



Elk Grove Garden Club



LINDA RIVERA, EDITOR

BEYOND THE GARDEN GATES NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nancy Baldwin

Fall has officially arrived! I'm enjoying the emerging fall colors in the leaves and gardens as I drive around town. Who says we don't have seasons in California!

Thank you to all who volunteered for our various duties for the upcoming year. We have lots of volunteers in new positions this year, which is one way our club stays fresh. New eyes on the tasks, so to speak. And a big thanks to all of the members who rotated out of a position – all have been very helpful to the incoming folks in the transition.

One big missing piece is a coordinator for our annual bus trip. Please consider your schedule and volunteer to help with this effort. As my sister said, "it's just one activity, not an ongoing monthly responsibility. We'll talk about what needs to be done to organize the bus trip at October meeting. When we lay out the pieces, I think you'll realize it's not as hard as it may sound!

Remember to bring your extra gardening things to our sharing table – especially those extra plants that you have after you have finished dividing and propagating. Garden magazines you have read are also great items to share. And start collecting up decorative pots, or any other items you don't

September Roll call question: What is your favorite vegetable?



need any more and someone else might like our December holiday silent auction. For the October meeting, remember to bring succulent cuttings – enough for yourself and extras to share for those who may not have enough for themselves. They don't need to be hardened or rooted just a cutting is fine. See you in October!

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September Minutes

Linda Brett

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 by President Nancy Baldwin, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll call. The question of the day was "what is your favorite vegetable?" Guests were introduced, there were five ladies: Christine Johnson, Judy Fraser, Norma Poole, Michelle White and Chris Duane. Sunshine report was given by President Baldwin regarding Punky Dias, who is at home and recovering, not ready for visits or calls, but cards are appreciated, and by Cathy Jow who announced the recent birthdays. The minutes of the last meeting were approved with no corrections or additions. Bills for the treasurer were approved. New Business included approval of the budget with money remaining from last year for the State Convention, and an increase for the EGGC Scholarship to \$500. There was information regarding availability of recycled water from regionalsan.com for those in the district. Motion to approve made by Peggy Wedge, second by Mary Adams-Wiley.

Correspondence included a letter from Cindy Lam, EGGC scholarship recipient for 2016, thanking the Club and mentioning that she and her family enjoyed the luncheon. The

Tips and Techniques sign-up sheets were circulated and the first program was presented by Vivian Sellers on "Watering Potted Plants". This is a new opportunity to have different members present each month, which will include a 5 minute talk and demonstration, if applicable, at each meeting from now on.

Sign-up sheets for committees and luncheon participation were also circulated. We have a good level of participation in the Club and this is the time for sign-ups for meals and committee chairmanships. The luncheon schedules will remain the same as last year with sign-ups for two luncheons per member.

The Luncheon Committee has, with approval, gradually begun collecting "real" silverware to replace the plastic tableware we have been using and reusing. It will not match, any donations are greatly appreciated, the

committee members will wash the utensils after each meeting.

Rinda Furtando is researching the concept of the club members having their own polo or tee shirts, as members of our sister club in Trinidad do. The Club would pay for the font or logo set-up, for printing on the shirts and each member would purchase their own shirt in the suggest color of green chosen by the Club from C & T Specialties tee shirt shop in Elk Grove. More information on color, style and size is forthcoming.

The Bylaws Section of the Club's constitution is being revised for removal of obsolete wording, renaming of committees according to the actual purpose and duties, clarification of the terms of officers, change of wording on standing committees, elimination of only the use of the word "she" in the Bylaws. The Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote. Motion to approve by Ellison Cowles, second by Vivian Sellers.

Discussion ensued as to reimbursement of committee chairs should it be needed, and possible limits for same. Also, should the raffle be continued, it was decided to hold on a decision until our next meeting.

Members need to bring succulent trimmings and starts for the next meeting for a craft project. Upcoming meeting topics will include Emergency Preparedness, The Caribbean Garden Show Trip, a visit to the Poinsettia Nursery in Duarte, Camellias, a walk through the Japanese Gardens in Mickle Grove, Composting, Big Oak Nursery on University of California All-Stars for the garden, and a walk through the UCD Garden, Mosquito Abatement, Friends of Stone Lake Refuge and walk. A bus tour is planned for the new Sunset Gardens in Sonoma.

Sheryl Neidich of the Elk Grove Community Garden presented a slide show and informative discussion on the garden, its' mission, and the benefits of the garden. She invited all to the Succulent Show and sale on Sept. 24th and mentioned the composting class on Sept. 17th.

The meeting closed at 1:00

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Brett, Temporary Recording Secretary



Bits and Pieces



Our silverware for plasticware program is ongoing until we reach our goal. Donations of silverware are needed to replace the well-used plasticware. We will all enjoy it for years to come. Thanks in



advance.

Thanks to the talents and coordination of Bonnie Marr and our Website Committee: Barbara Gumbs, and Maria Schiffler, the Club's Website will soon be re-invented, invigorated, and informative. Keep checking the Website, it will be a pleasant surprise.

The real chef of last month's chicken salad recipe remains a mystery. We enjoyed the salad and would like to give credit.

Garden Questions? Ask a master gardener at the U.C. Cooperative Extension Services. In Sacramento 916-875-6913; 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday to Thursday.

Did you know? The Elk Grove Garden Club is a tax-exempt charitable organization. As such, donations to the Club are also tax-exempt.

The Newsletter is evolving and will include more contributors, member and committee highlights, board members, and our affiliations, and trip schedules in future issues.

AROUND TOWN



Tips and Techniques

Watering Potted Plants by Vivian Sellers

How often should you water - when they need it!

Stick your finger in about 1 inch to see if soil is moist or dry. When watering, water until the water runs out the bottom. Be careful that the soil hasn't pulled away from the sides (which it does when the soil dries out). I like to keep a saucer or plate with about a 1" lip under my pots which will help moisten the soil as the water is soaked up into the pot. I also keep a thin layer of mulch (small bark) on the top of my pots which I find helps retain moisture.

Watering in early morning is best but if you see a plant wilting - water. A wilting plant is the same as you fainting.

Which pot should you use? Different materials heat up/hold water differently.

- **Terracotta** – is best for plants that like it dry.
- **Concrete** – pots do not heat up even in direct sunlight. The problem with concrete is, it is heavy to move.
- **Plastic** – is inexpensive, but does heat up in direct sunlight. If black or dark green, it can bake the plant roots...Paint dark pots with Rust-oleum white paint for plastic furniture.
- **Metal** – Again, heats up in direct sunlight.

Try grouping pots together to provide shade for one another.

Newsletter Changes

Kudos to Joyce Johnson for her diligence and creative efforts as Newsletter Editor for the past two years. Joyce has passed the pen to me, Linda Rivera, as Joyce is also the Club's Treasurer and one busy lady. Thank you Joyce for all doing two jobs so well.

As the new editor I would love to know more about each member and plan to highlight one or two members every issue. If you or someone in your family enjoys taking photos and could take photos of members/plants to be used in the newsletter please contact me. Let me know what you would like to see in the Newsletter and/or send in an article, joke, story, gardening tips, book suggestion, or event. Everyone's input is welcome. Linda

The Armchair Gardening & Recommended Books

[The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate - Discoveries from a Secret World](#) *By Peter Wohlleben.*

Peter Wohlleben, 51, is a forest ranger who is currently a sensation in Germany where the forest has longed played an important role in cultural history. In this book, Mr. Wohlleben shares his deep love of woods and forests. His research on trees has lead him to believe that trees grow and flourish with other trees. His premise is that trees are social beings that can count, remember, nurse sick neighbors, have friends, and operate as communal beings. He has found that trees have social networks and thrive in groupings as a community. At times trees are so interconnected at the roots that when one tree dies, the other dies also. This is a fascinating book that will stretch your consciousness of the environment and the world we live in.

Succulents in a Cup or Jar

Succulents are so forgiving. Pick a little plump fellow and place him in a cup or small, washed, jelly jar filled half-way with a few pebbles and about 1/4 full with dirt/sand. Since the succulent is in a cup they can keep you company and enjoy sitting on the breakfast table and having a little splash of water now and then while you have your coffee.

Upcoming Events:

- Sacramento Shepard Garden and Arts Center (SGAC), located in McKinley Park, Oct. 1 & 2 SGAC Fall Sale
- University of California Plant Sale, UC Davis Arboretum, Sat., Oct. 1 & 22, 9-11 (members only) 11-1 (public)
- Elk Grove Pumpkin Festival, Elk Grove Regional Park, Oct 1 & 2
- Sacramento Camellia City Porcelain Artists, Oct. 8 & 9
- Davis Ranch Harvest Festival, Sloughouse, Oct. 8 & 9
- UC Master Gardeners in the Arboretum, Sun., Oct. 9 & 23, 10 to noon, not a tour, but Q. & A.
- Wednesday Walks with Warren, UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, Oct. 12; Nov. 9, & Dec. 14. Join Warren Roberts, Supt. Emeritus of the Arboretum and storyteller/punster for noontime walks beginning in the Arboretum Gazebo.
- Celebrate Oak-tober, Sat. Oct. 15, 11 am at Arboretum Gazebo, Explore the Shields Oak Grove in autumn to see oaks from around the world and learn how they prepare for winter.
- Oct. 12, The Fair Oaks Horticulture Center's Open Garden, Cool season crops and garden tasks
- Half-Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival, Oct. 15 & 16
- Ongoing – and lastly the family favorite, Apple Hill. See Applehill.com

Elk Grove Garden Club October Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 10:30

EG Congregational Church

9624 Melrose Ave., EG

Bring succulents for pumpkin craft project led by Vivian Sellers, a University of California Master Gardner

