy recent seed. Propagation from cuttings will give you a greater chance of success than sowing seed, but it still a lot of work and time. If growing from seed and propagating cuttings is too much work then you can just buy a young plant from the local nursery.

Rosemary grows well in well drained soil and likes a lot of sunshine but will tolerate some shade. It is fairly hardy and will not be affected by most frosts. You can also grow Rosemary in containers being sure the drainage holes don't get blocked.

To harvest Rosemary simply cut the stems with a sharp knife. When using in cooking you can 'release' the flavor and oils of the rosemary by giving it a quick bash in a mortar and pestle. Rosemary leaves can be cut up and/or used as whole stems and can be harvested year round. There are many medicinal uses for rosemary. Please check with your physician, as each of us is different with differing prescription and over-the-counter medicines. More information online, but please consult your physician to be safe.



January Floral
Design Class

Rare Fruit Growers, Inc. Saturday, January 16th

A real treat - You can taste and pick your own fruit - Limit is two (2) bags of fruit. You might bring a wet towel to clean up as fruit is juicy. The Rare Fruit Growers Chapter provides lunch for \$3.00 - Nice drive to Exeter - for directions, times and more information contact Ro Copeland at 832-7187

Pruning roses at the 24th Street Bakersfield Beautification Project
Is being cold better than being hot? Who is hiding behind the forks?



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