



SeaBreeze

President - Judy Unrine
Editor - Geneva Martin

Riviera Garden Club

Costa Verde District, CGCI, NGC
November/December 2006
Issue 6

The Presidents Message:

With much enthusiasm and many new ideas, members continue to make this a busy year. Thanks to each and every one of you who has made 2006 enjoyable for us all.

Last June, you requested more educational programs. We have honored that request. We enjoyed the flower show, the begonia talk and bus trip. In January, I will begin asking one or two members to present a 5 to 7 minute discussion on a topic that interests them or that we'd like information about.

In questioning people about our early years as a club, I have discovered that our history is sketchy in many areas. In that regard, I am searching for past presidents or early members who would like to help create a history. We will attempt to put together key events and dates, along with personal remembrances to create a lasting history. I hope all members will all be thinking about what you would like to include. We may be able to video and audio tape along with written entries.

This must be my month for requests! If you, or a member of your family has served in the military, please send me the name, address and phone number. We are considering doing a Blue Star Memorial Marker for our 50th Anniversary.

I wish you and your families all happiness and good cheer as the holidays approach.

Fondly, Judy

Former Presidents

If you have the phone number or address of a former Riviera Garden Club President, or a close family member of a past president, please put them in touch with Judy. The names of former R.G.C. presidents can be found on page 35 of the yearbook.

The Riviera Garden Club Holiday Luncheon

For members and guests

December 12, 11:30 until 2

At the Olive Garden,

23442 Hawthorne Blvd, Torrance, CA

Special Entertainment

\$25

RSVP to Pam Barrett - 310 548-3926 by Dec. 8

Membership

We are off to a great start for the 2006 / 2007 year with 3 new members - all thanks to Judy! Kim Min (Young-Kou), Caron Gansbauer, and George Unrine are in the yearbook. We thank George for officially joining the club and we hope with his example will encourage other men to join. Let's keep attracting new members!!

Our condolences to Claudeene Lyon on the passing of her mother and to Pat Smith for her bravery in supporting Joe, her husband of 57 years, until he passed away on Sept. 27th. His memorial was attended by several club members.

We have members that are in need of transportation for our general meetings. Adele Rockwood and Martha Ann Walter would appreciate a ride. Others please don't be shy in asking for help! Pam Barrett / Membership

Yearbooks are ready and look fabulous – thanks to Karen Murrey, Judy and George Unrine for all the hard work.

June Stevenson (310-375-0461) asks that we donate presents for male patients at UCLA Harbor General. All items must be new. Unwrapped clothes of all sizes, games, and toiletries are appreciated. Please drop them off at her house or bring them to the November meeting.

Landscape of the Month

October's Landscape Award was presented to Cindy and Steve Dennis at 5006 Via El Sereno.

The Dennises, with help from Wendy at Sunflower Farms, have created a garden that has become a wildlife sanctuary. Their stately sycamore tree is home to red tailed hawks. White-tail finches dart in and around the sunflowers when in bloom. Hummingbirds and butterflies hover amongst the many salvias and honeybees love the African Basil. The Dennises do not use chemical pesticides and feed everything monthly with a liquid organic tea.

September's Landscape Award was presented to Sherry Holladay at 649 Via Los Miradores.

Sherry met the challenge of taming an unruly slope of boring ivy head on! She terraced her hillside overlooking Calle Mayor with pressure treated timbers and planted a robust assortment of grasses that gracefully catch the wind, as well as lavender and iceberg roses. Ruth Vogel

El Retiro Library Flower Arrangement Assignments

Nov 6	Margaret Majid
Nov 13	Geneva Martin
Nov 20	Betty Moye
Nov 27	Hazel Mulqueen
Dec 4	Karen Murrey
Dec 11	Glyndis Dean
Dec 18	Aleen Houston
Dec 26	Adele Rockwood
Jan 2	Sharon Saffer
Jan 8	Charlie Sappington
Jan 15	open
Jan 22	Virginia Schneider
Jan 29	Carolle Schuegraf

Please pick up your arrangement at the end of your week. Thanks

CVD Flower Show



George and Judy Unrine, Pam Barrett, Mary Varieur, Irma Maggio, and Edith Van Bellehem

Our club can be very proud of the table we entered in the "Anniversary" section of the District's Flower Show held October 21 and 22. It was a competition between four clubs in our area. Thanks to Gloria Jacobs, Jean Lavanis, Irma Maggio, Toni Sargent, June Young, and me, we won Second Place. Our table featured gold and purple to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. We each donated accessories to create an elegant display.

Mary Varieur also won a Second Place for her jazzy entry, "Father's Day Brunch." I also won a Second for my Type II, non-functional table called, "St. Patrick's Day. I used two gladioli for my plant material. I was very excited when my second entry, "Valentine's Table for Two," won a blue ribbon. Judy

Meeting Hostesses

Nov 21 Board Meeting
Hostess: *Adele Rockwood, Jean Vasquez
Nov 28 General Meeting
Hostess: *DeLaine Anthony, Geneva Martin, Kim Min
Jan 16 Board Meeting
Hostess: *Shelley Lubinsky, Margaret Majid
Jan 23 General Meeting
Hostess: *Aleen Houston, Karen Lent, and Jean King

*The first hostess for the general meeting will coordinate with the other two. Very limited food should be provided for the Board Meetings.

Plant Doctor

I attended a seminar this summer entitled "Healthy Gardens, Healthy Homes." We need to make a concerted effort to protect and nourish our environment. When your lawn is fertilized, sweep up extra that gets on the sidewalk. If it's hosed down it will end up in our ocean (it also will stain your cement.) Consider an organic alternative such as Gro-Power or Dr. Earth.

Did you know that one mature tree puts out enough oxygen for a family of four for a year?

Happy Gardening, Diane

September Speaker - Begonias

Bob Golden, who has won best in show at the Westchester and Palos Verdes branches of the American Begonia Society, spoke in September. He showed us the Rex, shrub-like, and cane-like varieties of begonias. Most of these begonias are valued for their multi-colored, patterned leaves. In our climate most varieties can live outside, although they do best at 55 degrees and above. They grow best in semi-shade, with early morning and late afternoon sun.

Bob recommends feeding 20-20-20 fertilizer at a 17 to 1 ratio or 1 tablespoon per gallon of water. However, he uses a ratio that is 25% of this and fertilizes every time he waters. He recommends planting in equal parts of leaf mold (or azalea mix), perlite, potting soil, and pebble bark. His secret is Epsom salts, which makes the roots grow. He repots all of his plants in late April or early May, which must be quite a chore, as he has several hundred. He collects the seeds from the Rex, after he has propagated, and grows new ones in tiny greenhouses from Charley's Greenhouse*, under grow lights. He also brought several beautiful fern and caladium plants, which can be used as companion plants.

*<http://www.charleysgreenhouse.com/>



On our summer trip to visit family and friends, we spent an afternoon at the Pitlochry Drama Festival near Edinburgh. Above the theatre, overlooking the River Tummel and the hills of Ben-y-Vracle, we discovered a lovely garden that is dedicated to Scottish Plant Hunters of the eighteenth century.

The Explorers Garden was begun in 1996 with the assistance of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and its aims are to provide a unique garden and a center of excellence celebrating the Scottish Plant Hunters; to offer an educational resource for schools and adults; to cultivate and conserve rare and endangered plants and to promote visual arts, crafts and performance in an inspirational setting. Although there are thousands of plants, the garden is still a work in progress.

The Royal Edinburgh Botanic garden donated 40 monkey puzzle tree (Araucaria araucana) plants which were collected wild as seed from Chile. These have been planted on the bank so that the



seeds will be distributed as part of the Conifer Conservation initiative. The monkey puzzle tree is the heart of the Explorer Garden logo. The garden is also involved in conserving and developing some hybrid Himalayan plants.

In the garden, birds and red squirrels are regarded as intrinsic and important as the flowers and art.

Toni Sargent

Change in the committee reports at meetings

A change in the way we conduct our meetings was suggested at our October Board meeting. Instead of each chairman coming to the front of the room and giving their report, the president will summarize committee reports and include them in the agenda. **Committee Chairmen:** please submit information at least two days before the meeting.

Riviera Garden Club

Editor: Geneva Martin
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Our schedule is now online at
<http://www.localendar.com/public/RivGarden>

Riviera, Costa Verde, and CGCI Calendar of Events

Nov 14, 10-11:30, Rocketship Park with Diane
Nov 21, 9:30-noon, Board Meeting, Home of June Young, 5105 Via El Sereno, Torrance

Nov 28, 9:30-noon, 'Members Treasures', General Meeting, Torrance Airport Meeting Room, Members will share gardening objects, poems, etc., that have special meaning to them.

Dec 6, 9:30-noon, Costa Verde District Meeting, South Coast Botanic Gardens, Annual Holiday Party will include a pot-luck luncheon and a demonstration on creating Diamond Jubilee Door Decorations for the statewide contest. The contest is open to all garden club members.

Dec 12, 11:30-2, RGC Holiday Luncheon, Olive Garden, members and guests are invited.

Jan 16, 9:30-noon, Board Meeting, Home of Betty Moye, 4166 Via Lado, Torrance

Jan 23, 9:30-noon, Beginning Techniques in Ikebana, with Yohko Ogami, General Meeting, Torrance Airport Meeting Room.

Yohko Ogami is an assistant Ikebana Instructor at SCBG and a member of the Ohara School of Ikebana.

Jan 25-27, CGCI Winter Board, Santa Maria, Host: CGCI Executive Committee

Other Clubs

Nov 11, 10-12, Native Plants in the Wild & in Your Garden, Madrona Marsh. Learn about the One Pot at a Time project.

Nov 16, 7:30, South Coast Rose Society, Jacques Ferare - Hybridizer, Star Roses, South Coast Botanic Gardens, Free admission, guests welcome.

Nov 30, 9-noon, Torrance Memorial Hospital Holiday Festival, Free Senior Admission

Dec 10, 2-3:30, Palos Verdes Symphonic Band Holiday Concert, South Coast Botanic Gardens