



Presidents – Wendy Tsuji & Geneva Martin
Editor – Geneva Martin

February/March 2009
Issue 1

Costa Verde District, CGCI, Pacific Region, NGC

Email us at president@rivieragardenclub.org

Check out our website at www.rivieragardenclub.org

Our schedule is online at www.localendar.com/public/RivGarden

The Presidents Message:

Nominating Committee Selected

We would like to thank Jean Vasquez, June Stevenson, and new member Gloria Rezek for volunteering to be on the nominating committee. In the past this committee contacted members individually and “invited” them to hold office. Positions unfilled were then the responsibility of the presidents, who contacted members, again inviting them to hold office. A preferred method would be for members, for you, to volunteer to hold office. Volunteers are always appreciated! If you are interested please let this committee or an officer know. . Wendy & Geneva

Your Help is Appreciated

Save a Tree, Save Money, Go GREEN!

We have 51 members with e-mail but only 13 have requested e-mail only copies of the newsletter. To save the club on postage costs and reduce paper waste, make the change to receive your newsletter electronically by telling the editor, Geneva Martin. You can even send her an email!

Hospital Therapy

Harbor UCLA Medical Center thanks us for our Holiday gifts for their male patients.

Please start saving margarine containers and grooming your succulents for the March succulent therapy workshop. Diana Crane

Christmas Angels

Thank you to all the Riviera Garden Club members who donated to the Angel Project for the His House Division of The Salvation Army. All the toys, gifts, and financial donations were very

much appreciated by director Dave Risher and by the children and their families.

Last year His House received the generous bequest of a house in San Pedro. With the proceeds, they purchased a totally new building where they will be able to assist the needy in many more ways, including showers, laundry and after-school tutoring. The new facility, on Lomita Blvd in Harbor City, will be called the Stillman Sawyer Family Service Center, after the donor.

Toni Sargent

Blue Star

Our Blue Star Highway Marker Dedication date is set for April 19th. Mayor Frank Scotto and some of the City Council members, as well as CGCI president Robin Pokorski are attending. Save the date.

Membership News

Yearbook Correction

Diana Crane's address is 202 Via Anita

June Allen - June 13, 1920 - January 26, 2009



June Allen was an active member from 1989 to 2006. Ten members of the club who knew June attended her Memorial Service. Trained as a nurse, she worked at military V.A. Hospital's and later for Torrance Unified Schools. As a member

of our garden club, she could always be counted on to lend a hand. She was an avid gardener. She said, "Plants came up where ever I tuck a clipping in the ground."

Many of us remember June's devotion to stray and lost animals. She spoke to the City Council on behalf of the effort to open a L.A. County Branch for Animal Rescue in Torrance.

In her last years she babysat her great grandson, Nicholaus, from his birth until he entered school. She learned to use a computer so that she could communicate with friends on the internet. We'll miss her kind gestures and friendly smile.

Judy Unrine

New Members

We were so happy to see returning members Lynne Stern at our Holiday luncheon and Glyndis Dean at our January meeting. We also welcomed three new members who attended our garden tour: Sheila Kutkus, who is active in the Redondo Women's Club; Marilyn Rubin, who recently retired from teaching and generously gave us some lovely items for Penny Pines; and Lana Terry, who finds time to garden even with her own machine shop.

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Terry, Lana lane@lordonengineering.com
617 Paseo de la Playa 310 378-6411
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Eunice Hargrove, Membership Chair

Garden Tour Report

Thank You All

Hats off to Wendy and Geneva who won the Creative Chef awards at our January meeting for being such hard working and creative Co-Prezzies during the year of the Garden Tour! Thanks again to the **whole** Club for such **great** teamwork! I hope at our January meeting I was able to thank all of you who began working and planning one year ago – you ladies **all take the cake!**

Also, thank you club members who honored me with a terrific memory book – wow – it's a treasure. Another thanks to Phyllis Valentin for her beautiful Garden Gate coffee table book. Hope you get to see it? It's gorgeous.

We had a super success – we are Beyond the Beyond – Congratulations to all!

Toni Sargent – the top seller!!

Kudos to Toni for being the TOP seller of Garden Tour tickets – She sold 17! – And got to pick the raffle prize of her choice at our last meeting.

Gifting Committee Hard at Work

The Gifting Committee has met several times and has also met with Torrance City Department heads to pinpoint appropriate beautification projects. Twenty-two of you answered the survey included the last newsletter – thank you. If you didn't submit the survey, you may still send it in. Please let me know if you need another copy. The top five projects – in the order you chose: 1) Civic Beautification City Project which entails working with the City of Torrance to re-design problem landscape areas 2) Work with the City of Torrance to revamp El Retiro Library planter, 3) Purchase one or more benches for pocket parks(s) in the Riviera 4) Provide a second scholarship fund of \$1,000 for an El Camino College horticultural student and 5) Provide one time monetary donation to Friends of Madrona Marsh and/or South Coast Botanic Gardens.

The Committee is collecting more details on the above projects. At the January meeting the club approved setting aside the proceeds of the Garden Tour to a Gift Reserve Fund to be spent on the above projects.

Thank you from the Gifting Committee: Wendy Tsuji, Geneva Martin, June Young, Ruth Vogel, Pati Johnson, Shelley Lubinsky and myself.

Karen Lent, Chairman

Our Garden Corner

November and December Programs

Thank you First Vice-Presidents Betty Moye, Sharon Saffer and Cecilia Ceasar who worked with precision in organizing our November outing to two diverse gardens at UCLA both led by

docents. Lunch at a private sun lit room was yummy!

Our Holiday Luncheon was in the penthouse with floor to ceiling windows, beautifully decorated. Thank you Chairman Pam Barrett for going over the top with hand painted favors and festive entertainment! The newly opened Yellow Vase in Riviera Village donated a \$40 gift certificate for a raffle at our Holiday Party – won by Jean Vasquez

Butterflies in our gardens



I have always had a fascination with these beautiful creatures and after planting an *Asclepias Tuberosa** (milk weed family) this year with the results of enjoying the

monarch butterflies it attracted, I thought it would be fun to research and plant more butterfly attracting plants.

Planting to attract butterflies not only gives us an opportunity to enjoy their beauty, but is also good for your garden as well. They are very busy pollinators which are essential for our gardens.

An excellent book I found at the Museum Of Natural History is entitled "an Introduction to Southern California Butterflies" by Fred Heath.

* *Asclepias Tuberosa* - common name - Butterfly Weed, full to partial sun, perennial - winter dormant, Bright orange flowers in clusters attract butterflies - Monarch favorite, long lasting cut flowers, good drainage - moderate water, native to eastern U.S. Note - some plants in the milkweed family are toxic.

Happy Butterfly Watching and Happy Gardening, Diane Connell

CVD Corner

Wildflower Conference

The CGCI 2009 Wildflower Conference is scheduled for April 8-10 in Ridgecrest. See the CGCI website for more information.

Here's an abbreviated report from George and Judy Unrine who highly recommend going:

The 2007 Wildflower Conference was held in Bishop, located in the north end of Owens Valley. The conference started with a welcoming dinner

and a dance by the local Pauites. The first day of the conference consisted of six talks on California native plants subjects. The last day those that were able visited the Bristlecone Pine Groves located at the 10,000-foot level in the Inyo National Forest.



A View of the Sierra's from the White Mts.

On a mile long loop hike along Discovery Trail, they learned that Bristlecone Pines, like their close relative the Foxtail Pines, have their

needles arranged around each branch like the hair on a foxtail. The Bristlecone Pine is named for the 'bristle' at the end of each scale in the pinecone.

Landscape of the Month Award

December – Dennees' Garden Shop – 219 Avenue I

Welcome to the new Dennees' Garden Shop – a beautiful addition to the Riviera. The outdoor store is a serene spot adjacent to Dennees' Furniture store on Avenue I. Dennees' has been a fixture in the South Bay for over sixty years. Beginning in 1945, Lloyd Dennees' on Hawthorne and El Segundo Boulevards was run by Dave's parents for almost 40 years. The business moved to the Riviera in 1983.

Dave and his wife live in the Riviera. Dennees' is a three generational business, Dave's three daughters help run the stores which now include the Garden Store plus a showroom they opened ten years ago in Santa Ynez.

The new Dennee's Garden Shop is a lovely mix of fountains, plants, furniture, and yard art. Not completely finished yet, Dave wants this new space to be a "feel good gathering spot." Come down and take a stroll through this interesting space and enjoy the new beautiful addition to the Riviera Village.

Karen Lent

Meredith Grenier's column

Be sure to look for Meredith Grenier's column in the Thursday Home and Garden section in the Daily Breeze and the Press Telegram. This section will run on the second and last Thursdays of the month.

Sea Breeze



Our Calendar Section

February 24 – Tour to Jim & Jan Gardner's Residence and Point Vicente Interpretive Center

Please note that our February program has changed from that described in our yearbook.

Meet at 9:15am Lego Seco Park. Arrange car pools and divide into 2 groups. One half of the group will drive to Jim and Jan Gardner's Residence: 3 Ponderosa Lane, RHE. Tour this garden and greenhouse filled with hundreds of varieties of succulents and cactus from all over the world.

Other half of the group will drive to Point Vicente Interpretive Center: 3105 PV Drive West, RPV. Ric Dykzeul will instruct us on natural vegetation and development of the garden areas. A docent from the Interpretive Center will provide information on the geology and ocean environment of the area.

At 10:45am-11:00am groups will switch to visit the other garden.

12:45pm everyone interested will lunch at Giorgio's Restaurant, 672 Silver Spur Road, RHE.

Cost: \$20 just for lunch which includes tax & tip. Menu: Salad, Pasta, Entrée, Dessert & Coffee. An additional \$2 for soft Drinks/Iced Tea. Lunch is not mandatory. Please send check for \$20 payable to Riviera Garden Club to Treasurer June Young, 5105 Via el Sereno Torrance, CA 90505-6249. Checks should be in by February 13th.

Please call Betty Moye at 310-373-5392 for questions, to let her know if you need vegetarian or gluten free menu or to let her know if you are coming without signing up for lunch. Please come to Lego Seco first, so that the Gardner's won't be overcrowded.

March 24 – Riviera Garden Club General Meeting

Save your margarine containers and succulent cuttings for our Succulent Workshop at Pati Johnson's

Riviera Garden Club Events

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|------------------------------|---|
| February 24 9:15-1:30 | Tour of two gardens |
| March 24 9:30-noon | General Meeting – Succulent Workshop at Pati Johnson's |
| April 19 | Blue Star Marker Installation. Please add this new event to your yearbook |
| April 28 | General Meeting at Aleen Houston and Tour of gardens |
| May 23 | Plant Sale at Charlie Sappington's – Note date has changed from April 4 to May 23 |

District, State and Other Club Events

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|---------------------------|---|
| February 19 9-5:30 | San Pedro Garden Club bus trip to Sam Maloof's home; bus trip from Peck Park. Trip is \$50 including lunch. Send check to Kathy Snider: contact her at 310-932-6686 for more information. |
| March 21 7:15-6:30 | South Bay Orchid Society trip to Santa Barbara Orchid Show. \$36, call Peggie Wormington at 310-548.4344 or peggie@wormington.com |
| March 27-28 | Gardening Study School, Course 3, Aliso Viejo |
| March 31-April 2 | Pacific Region Convention, Las Vegas, NV |
| April 8-10 | Wildflower Conference, Ridgecrest |
| April 23 | CVD Bus Trip to South Coast Plaza Flower Show |