



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

The afternoons have been quite nice this past week . . . a good time to get out in the yard to insure that you have a lovely yard in a few months. Roses need to be pruned if you haven't already finished. I have made a little start to mine with 20 of them done. Unfortunately that leaves a great many left for me to prune but the front yard is looking rather well. The recent rains have made the ground nice and soft. I was able to dig holes for three roses for them to graduate from their pots into the ground. They were pleased with the move as they have sprouted new leaves already.

Now is a great time to pull weeds since they come out easily and popping up here and there. A little effort now will be rewarded by fewer weeds, more flowers come summer. Then we can sit and revel in the beauty of nature unfolding.

The flowering quince is putting on a show for all to enjoy. The bees are buzzing around enjoying the emerging flowers. Lilies and iris are more than peeking through the earth, violets are smiling at us, sweet peas are growing...all announcing that spring is around the corner. Enjoy!

Calendar Events - 2010

February 13th Floral Design Class- Gloria

February 20th - General Meeting

Social at 9:00 - Meeting 9:30

Church of the Brethren - 327 A Street

Program: Vines and Ground Covers

By Lindsay Ono *Professor-Ornamental and Environmental Horticulture*

Refreshments: Debbie Freeland, Rose Mary Maguire, Janice Malouf, Ben & Gloriana McMahan, Joan Muller, Joe Meyers, & Debbie Nielsen

Plant of the Month- Betty Finch -

Gourds - See photos below

No Home Tour this month

Monday, March 1st -Board Meeting

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

Saturday, April 3rd Another FUN Trip!

The Bus is Rollin' to Descanso Gardens

- More information in newsletter or contact:

Rose Mary Maguire

Articles for the newsletter written by our members are always encouraged and appreciated. There is a limit of 330 words per article and your computer will count your words for you. Thanks



Gourds:

On the left - gourd is trained while tender to pigtail & to allow more growth a hole was dug.

On the right - Whimsy Lady with cats made from gourds.



Knowing what to look for when you want a "Drought Tolerant Plant" - Kay Bell

Before choosing a plant consider the amount of sun or shade, the acidity or alkalinity of the soil, soil texture (primarily clay, loam or sand), and what other plants are near. Find out if the nearby plant's roots will takeover the new plants area. Another important consideration is the plant's size at maturity. Checking its mature height and spread, then check the mature size of the plants that will be around it.

Plants that are drought tolerant often have leaves that are white or various shades of gray. They are often this color because the leaves are often covered with fine hairs that shade them. This allows the plant to reflect the sun and heat just like white or light colored paint helps reflect heat from your home. White or gray bark or stems are another characteristic that drought resistant plants have that is used for protection. Leaves that are thick and leaves that are waxy or furry are designed to keep plants cool and retain moisture. Leaves that are curled or narrow have less exposure to the sun and heat and loose less water. Plants with larger than normal roots or bulbs or nuts underground are able to sustain the plant during drier periods.

The Garden Tour Selections have been made!

Helen Maas - 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. Our steering committee has selected six of the elegant gardens for the tour. They are spectacular gardens that will send you home via your favorite local nursery to make changes a small change or maybe a grand overhaul in your own landscape or garden.

Members will be asked volunteer as a Host or Hostess for a two hour shifts. We will be there to be sure that tour guest don't wander off the garden paths and into areas not open to the public. Please 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.

Camellia Society Show at new location!

Welcome all to the March 6 thru 7th annual Camellia Show! It will be just inside the south door of the Golden State Mall, 3201 "F" Street. There is plenty of parking in the south side parking lot. Bring your fully bloomed camellias and enter to win crystal trophies at no cost on Saturday between 6:00am and 10:30am. There will be entry cards and standardized cups to place them in with helpers available. Gloria will be taking reservations for design placement. Call Gloria or Helen for show schedules.

On Saturday between 1:00pm and 5:00pm bring family and friends to see the magnificent display of winter blooms. On Sunday the show is open between 9:00am and 5:00pm. Pick up a free raffle ticket for camellia plants or buy tickets for a camellia quilt made by Estelle for Camellia Scholarship Fund at Bakersfield College. This is a must see show! Come and enjoy!

- Helen Maas

California Arbor Day is Sunday, March 7

Tree planting is planned for Sunday, March 7th at 1:00 p.m. on the Panama Bluff. Please bring chair for after or before the planting, and your own sandwich or lunch and beverage. Snacks or dessert will be provided.

We will be planting one white ash and one red ash. I understand that the parks department will even dig the holes for us.

Call Kay Bell (see directory) for directions - If you can not make this - try planting a tree in a public place on National Arbor Day which is the last Friday in April. I have the phone numbers for you to contact so your tree would be in a master plan and the tree will be cared for.

Bakersfield Home and Garden Show February 18-19-20



Your help is needed! Please come and help with this Important city wide event – you might see an old friend that would come and join the fun with you.

We would like floral designs from the club members and plant specimens. They need to be at the show before 11am on Friday the 19th, or make arrangements for us to pick them up.

We also, could use some help in the booth on Sunday Morning 10am-2pm. Thanks to all who are helping with this project.

Call Barbara Louden (see directory).
This should be great fun!

Easier Tips - By Trudy Albrecht

Some of these tips are common sense and some may seem like more work in the short term, but they all really will make gardening easier for you.

Feed the Soil You've heard it a thousand times, but do you do it? Start with great soil and you'll wind up with great plants. Healthy plants get fewer diseases, attract less insect pests and require less water.

Group Plants by Their Needs I'm sure you've heard the saying "Right plant for the right spot." That's the beginning of the equation,

Raised Beds & Containers It's much easier to control your garden if it has definite boundaries. Containers provide the ultimate in control. Grow fruit trees in containers (talk to Ro Copeland at one of our meetings).

Install Drip Irrigation Drip irrigation is far more efficient than any other type of watering. In addition, it puts all the water right where your plants need it and weeding less.

Mulch Again, this is common sense and something you've been told a thousand times. I mulch an inch a year.

Time Released Fertilizer and Water Polymers Container gardens are the exception to the Feed the Soil rule above. It's not practical to use compost or garden soil in containers and so some feeding is necessary to keep the plants going. Containers also dry out more quickly than garden bed soil, especially if the bed is mulched

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Ergonomic Tools A lot of gardening is repetitive motion and can be very hard on the joints, especially the wrists and back. Thankfully, garden tool companies have been coming out with better tools that work with the body. Look around for ratchet pruners, bent rakes, cushioned handles and trowels that don't require you to bend your wrist.

Wheels Grab a garden cart, wagon, wheelbarrow or a dolly.



Rollin' . . . Rollin' . . . Rollin' ! Don't miss the Bus to
Descanso Gardens
And there is an added stop at **Nuccio's Nursery**

On Saturday, April 3rd at approximately 7:40 a.m.

Cost to member is \$44. Non-member fee is \$48. It includes bus, entry into the garden, a 50 minute tram guided tour. Food is available there for purchase or they have a picnic area where you can enjoy a picnic lunch you have brought with you. The garden is a 25 acre camellia forest. At one time, this property belonged to newspaper magnate E. Manchester Boddy. The tram will make a stop at the Boddy home. Departure from the Gardens is approximately 2:30 p.m. It is about a 20 minute drive to Nuccio's.

We will leave Nuccio's at 4:30 (Their closing time) for Bakersfield.

If you need additional information or to make reservations, please see Rose Mary Maguire - our wonderful tour guide.

Hope you don't miss the Bus and the Fun!



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