



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

Issue No. 7

October – November 2010

From our Presidents

Karen Lent & Shelley Lubinsky

Email us at president@rivieragardenclub.org

Welcome back everyone! We were sorry if you missed the September Pot Luck (yum and fun) including GroOrganic speaker Karen Cancilla, or the October bus trip to the Chen Chinese Art Gallery, Bixby Marshlands and Miyako Hybrid Hotel. (WHO knew, that those places even existed! well, our Programs Chair, Marilyn Rubin did of course!) We look forward to being "home" in November at the Torrance Airport. We will have a great speaker on California Environment.

About a year ago our Club heard from Paul Herzog of the Surfrider Foundation. Since then Surfrider has been involved in a lot of community projects promoting drought tolerant landscaping, water conservation, etc. (RGC's Bertie Wood is involved in a Surfrider sponsored project at her home.) We realize we will always have a water problem in Southern California no matter how much it rains. While we may not all want drought tolerant plants or have the means or desire to replant our yards there are many other ways we can conserve water: low-flow toilets, shorter showers, deeper but less frequent watering, AND, VERY important: preventing runoff. Keeping water from running off our property not only saves our oceans from chemicals but conserves water on our properties. We need to continue our environmental education and find our own way(s) to honor the environment.

Seriousness aside, it is time to be thankful and we hope you will all be blessed at your abundant Thanksgiving and joyful holiday season ahead. We look forward to much sharing and learning together in 2011! BEST, *Shelley & Karen*

"Why not go out on a limb? That's where the fruit is." Mark Twain

RGC Welcomed groOrganic

Our Sept. Pot Luck in Shelley's Garden was another great start to our new club year. Bertie Wood talked about her newly planned Ocean Friendly Garden (final plantings on Fri. Nov. 26 – come help if you can). Karen Canilla of GroOrganics spoke about trends in organic backyard gardens.



Shelley Lubinsky and Karen Lent, groOrganic president Karen Cancilla and vice president Jennifer DeWitt,

Photo by Meredith Grenier

Upcoming Events

Bus Trip to Greystone Mansion in Beverly Hills, January 25, 2011. A visit to these beautiful gardens will be followed by lunch at the Shamshiri Grill in Westwood. Please note that there are many steps at the mansion & sometimes no hand rails. RSVP to Marilyn Rubin, Chair (cost \$46).

RGC Travel Opportunities. Interested in visiting the San Francisco Garden Show (2 days) & Filoli Gardens (1 day), March 23-26, 2011? RGC will book a group of rooms & arrange travel to & from site (you book your air transportation). To join this fun get-away, contact Karen Lent @ 310-375-6539.

Philadellphia Show Show, March 6. If you are interested, let Karen know. (No commitment yet.)

Upcoming Holiday Activities

RGC Holiday Party, Sunday, Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m. at the Doubletree Penthouse. Come one/come all for a terrific way to celebrate the season with fellow Members, with or without spouses. Bring a friend or daughter too.

Festivities include lunch, entertainment plus great door prizes. \$40/RSVP Pam.

Men's Philanthropies UCLA Harbor Hospital.

Please join our annual RGC project to brighten the Holidays for the 'forgotten' men who are patients. They need new clothes of assorted sizes (sweatshirts & sweat pants, shirts, slip-on pants, socks, tee-shirts, underwear, p.j.'s, slippers – as well as games, cards and toiletries).

Turn these **UNWRAPPED** items in to Allison Jones at the Nov. 23 General Mtg. at the airport – or contact her at **310-977-8797** for other drop-off opportunities (she will even pick up items).

Holiday Angels: Many thanks to all of you who took angels for the holiday gift for His House Division of The Salvation Army. This valuable program often provides the only gift a child will receive.

If you haven't picked up an angel, Toni still has quite a few. You may select a specific child to gift. Each angel includes an actual child's name, age, gender and what they would like, usually a toy. Gifts should be gift wrapped or bagged with the lower part of the angel attached.

Extra gifts are always appreciated. Please wrap and mark with appropriate age and or gender.

Gifts should be returned to Toni by the beginning of December, if possible, or by the Holiday party.

Please contact Toni Sargent at **310-378-7856**.

Sunshine: Best wishes to John Sellars (Ethel's husband) who is recovering from a broken ankle and Cecilia's daughter who was badly hurt in a bicycle accident. GET WELL soon!

Legends Among Us: Congratulations to Pam Barrett for being named a South Bay Woman of Distinction by the Daily Breeze (she was also named a "Legend" earlier this year). Cheers to Pam!

September 2010 Landscape Award

Seven years ago, Dave Golling and Bobbi Lenihan moved to their home on El Chico. Two years after inheriting a yard with many challenges, Dave and his gardener attacked the ivy, put in a retaining wall, and began experimenting with plantings.

Dave became an enthusiastic self-taught gardener, discovering (through trial and error) what grew best where. He found that front entrance does well with Mediterranean type plants while the lower part of the hill thrives with drought tolerant ones. He has introduced color through flowering plants and leaf variation – including impatiens and banana palms, geraniums and veronicas. Spiky plants, grasses, soft dahlias, flowering shrubs and roses now coexist. The result is eclectic and pleasing. Thanks, Dave, for your daring and your enthusiasm.



Dave Golling & Bobbi Lenihan at 352 Via El Chico with dogs Lexie & Kona (photo by Julian Chasin).

News from Our Plant/Garden Doctor

For those of you who are new to RGC, member Diane Connell is a retired Advanced CA Certified Nursery Professional (ACCNP) with 20 years of experience in the retail nursery field. Fortunately for us, she enjoys sharing her skills and knowledge with us on a volunteer basis.

Her theme this year is Your Gardens! Diane is available to help with garden know-how, problems, landscape ideas and more. Bring your questions and plant samples (fresh in ziplock bags - LA County only) to our general meetings or contact her by phone at **(310) 539-4650** or at gardendoctor@earthlink.net.

"My Garden will never make me famous, I'm a horticultural ignoramus." Ogden Nash

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 16: RGC Board Meeting, 9:30 am, Karen Lent's.

Nov. 22: CVD Board Meeting, 9:30 am, SCBG.

Nov. 23: RGC Gen. Mtg. Torrance Airport. Speaker: Casey Burns, Biologist, CA Coastal Concerns. Shop / bring items for the Penny Pines "Boutique Table"

Nov. 26. 10 am – 4 pm. Ocean Friendly Garden Workshop at Bertie Wood's home. Register at (310 371-7222) or info@sbesc.com.

Dec. 1: CVD Holiday Party, SCBG, 10 am, SCBG. Catered lunch, raffle, speaker Maryanne Lucas, CA Garden Club President. \$25. RSVP Gudy Kimmel @ 310-530-2382.

Dec. 12: RGC Holiday Luncheon, Doubletree Hotel, 11:30 am. \$40 (RSVP Pam 310-548-3926).

2011 Highlights

Jan. 18: RGC Board Mtg., 9:30 am, Toni Sargent's.

Jan. 25: RGC Bus Trip to Greystone Mansion, Beverly Hills. Tour & Lunch Shamshirl Grill, \$46. (Limit 45 people, must RSVP in adv. 310.375.4483 Marilyn)

Jan. 26: CVD Board Meeting, 9:30 am SCBG.

Jan. 27 & 28: Landscape Design Study Program, Course #2, SCBG, 8 am – 4 pm.

Feb. 2: CVD Gen. Mtg., Speaker: South Bay Environmental Center, SCBG, 9:30 am.

Feb. 15: RGC Board Mtg. 9:30 am

Feb 22: RGC Gen. Mtg., Torrance Airport. Speaker: Dylan Ellis, Green Leaf Hydroponics.

Congratulations

October Birthdays

June Young	05	Beebe Moorhead	14
Kay Kanuit	08	Karen Lent	24
Margaret Majid	08	Sheila Kutkus	28
Gene Hassan	11		

November birthdays

Marilyn Barker	06	Pati Johnson	19
Geneva Martin	09	Ruth Vogel	20
Michelle Sagolla	13	Diane Connell	28
Charlie Sappington	18	Shelley Lubinsky	29
Teresa Workman	18	Marilyn Rubin	30

Member News & Tidbits

Logo Mugs available: To order a lovely RGC logo mug, customized with your name and photo, call Chair, Sharon Ratterree at 310-539-8641.

Green Thumbs wanted to help RGC beautification projects with once-a-month hands-on gardening. Please let Shelley or Karen know if you'd like to work with the committee.

Want to support Children's Gardening? Contact Betty Moye.

Our appreciation to Peet's Coffee in Redondo Beach for donating coffee for our club's Pot Luck.

And our thanks to Pati Johnson for adding her discerning eye to the RGC Landscape Award Team.

All the yearbooks have been delivered and Geneva would like to thank all the helpers, especially Eunice Hargrove.

New Members

Please update your yearbooks to include the following new members:

- Gene Hassan 310-316-8259
1313 Cota Ave. Birthday: 10/17
Torrance 90501-2512
geneh1313@aol.com
- Ginni Newman 310-371-8983
5014 Arvada St. Spouse: Lance
Torrance 90503-1454 Birthday: 7/13
L32108656@aol.com
- Laurie Vaillant 310-316-3629
5610 Michelle Drive Birthday: 9/20
Torrance 90503-1838
laurie.vaillant@verizon.net
Spouse: Sam Sweeney
- Jeannie Brown 310-540-6875
5026 Mindora Drive Birthday: 1/5
Torrance 90505-2143
JeannieLbrown@yahoo.com

Committee Updates

Gift Committee has been meeting to discuss the best way to gift our community. It looks like we will be doing something to enhance outdoor reading at El Retiro Library. Details forthcoming.

Centennial committee has met and is discussing how RGC could participate in Torrance's 100 Birthday Party being celebrated October 2011 through October 2012. Let Shelley or Karen know if you'd like to work with the Committee.

A Little Local History

When RGC member Sharon Ratterree was attending grade school in Torrance, the City had a contest to name the two new parks. Sharon and a boy classmate won – giving us Sea Aire and El Retiro. However, when Sharon came to see the park she named, she found that the signs had been mixed up. Alas, El Retiro became Sea Aire and vice versa!

Landscape Design Study School: Course 1 just completed – fun, hard and oh so educational. Course 2 will be at SCBG on Jan. 27 & 28.

Gardening tidbits

Cactus & Succulents: Looking for a great cactus and/or succulent resource? Sharon Ratterree told us

about CA Cactus Center at 216 S. Rosemead Blvd., Pasadena 91107, (626) 795-2788.

Plant Sale: Fall is the best time to plant/propagate. Begin thinking about next year's May 21 RGC Plant Sale. Let's do a little planning and planting and help send a deserving student to college.

RGC Bus Trip a Success

The first stop on our October field trip was the Bixby Marshland -- who knew this wildlife habitat existed right off the 110 freeway?

After a lovely lunch at the Miyako Hybrid Hotel, we visited the incredible Chen Art Gallery. Time did not permit a visit to Chen's herb garden, but we will be visiting it next spring.



RGC members enjoy the Bixby Marshlands

For more information check out our website at www.rivieragardenclub.org or contact Gloria Balcom, Editor, at g.balcom@verizon.net or 310-378-5464

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