

# Round the Mountain



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## Spring 2016 Quarterly Newsletter

Diablo Foothills District

Vol. 28 Issue #3

### Director's Message:

Spring has arrived and our gardens are starting to come alive. This is a fabulous time of the year, and why we are gardeners. It's the enjoyment of the creation that keeps inspiring us to be outside and playing in the dirt. Garden therapy is the only way to go.

Come one come all to the special Tax Exemption Workshop we are hosting on April 21, 2016 at the Buttercup Grill and Bar on Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek. Our guest speakers will be George Perko, CPA and Krystal Migliore, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President CGCI and Group Tax Exemption Program Chairman. There is a lot to learn. This workshop provides a good understanding of the tax ramifications that each garden club and associate needs to know and provide the tax entities to maintain their 501c3, 4 or other status not only with the state and federal governments, but also with the California and National Garden Clubs. Bring all of your questions and our speakers will be happy to answer them. If you have not reserved your seat, please do so now by contacting me, at 925-693-0245 or by email at: [hmk101@comcast.net](mailto:hmk101@comcast.net). This workshop is designed for Current Board members, and also potential board members. It is not too early to reserve your seat. I guarantee you will be happy you attended this workshop.

**Reminder:** Both DFD Board and Membership meetings will be held on the Fourth Thursdays of the month effective September 22, 2016. Please mark your calendars. With this being said, we need host/hostess for the following meetings:

DFD Board Meetings:

September 22, 2016 -

January 26, 2017 – **Host: ARGC**

May 25, 2017 -

DFD Membership Meetings:

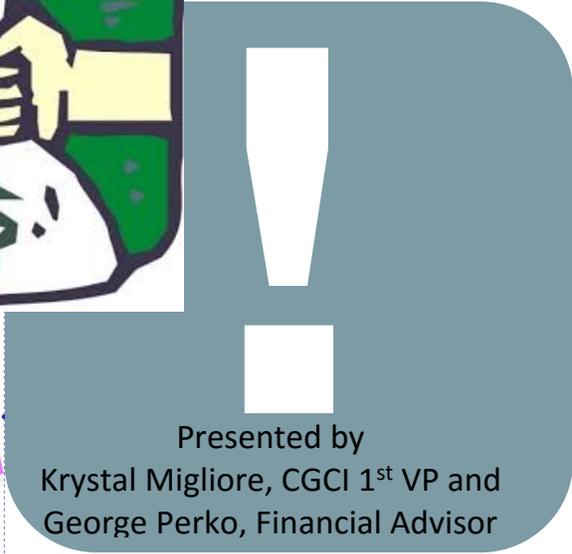
October 27, 2016 – Venue: at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge -

February 23, 2017 – **Host: ARGC**

June 22, 2017 –

Please let me know if you are willing to host a meeting. If no one steps up to do so, then a meeting date will be assigned to clubs who have not hosted in a long time.

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Presented by  
Krystal Migliore, CGCI 1<sup>st</sup> VP and  
George Perko, Financial Advisor



THURSDAY  
**April 21**  
Arrive at 9:30 am  
Workshop begins at 10:00 am

# TAX EXEMPTION WORKSHOP

SPONSORED BY DIABLO FOOTHILLS DISTRICT

An invitation to Garden Club Presidents, Treasurers, all interested GC members & Reps.

Location: Buttercup Grill and Bar, 660 Ygnacio Valley Rd. Walnut Creek

Cost: \$20.00 Includes lunch – choice of Cobb Salad, Monterey Chicken Sandwich, or Sausage and Spinach Omelette with beverage.

RSVP: Marlene Kinney, director at 925-693-0245 or hmk101@comcast.net

Head count requested by **04-18-16**; pay at the door.

District news, continued

**Heads up.** Do not forget to get your nominations for the District Floral Arranger of the Year and District Propagator of the Year Award to Karen Mahshi. It is not too early to do this. Please contact Karen with any questions you may have ([quiltedherb@earthlink.net](mailto:quiltedherb@earthlink.net))  
Happy Gardening, Marlene C. Kinney

### AWARDS TIME!

Make some notes, start taking pictures so that when late spring comes you'll be ready to submit material for :

the **DFD Propagator of the Year** or  
the **Floral Arranger of the Year.**



Your talented members deserve to be recognized.”  
**District Awards Chair—Karen Mahshi**



## CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUB, INC.

[www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.com](http://www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.com)

Time to read the Golden Gardens eNews. Now featuring the 44th President Sue Bennett and the staff that is at your service. Latest edition, MARCH, updates us on Project Mission Blue (page 4) with highlights on protecting that endangered species of butterflies. Reminder—there is a guided tour in Pacifica on Friday April 15, 12-2 to share how we are doing.

Sue's mission for her tenure is to “Encourage Future Gardeners”. Kits for Kids—Take a look at all the information that CGCI provides on a monthly basis. It is working!

## Pacific Region State Garden Clubs-WACONIAH

[www.pacificregiongardenclub.org/waconiah](http://www.pacificregiongardenclub.org/waconiah)

Supporting Washington, Alaska, California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Arizona And Hawaii



## NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB—NGC

[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

### “Milkweed and Monarchs”

“Milkweed is the host plant for the **Monarch Butterfly**. If you need Milkweed, either seeds or plants, you can find additional resources through the Monarch Watch program at <http://www.monarchwatch.org/>.

You can see what variety of milkweed is needed in your area by checking through the regions and seed needs at <http://www.monarchwatch.org/bring-back-the-monarchs/milkweed/milkweed-regions-seed-needs/>. Check to see if they have Milkweed for your area at <http://monarchwatch.org/milkweed/market/> as that is the variety they will send. Milkweed plugs can be sent free to any school, or non profit organization. Program information and the application can be found at <http://monarchwatch.org/bring-back-the-monarchs/milkweed/free-milkweeds/>.” from the NGC site, written by President Sandra L.

## DIABLO FOOTHILLS DISTRICT CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS



**Antioch Riverview Garden Club** - *Marina Studer*  
*and Olga Schultx*, Co -Presidents

Usually, our scheduled meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month, at the Antioch Public Library, 501 W. 18<sup>th</sup> St. at 7 PM



**Clayton Valley Garden Club—**  
*Diane Selmer*, President

Although Clayton Valley Garden Club does not have meetings in December and January, we have been a busy garden club as usual. During the second week in February for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual 'Blossoms for Barbara' event, club members delivered 1230 blooming plants to Hospice patients, Meals on Wheels recipients, Convalescent Care, Veterans Centers, and battered women's shelters. In February members were busy pruning roses at the Clayton Community Library and cleaning up the Clayton Museum Garden. Also, in February members had a Potting Party to pot up plants propagated last fall and started new seeds of which seedlings are now being transplanted to 4 inch pots. Currently, members are very busy preparing for the Annual Plant Sale to be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Endeavor Hall downtown Clayton from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Hoop House CVGC members built last fall has done a fabulous job protecting plants overwinter and plants are in bloom ready for the sale. The plants love all the refractive light bouncing off the special greenhouse plastic sheet and the protective climate within. About 20 members will be going on a fieldtrip to Ruth Bancroft Garden following the February presentation by Troy McGregor, RBG Manager. In March, Rose Loveall of Morningsun Herb Farm of Vacaville, spoke to us about "Herbs for the Mediterranean Garden." She focused on drought tolerant herb choices for culinary and medicinal uses as well as herbs that attract beneficial insects. Our April speaker will be Kelly Marshall of [kmgardendesigns.com](http://kmgardendesigns.com) and from Markham Regional Arbo-retum. Kelly's topic is native plants for the bay area climate.

In May, Clayton's own Garden Girl and past CVGC President, Nicole Hackett, [gardengirl94517@yahoo.com](mailto:gardengirl94517@yahoo.com) will bring plants and as always will provide a very entertaining presentation.





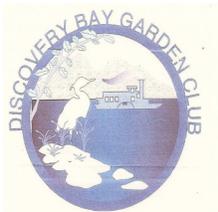
**Walnut Creek Garden Club**—*Jan Howard and Margaret Stewart, Co-Presidents*

The Walnut Creek Garden Club’s April meeting will convene at the Gardens at Heather Farm at 9:30 am. On Monday, April 11, for our usual speedy business meeting. After the meeting we will head out to visit the Master Gardeners’ public demonstration site, Our Garden, for a tour. Come and join us for edible garden planting inspiration!

Our Garden

2405 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek, Ca. 94598

(corner of North Wiget Land & Shadelands Drive)



**Discovery Bay Garden Club**—*April McBeth, President*

Discovery Bay has nothing to report at this time.



**Contra Costa Rose Society**—[www.ccrose.org](http://www.ccrose.org)

Meets on the fourth Monday of each month (although there are some exceptions). We are now meeting at the Pleasant Hill Community Center. All meetings (except the annual November potluck dinner and Saturday events) start at 7:00 p.m.

Please check out the CCRS website above where you will find much information on caring for roses.

**CONCORD GARDEN CLUB**— *Devlyn Sewell—President*

The March meeting of Concord Garden Club hosted Chris Llata a speaker and tree arborist from the City of Concord. His presentation was on the health of our trees. Please note that we are also conducting a plant sale Saturday May 14 in front of the Salvation Army.



## LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

*Tia Kay* —President

From January until April 16, members of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club have prepared for their gigantic annual plant sale which is held at Amador Valley High School in the parking lot. Potting parties are held in January and February. This year the emphasis was on veggies as past experience at sales tells us that is what buyers want. However, we had a vast assortment of annuals and perennials, succulents and shrubs, roses and a huge section of garden related items. Customers were looking forward to planting after years of drought.



Money earned at the Plant Sale helps pay for excellent speakers at our meetings. In January we heard Dr. Lisa Tell, Director of UC Davis Hummingbird Health and Conservative Program speak on what we as gardeners can do to help the hummingbirds. Anita Clevenger, curator of the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden spoke on climbing roses and those most adaptable to grow in our valley at the February meeting. March brought us Bill MacNamera, executive director of Quarryhill Botanical Gardens in Glen Ellen, speaking on Asian influenced plants. Succulents were the main focus of our April meeting with Paolo and Darya Ferrer, owners of Succiko of Castro Valley.

LAVGC cont.

LAVGC continued from page 7

**The Eden Project Organic Garden – a community service project of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club**

The Eden Project is an organic garden located on the Crosswinds Church property in Livermore. The picturesque site was formerly the Freisman Drive Thru Dairy and features several wonderful old barns and other historical buildings. LAVGC members, Barbara Stott and Karen Abbruscato head up the project.

The Eden Project has two simple goals: To provide fresh, organic produce to those in need and to provide a place where people can learn to grow their own food.

The produce is donated to the South Hayward Outreach Center where there is great need and to the Alameda County Food Bank satellite in Livermore. Last season we donated over 2000 pounds of produce. Members of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club support Eden garden with garden assistance and donations. Work parties are on the second Saturday of the month and most Thursday mornings.

For more information contact [garden@crosswindschurch.org](mailto:garden@crosswindschurch.org).



Members of the LAVGC  
Planting potatoes and other  
Edibles in their Eden  
Project Organic Garden

Below picture:  
Harvest Time!



## District and CGCI Affiliates:

*Northern California Camelia  
Society—  
Robert E. Ehrhart, president*



THE RUTH BANCROFT  
GARDEN

**Ruth Bancroft Garden** [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org)  
1552 Bancroft Road Walnut Creek, CA 94598 phone: (925) 944-9352

**About The Ruth Bancroft Garden:** The 3.5 acre Ruth Bancroft Garden is filled with thousands of unique drought tolerant plants. Ruth started the Garden, adjacent to her home, in 1972 with one-gallon pots of a wide variety of succulents, many of which are still part of the Garden. Opened to the public in the early 1990s, the Garden is an outstanding example of a water-conserving garden, appropriate for its Mediterranean climate, and its staff are respected authorities on succulents and dry gardens. The Garden houses important collections of aloes, agaves, yuccas, and echeverias.

**What:** Come make memories with Mom. Relax in the Garden on a beautiful Spring day. Bring a picnic along for everyone to enjoy. Learn something new together on a docent tour.

- Picnic seating available throughout the Garden
  - Hands-on garden activity for the whole family
  - Docent-led tours at 11am, 12:30pm, and 2pm
- Dish gardens and other garden inspired gifts for mom

**When:** Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8 - Garden open 10am - 4pm

**Admission:** \$10/adults; \$8/students and seniors; free for RBG members and accompanying children up to age 18

**For more information:** Please visit [The Ruth Bancroft Garden website](http://The Ruth Bancroft Garden website) or call 925-944-9352.

### *Herb Society of America, Northern California Unit*

President Martha Scheer, for more information please contact via email: [ncuhsa@gmail.com](mailto:ncuhsa@gmail.com)  
Meetings are held on second Sunday of the month 2-4pm at Rogers Ranch in Pleasant Hill (925) 979-9303.

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*Diablo View Orchid Society*, President—[Sun Lee](#), email: hesperiancleaners@gmail.com, Newsletter—[Jamie Wasson](#), email: dvosnews@gmail.com, District Rep—[Meg Crosby](#), email: megcrosby@gmail.com

CALLING ALL ORCHID LOVERS



Join the members and friends of Diablo View Orchid Society for a show and sale October 15th at the Willow Pass Recreation Center, 2748 E Olivera Rd, Concord . See interesting and unusual orchids, expertly grown by DVOS members. Get tips and techniques for growing and blooming orchids at mini-skill workshops. Buy quality orchids from a variety of Northern California vendors. Clip and save this coupon for a \$3 entry . Hope to see you on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. For more information [www.dvos.org](http://www.dvos.org)

## *Gardens at Heather Farm*

### **SPRING PLANT SALE**

*Browse Hundreds of Different Plants to Make Your Garden Shine*

The rains have softened and nourished the ground, and the warm temperatures welcomed Spring's bloom , which means it's the perfect time to start filling up your garden with new plants. On **Saturday, April 9 from 8am to 12pm**, join The Gardens at Heather Farm for another lovely morning and walk away with some fantastic plants, great deals, and perhaps a little more knowledge about the art of gardening.

Got your eye on some Penstemon, Salvia, or Geranium? Envisioning a yard filled with African Daisy, Lavender, and Columbine? Well, if you've checked the local garden retailer ads, you might be a little nervous about paying so much for sprucing up your yards — but never fear! Our plants cultivated by our in-house propagation team are being sold for much less than regular retail price. Gallon pots are only \$6.50; everything smaller is only \$4.50.

Featuring over 250 unique plant species and varieties available including: California Natives. Shrubs, Groundcovers, Perennials, Grasses, Ferns, Annuals, Drought-tolerant Varieties. Garden Manager, Brian Larsen and a crew of garden volunteers will be on hand to share tips and answer questions. All proceeds benefit the ongoing maintenance of our free public garden and our education programs for children and adults.

**ADMISSION IS FREE — RAIN OR SHINE!**

GHF cont.

## **CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY IN WALNUT CREEK ON MAY 6**

*Free Garden Tours, Floral Demonstrations, Gardening Advice, Prizes & More*

The Gardens at Heather Farm is proud to announce participation with American Public Gardens Association for “National Public Gardens Day” on Friday, May 6, offering a schedule of free activities throughout the day. The Gardens invites visitors to share in this valuable community resource and experience the wonders of nature provided by its six-acre public garden and wildlife habitat nestled on a picturesque hillside in Walnut Creek.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, “fewer Americans have a connection to nature than ever before in the history of the U.S.” Public gardens, such as The Gardens at Heather Farm, exist to bridge that gap and help local communities share in the wonders of our natural world. The Gardens offers a place to learn about and enjoy an inspiring variety of flowers, trees and wildlife. A Youth Education Program provides natural science classes to over 15,000 local students, while an Adult Education Program offers lectures and workshops perfect for home gardeners and nature lovers. A series of garden beautification projects have recently been completed, with plans on the horizon to build a greenhouse that will enrich the garden and expand teaching opportunities.

Bring a picnic lunch, learn more about The Gardens’ organization and celebrate the wonderful world of gardening on National Public Gardens Day!

**On Friday, May 6, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., visitors to The Gardens will enjoy the following free activities:**

- Guided garden tours by trained volunteer docents
  - Floral demonstrations
- Expert gardening advice from GHF Garden Manager, Brian Larsen
- Chance to win prizes including fresh floral arrangements and potted plants
- Crafts for kids
- Complimentary refreshments

**For more information, visit [www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org).**

## Highlights from the last district meeting:



Victoria Lucido introduced Speaker Don Vivatson, of the Alder Group.  
His topic: Making your yard pop with curb appeal. He showed examples of work performed in our local area using architectural hardscape and drought tolerant plants.



Karen Mahshi shared two of her rose quilts, and their history as part of our meeting decorations. Thank you!



Butterfly Tile:  
One of the items up for auction  
At our district meeting.

## DIABLO FOOTHILLS DISTRICT IMPORTANT DATES:

### 1. Board AND General Meeting Dates:

Remaining Board Meeting for season: 5/26/2016

Remaining General and Awards Meeting: 6/16/2016

### 2. NEWSLETTER DATES TO REMEMBER:

(I am trying to coordinate newsletters with the board and general meetings)

Summer Newsletter—Articles are due July 1, newsletter to be published on July 25

2016-7 SEASON:

Fall Newsletter Articles are due September 1, newsletter to be published September 15

Diablo Foothills District  
 Diablo Foothills District  
 Calendar of Events

<u>date</u>	<u>sponsor</u>	<u>topic</u>	<u>location</u>
4-Mar	Gardens of Heather Farms	Propagation Class	GHF
12-Mar	Ruth Bancroft Gardens	Trees: Drought to El Nino Workshop	RBG
13-Mar	Herb Society	general meeting	Rogers Ranch, PH
28-Mar	Contra Costa Rose Society	general meeting	Pleasant Hill Community Center
<b>1-Apr</b>		<b>Articles for the District Newsletter, Round the Mountain, DUE</b>	<b>mail to: <a href="mailto:pljn@aol.com">pljn@aol.com</a></b>
9-Apr	Gardens of Heather Farms	PLANT SALE	GHF
9-Apr	Gardens of Heather Farms	Intro to our Local Waterways	GHF
9-Apr	Ruth Bancroft Gardens	Lawn to Garden workshop	RBG
Apr 15-17	Ruth Bancroft Gardens	Spring Fling	RBG
16-Apr	Livermore Amador Valley GC	SPRING PLANT SALE	Amador Valley HS Parking Lot
16-Apr	Gardens of Heather Farms	Water and Wildlife	GHF
<b>21-Apr</b>		<b>Meeting on California and Non Profit Tax Filings</b>	<b>call <a href="mailto:Marlene.Kinney">Marlene Kinney</a> for details</b>
<b>22-Apr</b>		<b>EARTH DAY</b>	
23-Apr	Gardens of Heather Farms	Vege Gardening in Changing Climate	GHF
7-May	Gardens of Heather Farms	Managing Bugs, Good, Bad, & Ugly	GHF
15-May	Gardens of Heather Farms	Discover Walnut Creek's Watershed	GHF (This is a Hike)
21-May	Gardens of Heather Farms	Healthy Soil for your Home Garden	GHF