



Riviera Garden Club

Sea Breeze

COSTA VERDE DISTRICT, CGCI, PACIFIC REGION, NGC

Volume 65, Issue No. 4

March, April May 2023

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Carolyn Pohlner

Hello, ladies and gentleman,

A small group of us met at the Banning House/Museum April 27th for an extensive tour of the House and Barn. That Phineas Banning was quite the visionary and entrepreneur! Aren't we Angelenos glad he was? He was extremely influential in helping to create the Port of Los Angeles to what it is today.

The Rose Garden was in bloom, as well as some beautiful Wisteria vines. I learned that there are two different types of Wisteria – Japanese and Chinese. It had been over 30 years since I last visited the museum and I had forgotten what a historic landmark it is. I'm even considering a visit during the holiday season to see it all dressed up! Maybe, I can interest some more Riviera Garden Club members to join me then. Banning House puts on quite an affair at Christmas with all the trimmings!

Carolyn Pohlner's message continued on page 2

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 16 RGC board meeting 9:30 a.m
at the home of **Marilyn Rubin**

May 23 RGC general mtg 10 a.m.
at **Valmonte Gardens**

Directions will be emailed to RGC members.

June 13 Madhatter Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
hat parade, officer installation and
presentation of RGC scholarship winners.
RSVP to **Dina Wiley** or **Regina Taylor**.
(See p. 9 flyer for complete information)

June 27 Costa Verde District 10 a.m.
general meeting and luncheon
South Coast Botanic Garden.

RSVP to **Carolyn Pohlner**

Although it isn't officially Spring yet, the weather is beginning to warm up and we are spending more time outdoors. Even though we didn't have the most ideal weather for our plant sale on Saturday, April 29, plant lovers still came from all over to help RGC line our coffers to the tune of \$1,487!

Kudos to **Marilyn Rubin** and **Ellyn Meikle** and all the other "green thumbs" who assisted with the potting workshops and prep work leading up to our major fundraiser! Marilyn, in particular, wasn't afraid to get her hands dirty as she helped **Charlie Sappington** get her front lawn spruced up and "showcase-ready" for the big day. **Pat Heilmann's** flower baskets were a big hit and several buyers tried to 're-purchase' the two that I and stored behind my cashier station.

Perhaps, we should consider offering more big-ticket items (more than \$25) like these for next year! They make wonderful Mother's Day gifts. Speaking of next year, I am so pleased to announce that **Pam Barrett-Hill** has agreed to be co-president with me. Pam and I have already discussed some programs and excursions we'd like to do with RGC next year, such as a bus trip to Roger's Garden with lunch at the Farmhouse Restaurant. I will once again apply for the LA County Free Bus available to non-profits. But first, let's start with the RGC board installation and Mad Hatter's luncheon at the Red Onion on Tuesday, June 13th. Please see the flyer previously emailed and also attached at the end of this newsletter. I hope to see you all there!

Happy Mother's Day! Happy Spring!

Hopefully all those April showers are bringing May flowers to your gardens!

Carolyn Pohlner, Riviera Garden Cub President

At the South Coast Botanic Garden we celebrated **Eunice Hargrove's** 90 birthday plus RGC presented **SCBG** a \$2000 donation to **Stephanie Yinger**. Also shown is speaker **Terry Huang**.



PHOTOS FROM THE Riviera Garden Club PLANT SALE



THANK YOU! PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS

Ellyn Meikle, Marilyn Rubin, Charlie Sappington, Dina Wiley, Regina Taylor, Mary Varieur, Pat Heilmann, Geeta Gupta, Carolyn Pohlner, Geneva Martin, Sherry Streetmaker, Marybeth Muir, Teresa Henderson, Marlene Ennis, Sheila Kutkus, Laurie Vaillant, Bernice Slocovich, Wendy Tsuji, Leony Filler, Judy Unrine, George Unrine

(Please forgive the editor if she missed including a volunteer to the above list.)

PHOTOS FROM ONE OF THE RGC PLANT SALE WORKSHOPS



TOO BEAUTIFUL TO EAT!



TOO BEAUTIFUL TO EAT!

Buddy Bench



Riviera Garden Club

The Buddy Bench Teaches Children to Include Each Other.



A **buddy bench** is a seat in a school playground. **Buddy benches** are situated in open and well-traveled areas of the school so that any child using the bench will be noticed quickly. A child feeling the need for a friend can sit on the **buddy bench**. Others will recognize this as a sign that the child needs friendship, help, support or comfort. Someone will come to talk with and befriend the child on the **buddy bench**.

Riviera Garden Club

Is ***STILL COLLECTING***

BOTTLE CAPS AND LIDS to recycle

into a **Buddy Bench**.

We Need Your Help!

Please save your clean caps and lids and give them to: **Carolyn Pohlner**, RGC president at a Riviera Garden Club meeting. Thank you for your **Support!**



ACCEPTABLE CAPS

medicine bottle caps	drink bottle caps
milk jug caps	flip-top caps (ketchup, mustard)
detergent caps	spout caps (mustard)
hair spray caps	spray paint caps
toothpaste cube caps	ointment tube caps
deodorant caps	caps w/ RECYCLE NUMBERS of (2) (4) (5)

ACCEPTABLE LIDS

cottage cheese container lids	cool whip container lids
mayonnaise jar lids	coffee can lids
yogurt lids	cream cheese container lids
peanut butter jar lids	butter container lids
ice cream bucket lids under 8"	Prescription bottles labels removed

A LETTER TO HOMEOWNERS AND GARDENERS FROM A DANDELION

Hello, I'm a **DANDELION**

A lot of people call me a weed, but I'm a friend and have come to help you!

My flowers are the first food for insects after hibernation and unlike most other plants,

I have pollen AND nectar, not merely one OR the other! And I am generous with them!

When you see me, remember that I'm the **ONLY** plant who wants and can grow in that particular spot because:

- Either the soil is too compact or hard and I want to loosen it for you with my roots.
- Or there is too little calcium in the soil. Don't worry! I will replenish that for you with my dying leaves.
- Or the soil is too acidic. But I will also improve that for you if you give me the chance.
- Or a mixture of the above reasons, of course.

I'm here because your soil needs my help so it's best that you let me grow without disturbing me! When everything is fixed, I will disappear again, I promise!

Are you trying to remove me prematurely with my root?

However meticulous you are, I will return 2 times as strong just until your soil is improved.

You can even tell by my growth at which stage my help is at. If my leaves are flat on the ground, then I'm far from ready but if they all reach up then I'm already a long way on my way.

Here are some completely different facts about dandelions:

I am one of the first bloomers in spring so I will announce spring / summer for you.

During the day when it's hot, I open my flowers. In the evening when it cools off,

I close them again quickly. In fact, if it's not hot enough during the day I won't open my flowers at all!

Did you know my flowers are even delicious to eat? I used to be called "honey (or gold) of the poor" because my flowers are so sweet in jam, sauce or salad! The internet is full of recipes. Check them out.

(Dandelion information from the editor's niece Michelle Miller)



P.S. The editor of Sea Breeze is still NOT a fan of dandelions in her yard or vegetable garden!

PETER LEE, HERB AND VEGETABLE PLANT SELLER AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

Have you ever wanted to grow vegetables or herbs from already germinated plants instead of from seeds? If your answer is YES, most likely you know **Peter Lee** who sells plants at the Redondo Beach and Torrance Farmers' Markets.

Peter grew up in Palos Verdes. As a young single man, rented a room at the historic Olmstead home which overlooked RAT (**R**ight **A**fter **T**orrance) beach on the cliffs above Malaga Cove. In those years Peter did landscaping work but soon became a participant selling vegetable and herb plants in the first local Farmers' Market in Redondo Beach in 1985. This original farmers' market was held at the location where Whole Foods Market is now. A few months later in 1985 Torrance opened its own Farmers' Market at Wilson Park, and Peter became a seller there too. Over the years Peter has sold his seedlings and vegetable starts at Farmers' Markets in Culver City, Venice, Westchester, Palos Verdes, Hermosa Beach, Torrance, Redondo Beach and Hollywood but now in 2023 he sells only at the two Torrance Farmers' markets, Venice, Redondo Beach and Hollywood.

Peter's days are busy propagating and selling plants but during his time off, he volunteers at Riviera Elementary School in the vegetable garden where each of his children either now or in the past have attended Riviera School.

Where are the plants that **Peter Lee** sells to the public grown?

Peter has leased one acre of land under the DWP (Department of Water and Power) utility lines locally. He explained that he propagates his plants outdoors in a cold frame, in the ground or sometimes covered with shade cloth. The plants take from 5 weeks up to 2 months of nurturing before they can be sold at Peter's space at each farmers' market.

Peter said that deciding which plants to propagate for growing success is basically trial and error depending on the different climate zones of Los Angeles County. **Peter Lee** told this author about certain failures he had. He planted medicinal herbs for a customer who requested them but those specialized herbs did not sell well to the general public.

This author, **Marilyn Rubin**, is a vegetable gardener. I often buy seedlings such as tomatoes, squash, broccoli, cabbage, brussels sprouts or herbs from **Peter Lee** when I find that a pack of those seeds would give me too many plants for my small community garden plot.

PHOTOS OF PETER LEE TENDING AND SELLING PLANTS



A Buddy Bench at Riviera Elementary School just outside of the school vegetable garden that Peter Lee tends.



Riviera Garden Club

Mad Hatters Installation & Luncheon

Place: The Original Red Onion Restaurant
736 Bart Earle Way, Rolling Hills Estates CA 90274

Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm

Occasion: Annual RGC Mad Hatters Luncheon
Officers Installation
Scholarships Ceremony

Cost: \$35

Please make your check payable to "Riviera Garden Club"

Mail to: Geneva Martin,

P.O. Box 10112, Torrance, CA 90505-0812

Menu: No Need to select your Meal Choice now.

Orders will be taken at the restaurant, selected from the following menu.

Items Included: chips & salsa, Red Onion signature salad, dessert, plus your choice of beverage

(Alcoholic drinks not included - but a No Host Bar is available)

CHOICE OF ONE of the following MEAT ENTREES

served w/ Spanish rice, beans and/or Mexican zucchini:

1. chicken enchilada and ground beef taco
2. chicken Santa Fe
3. deluxe carne asada tostada

OR CHOICE OF ONE of the following VEGETARIAN ENTREES

1. cheese enchilada
2. veggie Tostada
3. chile relleno

RSVP: Please reply no later than June 6 to

Dina Wiley or Regina Taylor

(Check your RGC program book for their contact info.)

Please Remember to Wear Your Flowered Hat!

Prizes awarded!



RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
and RIVIERA GARDEN CLUB
LANDSCAPE OF THE MONTH AWARD
February 2023
The **Casillas** residence
4134 Paseo de las Tortugas



Poppy Super Bloom
at
Marilyn and Sherwin Rubin's home
4414 Greenmeadows Ave




BONSAI ARRANGEMENTS AT THE BUNKA SAI FESTIVAL April 2023

RGC MEMBERS NEWS AND TIDBITS

Happy Birthday RGC Members

May	June	July
11 Marybeth Muir	8 Judy Unrine	10 Wendy Tsuji
25 Toni Ziegler	12 Regina Taylor	20 Carolyn Pohlner
	18 Pat Heilmann	23 Gloria Balcom
	27 Diane Hayden	30 Toni Sargent
	28 Leony Filler	31 Bobbie Davison
	29 June Stevenson	



2023-2024 Slate of RGC officers

Co -Presidents:

Carolyn Pohlner Pam Barrett-Hill

1st VP excursions: Alberta Brice

1st VP s programs & hospitality:

Marie Hoffman, Charlie Sappington

2nd VP s membership:

Regina Taylor, Lynn Fernandez

Secretary: Marilyn Rubin

Treasurer: Geneva Martin

Parliamentarian: Toni Ziegler

Newsletter: Marilyn Rubin

Dues for the next calendar year can be sent to:

Riviera Garden Club
PO Box 10112
Torrance, 90505.



Check out our website at www.rivieragardenclub.org

Email: president@rivieragardenclub.org

Sea Breeze editor: Marilyn Rubin