

2020

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

THE SEEDLING

— HAPPY NEW YEAR —

PRESIDENTS LETTER

Happy New Year and new decade. This January I'll be hard pruning my roses in preparation for relocating them around my front yard to better showcase them and give them room to breathe. I'll also be consulting with a landscape architect/designer to create a bountiful as well as eco-minded front and back yard.

Congratulations to Darlene and Ronni for putting on a fabulous holiday party at the Bonita Museum. We had about 90 people (members, family and friends) in attendance. Everyone looked marvelous, the decorations were fantastic, and the food was yummy. Attendees made some wonderful purchases at Vera's Country Store and we sold some aprons, cookbooks and hot sauce too!

I sent off our \$100 donation to the CGCI 2019-2021 President's Project – Plant America: Plant Parks – in support of the San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden recreation. We received a very nice thank you letter from Shane Looper, CGCI President. A copy of the letter is included at the end of this newsletter.

I am looking forward to the many events we have planned for the remainder of our fiscal year – Mexican Flower making at the January Meeting, the February Tea and Fashion Show, our Garden Tour and hosting the June Palomar District Meeting – and for the many opportunities those events will afford me in getting to know our members even better.

Happy Gardening, Lisa Mercier

BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY January 2 @9-30am

Host: Glennalie Coleman.

5219 Van Gogh Lane, Bonita **RSVP:** 619-479-9607, glennaliecoleman@gmail.com

GENERAL MEETING

January 8 @ 9-30am

FLOWER POWER

Our very own Kathy Taylor will show us how to chase away the winter blues with her colorful and cheery Mexican flower making demonstration. Everyone will go home with festive flowers they make at the meeting.



REFRESHMENTS: Maria Balalong, Lynne Batchelor, Diane Hahnel, Susan Heavlin, Bea Putian.

RAFFLE: Maria Balalong, Lynne Batchelor, Diane Hahnel, Susan Heavlin, Bea Putian

CLEAN-UP: Jackie Riekstins, Ronni Russell

OUR WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS TREE FOR DECEMBER NIGHTS. THANK YOU SO MUCH SHARON AND PAULINE AND TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH THIS FABULOUS EVENT



I would like to thank all the BVGC ladies who helped me decorate the big tree on the stage at December Nights for San Diego Floral Association and a special thanks to Sharon and Pauline for helping me get over to the Prado for lunch. I love you all. Happy New Year KATHY





CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 2019



We're pleased to report that the Christmas party was a rip roaring success with 91 advance reservations!!! Surely that must be some kind of record. Not only did we have fun, but we also raised close to \$550.00 through sales at Vera's Country Store!! Proceeds will go into our scholarship fund. Yay! Of course, this success was a group effort and we'd like to acknowledge some special people who helped pull it all together:

- President Lisa for helping with set-up and clean-up
- Vera Matthias and her crew of Nancy Scheffler, Jere Kausch, and Diana Hahnel for collecting, pricing, displaying, and selling goods at the Country Store and then boxing up the leftovers
- Irasema Taylor for lending decorations and a decorator's eye during set-up
- Sonia Wilson for lending decorations and the eco-friendly glass appetizer plates
- Sandy Duncan for helping with set-up, clean-up and refrigerator space
- Susie Kirby and Maria Balolong for help with set-up
- Cynthia Stojeba for bartending and taking the toy donations to be distributed
- Diane Hahnel and her family for set-up, tear down, and selling hot sauce
- Jackie Riekstins and Glennalie Coleman for heating and schlepping appetizers (& ovens!)
- Sharon Lauder and Pauline Waters for setting up and selling Christmas ornaments
- Bea Putian for contributing her famous deviled eggs
- Susan Currie for bringing delicious homemade olive bread
- Sarah Tolley for bringing dried apricot treats
- Wendy from the museum, for her unflappable and helpful demeanor. It's always a pleasure to work with her.

Chances are we're forgetting someone so we'd like to apologize in advance to anyone we've forgotten! You know who you are.

With heartfelt thanks,
Ronni and Darlene,
your party planners, shoppers, and clean-up crew



AWARDS CHAIR, NANCY SCHEFFLER



California Garden Club (CGCI), Pacific Region and National Garden Club (NGC) give monetary awards to local garden clubs “in recognition of outstanding accomplishments, meritorious achievements, creativity and ingenuity in the fields of activity within the organization.” To be considered for these awards, local club’s Awards Chair determines which applications to submit on behalf of the club. As Awards Chair, I chose 6 separate awards for BVGC 2019 activities for which our club might get an award. These are:

- # 12 Club Program Award (General Meeting programs January – December 2019)
- #1 Achievement for a Single Event (Blooming Art in Bonita)
- #21 Conservation Projects (Thursday Walkers)
- #25 Operation Wildflower Award (Identifying Wildflowers on Rossi Trail)
- #11 Community Impact Award (BVGC demonstration municipal garden)
- # 5 Landscape Design Advocate (Blue Star Home Gardens)

The write up for each of these activities includes Summary and Objectives, Involvement of Club Members, Project Expenses and Means of Funding, Continuing involvement and Follow up, as well as photographs with captions. I submitted these applications before the December 1 deadline to the sponsor of each specific award with application and evaluation sheet. For more information about awards see the CGCI website.

Last year 2018 BVGC received CGCI awards for: Civic Development (3 rd place), Landscape Advocate (2nd place), Member Promotion (2nd place), 2nd place for another Civic Development award, Home Garden Tour (2nd place), Achievement for a Single Event (2nd place) honorable mention for Club Program Award and Community Impact. Any BVGC members interested in volunteering to work on the awards committee please contact Nancy Scheffler.

FEBRUARY TEA "Music in the Garden"

Contact Judy Silver at 619-210-5050 for seating (cancellations and additions) requests.

We have 2 spaces available

Susan Kirby will be main contact for table 12.

TABLE 1 Purple Rain

1. Kathy Taylor
2. Pat Bjernefalt
3. Linda Vargason
4. Leslie Tate
5. MerriLu Roark
6. Jetta Russell
7. Jackie Riekstins
- 8.

TABLE 2 Swan Lake

1. Sarah Tolley
2. Shawn Bajo
3. Anne Linn
4. Anne Grignon
5. Karen Duignan
6. Darlene Montgomery
7. Michele Kownacki
8. Linda Allen

TABLE 3 BBQ Guitar Music

1. Martha E Gillard
2. Pauline Waters
3. Carmen DeLeon
4. W. Akimi
5. Gloria Setvin
6. Sharon Louder
7. Dee Vawter
8. Louise Nelson

TABLE 4 Irish Harp

1. Susan Currie
2. Lynne Batchelor
3. Jan Cousins
4. Muriel Kulikowski
5. Sandra Graff
6. Maria Cardenas (Chico's)
7. Linda Phillips (Chico's)
8. Melissa Hernandez

TABLE 5 "A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody"

1. Carvill Veech
2. Joan Smalley
3. Lisa Ramon
4. Susan Heavilin
5. Cheryl Hughes-Slezak
6. Thu Nguyen-Ulrich
7. Carolyn Gibbs
8. Gladys Nolen

TABLE 6 Violin

1. Glennalie Coleman
2. Mary Jane Pye
3. Diane Hahnel
4. Laura Crenshaw
5. Bea Putian
6. Zen Parrish
7. Jere Kausch
8. Ernie Trimble

TABLE 7 Hawaiian Music

1. Maria Balolong
2. Linda Mascardo
3. Alexis Abille
4. Gloria DeLaVara
5. Pam Ratcliffe
6. Reiko Ratcliffe
7. Mike Ratcliffe
8. Marie Iglesias

TABLE 8 Harp – Latin Serenade

1. Judy Silver
2. Christy Albon
3. Carolyn Roeters
4. Tungching Yim
5. Karla Pierce
6. Susie Siglar
7. Christina Holder
8. Rebecca Moretti

TABLE 9 Island Music

1. Sonia Wilson
2. Jean Bibb
3. Susan Rierson
4. Pat Malone
5. Kirsten Hansen
6. Gloria Barry
7. Ronni Russell
8. JoAnne Westover

TABLE 10 Fabulous 50's

1. Vera Matthias
2. Nancy Scheffler
3. Jeannette Baranov
4. Susan Johnson
5. Brenda Pearson
6. Marianne Briggs
7. Sandy Duncan
8. Brenda's Guest

TABLE 11 Wildflowers/Meadow

1. Pat Crisafulli
2. Jeannette Chavez
3. Laura Disharoon
4. Aida T. Eberline
5. Lisa Mercier
6. Barbara Hall
7. Isabel Hall
- 8.

TABLE 12 I Heard it Through the Grapevine

1. Susan Kirby
2. Deb Pfau
3. Mary Lu Gultekin
4. Susy Radford
5. Diane Jankowski
6. Sandy Marking
7. Lynne Erikson
8. Cheryl Raya

RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE TREES by Jackie

This is a summation of some very suitable residential landscape trees that I used to give to my clients to guide them in picking out trees that were both drought tolerant and would not create a(n) (unknown) problem 5-10 yrs or more down the road. Jackie R

Suitable low water arid climate trees

Acacia farnesiana (smallii) Honey Acacia-small stature tree for a few years. Good spring flowering, attractive smell, needs little watering when well established. Does not take temps below 30F well.



Acacia stenophylla- Shoestring Acacia-nice upright stature, fast growing when young, prefers several deep waterings per year, esp. in summer. Very graceful foliage, nice crop of flowers that are not showy but are attractive.



Acca sellowiana-Pineapple guava-produces edible fruit, small stature tree, looks best with some water in summer months. Pretty grey leaves and in spring produces lots of attractive flowers.



Agonis flexuosa-Peppermint willow-can get large with advanced age, long lived, good deep root, non invasive. May need supplemental water when young to look best. Trees vary somewhat with weeping or spreading habit. Very pretty purple leafed cultivar available. Both feature a small delicate white flower that is produced generously.



Callistemon viminalis-Weeping bottlebrush-Flower debris in spring. Looks best with supplemental watering. Very attractive red accent when in bloom, overall very long lived.



Casurina equisetiformis-Beefwood-Eventually gets very large, with mostly good root habits. A very "pine" looking tree, right down to its' tiny cones.

Cercidium hybrid "Desert Museum"-Thornless Palo Verde. Needs little to no supplemental water when established. Blooms freely in spring/early summer. Water deeply when getting established to develop deep anchoring roots and for fast young growth.



Cupressus arizonica var. *arizonica*-Arizona Cypress. A conifer, fast growing, can survive without supplemental water after well established. Deep water when getting established to encourage deep anchoring roots.



Jacaronda acutifolia: Jacaronda. Needs to be placed with care as this tree can get large and if not in deep, well drained soil, is apt to have shallow invasive roots. Somewhat slow growing when young, often needs staking if planted in 'wind tunnels' but rewards with a gorgeous lavender display in early spring to summer. Best with deep supplemental watering



Metrosideros excelsa-New Zealand Christmas tree. Fast growing multi stemmed tree when young, growth slows with age. Very large, nice floral display, needs good drainage. Looks best with supplemental water.

Olea europea, "Fruitless", "Wilsonii", or "Bonita"-Fruitless olive, slow growing without messy fruit. Long lived, needs little supplemental water. Will fruit occasionally, usually in unusually wet winters.



Pittosporum crassifolium-Karo Tree. Must be purchased as a tree form, does require some pruning to maintain form, very good drought tolerance when established but does look best with monthly supplemental watering. Attractive grey leaves with burgundy, small flowers.

Prosopis Hybrid Thornless AZT-Thornless Mesquite. A grafted variety, also called Grafted Chilean Mesquite, is quite desirable. Fast growing, needs little to no supplemental water after roots are established. Attractive honey flavored blooms attract honey bees and most parts of this tree are edible by rodents.



Prunus ilicifolia, spp. *Lyonii*-Catalina Cherry. Good looking but very slow growing when young. Needs little to no supplemental water when well established. Nice deep clean green foliage.

Rhus lancea-African Sumac. Good fast growing shade tree, performs best when not planted in a low area where water can accumulate in winter. Needs little to no supplemental watering when well established. Quite tolerant of various soil types as long as it has descent drainage.





FACEBOOK

A reminder to like our community page on Facebook: Bonita Valley Garden Club
Lots of photos and shares from around the Garden Club world.

PLANT TABLE
Please bring plants or cuttings for our plant table

The beautiful BVGC red aprons are available for \$20 each. They make fabulous gifts. Hostess, birthday, Christmas, or for yourself. Available at meetings or events, or call Sarah at 619-421-4964

MARKET TABLE
Our new Market Table Co-Chairs, Joan Smalley and Sonia Wilson, are seeking your contributions for the Market Table. Please drop off your items at Joan's house. It is better if you call ahead to ensure she is home to receive them. If she isn't home it should be safe to leave them anyway.
Joan Smalley
619-636-4887. 2729 Valley Creek Drive. (Not Valley creek Circle)
We are looking forward to seeing you all soon For members who have items to donate and are unable to drop them off, Sonia can make pick-ups.

COOKBOOKS \$12
HOT SAUCE \$10
SEE DIANE



“BONITA IN BLOOM” GARDEN TOUR RAFFLE

The raffle basket committee has started to collect new and used items to fill the raffle baskets. Contributions of health and beauty products for men and women are needed for baskets containing a gift certificate for a haircut or mani/pedi. Gourmet foods or other food items are needed for baskets containing restaurant gift certificates. Some other ideas can be beach items, garden items, golf and sports items. Anything fun that might relate to a gift certificate. (Note: No wine please!)

Baskets are also needed!

Please bring your contributions to any of the BVGC Board or General meetings throughout the year. I will have a basket with a sign on it for basket filler donations. If you have been able to get a donation or gift certificate from a local business please contact Joanne Westover (619-933-7974) or email: stanleywestover@cox.net

Letters to give potential donors that contain info about our garden tour and raffle drawings are available from me.

I will be hosting the raffle basket assembly at my home in May . I will announce date and time later! Thank you, Joanne Westover.

HAVE YOU SEEN ME
Some of Sonja's candle decorations lent to us for the Christmas party were not to be found at the end of the night. Did anyone find these candles amidst their belongings once they got home? If so, please return ASAP. They're part of a set. Thank you!

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS Charlene 'Shane' Looper, President. December 23, 2019

Dear Lisa and Members of Bonita Valley Garden Club:

THANK YOU for your generous donation of \$100 to CGCI for the 2019-2021 California Garden Clubs President's Project. The mission of California Garden Clubs, Inc. promotes gardening, floral design, civic beautification, environmental responsibility and the exchange of information and ideas. These goals were near and dear to my heart while chairing Project Mission Blue since 2011. In a similar vein, I chose to raise money to restore the San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden located within San Bruno Mountain State & County Park in San Mateo County.

This one and one-half acre site was created in the late 1990's and two decades later, exists in name only. The goal is not to return the garden to its exact previous layout but to collaboratively create a new garden that fulfills the original goal of representing the native plant communities as well as create an educational center and outdoor classroom to learn about the unique flora of San Bruno Mountain. The financial goal of this two-year project is to raise \$20,000 to propagate 1,000 one gallon plants, representing 100 species native to San Bruno Mountain, and to manufacture one large interpretive sign describing the plant communities and layout of the San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden and 100 smaller signs for the individual plant species that tell a unique story of the mountain and its native plants. Your \$100 contribution will propagate three native plants from Mission Blue Nursery and one small species sign.

CGCI is devoted to the development and promotion of all phases of gardening, the betterment and beautification of communities, and the protection and conservation of our natural resources. Your generosity will make it possible for everyone who visits the San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden to learn the unique stories of the mountain and its native plants.

Your contribution will help us raise the much-needed funds that will be used to further our goals and mission. CGCI has the opportunity to make a difference with this conservation project as well as educate park visitors upon its completion thanks to your generosity.

Thank you very much for your support of our important work!

Sincerely, Shane Looper Plant America: Plant Parks

San Bruno Mountain is approximately 3,600 acres and is located at the northern boundary of San Mateo County immediately south of San Francisco. It is one of the largest open spaces in an urban setting in the United States and is bordered by the cities of Brisbane, Colma, South San Francisco, San Francisco, and Daly City. It's peak is 1,319 feet high, with expansive views of the entire Bay Area. San Bruno Mountain is one of the last remnants of a unique natural landscape that once covered the northern San Francisco Peninsula called the Franciscan fog zone.

San Bruno Mountain's topography, climate and geology come together to provide a habitat that supports an array of rare, endangered and unique species of plants and animals. It has been cited as one of the most important and threatened biodiversity sites in the world (Edward O. Wilson, *The Diversity of Life*, 1999.)

Elizabeth McClintock (1912-2004), a botanist at the California Academy of Sciences, considered the San Bruno Mountains a "botanical treasure." In her publication, *A Flora of the San Bruno Mountains* (1990, California Native Plant Society), she recorded the diversity and rich heritage of the Mountain's plant life that resulted from its topography, climate and geography.

