



Clayton Valley Garden Club

February 2019 Newsletter



"Life begins the day you start your garden" - Club Motto

CVGC FEBRUARY 13, 2019 MEETING

The recent deadly fires around the state have shown us that we need to protect our homes from wild fires. Cheryl Miller from the Diablo Fire Safe Council and Kathy Woofter from the Contra Costa Fire Prevention District will talk to us about vegetation management and how to create a defensible space around our homes.



GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS 2019

President - Marlene Kinney
Vice President - Elaine Billeter
Secretary - Linda Shubin
Treasurer - Vicki Sexton
Membership - Carolyn Whitmore and Linda Cruz
Programs - Robin Willis
Parliamentarian - Judy Bates

Club meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Diamond Terrace Retirement Living, 6401 Center Street, Clayton, CA

[californiagardenclubs.com/
claytonvalleygardenclub](http://californiagardenclubs.com/claytonvalleygardenclub)
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Nancy Niemeyer, Editor

If you haven't renewed your 2019 CVGC membership, please fill out the renewal form and bring it to the February meeting.

MEETING SPEAKERS & TREATS

February 13: Cheryl Miller and Kathy Woofter will talk about fire safety. Treats - Marlene Kinney. Drinks - Marlene Kinney.

March 13: Jimmie St. Arnold will demonstrate how to arrange flowers. Treats - TBA. Drinks - TBA.

CVGC President's Message

February 2019

I want to start by thanking all the CVGC leaders who have come before me. Without their hard work, we would not be here. Please join me in 2019 to move CVGC forward to the next level by showing our community who we are and how much we care about civic beautification and our environment. Let's work together to teach future gardeners about healthy eating and the benefits of growing our own food. A lot has been done and we can do more.



I would love to hear ideas, suggestions, and opinions from every member. For those who don't feel comfortable speaking in public, I will have a Suggestion Box at each general meeting. You can also email me or speak to me directly. All your suggestions and ideas will be seen and considered by me only before I bring them to your club Officers.

Plans and preparations are already underway for events such as Blossoms for Barbara, the annual plant sale, and the CBCA BBQ. This is just the beginning. Stay tuned, more is coming.

2019 will be a New Year and a New Way. I invite every member to come to at least one meeting and see for yourself how our new Officers and Chairs will work to inspire more participation by all. Together we can accomplish great things. It is not the size of the garden that is important, it is the enjoyment of its creation. I look forward in working with all of you.



ABOUT THIS MONTH'S SPEAKERS

Cheryl Miller is a registered landscape architect and coauthor of the book 'Managing Fire in the Urban Wildland Interface'. She has specialized in wildfire related issues since the Oakland Firestorm in 1991. She works on wildfire prevention with the Hills Emergency Forum, the Diablo Fire Safe Council in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and with fire departments throughout California.



Kathy Woofert is a Fire Prevention Technician with the Contra Costa Fire Prevention District. The District inspects new and existing homes, businesses, and properties to ensure they comply with the California Fire Code; investigates the origin and causes of fires; reviews construction plans; and educates the public on how to deal with fire and other disaster emergencies.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - submitted by co-Officer, Linda Cruz

If you have not yet renewed your 2019 CVGC membership, please complete the renewal form and bring it to the February 13th meeting with your payment. Membership dues are \$25 for one member and \$37.50 for a family. Checks should be made payable to CVGC. It would be very helpful if you could fill out the back side of the form to let us know your interests and ideas. We would like for members turn in their renewals as soon as possible so we can get the Club Yearbook & Directory printed on schedule.



CVGC CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday, December 8, CVGC held our annual Christmas party at Toni and Doug Hegemier's house. We had great food and a lively 'steal-a-gift' game. Thank you to our hosts, Toni and Doug, for their hospitality.

PENNY PINES - submitted by Steve Lane

At our November CVGC meeting, I was happy to present a framed Penny Pines certificate to Fran Veal. Since she joined CVGC in 2015, she has served as our club Treasurer; Keller Ranch and Hoop House Project Chair; and has regularly volunteered at the plant sale, propagation parties, Hoop House, and the Clayton Library beds.

Fran selected the Stanislaus National Forest for her Penny Pines plantation, because it is very near her favorite "happy place" in the world, Yosemite National Park. It is also close to her vacation home near the Calaveras Big Trees Forest.

Fran's Penny Pines plantation certificate was CVGC's fourth in 2018. By the end of the year, we had donated \$340 for our wildfire-devastated California National Forests. 2018 was the worst wildfire season in California history so our donations are even more important to help restore what was lost. We will have at least one more Penny Pines certificate to present to another outstanding CVGC member at our February meeting.

Thanks again to all our CVGC members, for your generous support of the Penny Pines Program! Learn more at: californiagardenclubs.com/pennypines



MUSEUM WORK PARTY - submitted by Chair Steve Lane

On Saturday, December 8th, eleven enthusiastic CVGC volunteers helped weed, prune, trim, plant, and tidy up at the Clayton Historical Society Museum's Educational Garden. We had a great turnout; a clear, cool, rain-free morning; and great camaraderie, fresh donuts, and hot apple cider. We left the Garden looking better than it has all year! Thank you Ingela Nielsen and Linda Cruz for taking photos. Our next CVGC Museum Garden Work Party will be on Saturday, February 9 at 9 a.m...with fresh donuts and apple cider for all!

2018 was an exciting year for the Museum Garden. On February 7, the long-awaited Museum Garden Improvements Project broke ground and was under construction by Donisi Landscape Construction for most of the year. In May, the donor-funded engraved bricks were installed. Thank you to our community of brick donors for the \$15,000 they raised to help fund the project! In July, the first batch of 40 California native plants (propagated and donated by CVGC's Nancy Niemeyer) were planted. In October, additional native and non-native plants were installed along the Main Street sidewalk.

In November, both the micro irrigation system and the decorative metal fence surrounding the Agricultural and Mining exhibit area were constructed. Then the rusty jewel of the exhibit was towed from storage and craned into position, a 1937 McCormick-Deering steel-wheeled tractor. Finally, a thick blanket of mulch was applied to the planting beds and the Garden Improvements Project was officially completed and put to "sleep" for the winter. There will be an official ribbon-cutting dedication of the Museum Garden this spring when the garden will be in full bloom. Until then, please visit the Garden and enjoy the improvements firsthand.

The Clayton Museum Garden is an extension of the Museum's interior exhibit space with Native American and native California plant areas along with a Cottage Garden. The garden also highlights local wildlife as well as Clayton's agricultural and mining history. The Improvements Project has been supported by the Clayton Historical Society, the Clayton Business and Community Association (CBCA), and local organizations, businesses, and individuals, including CVGC.



HOOP HOUSE PROJECT - submitted by co-Chair Linda Cruz

In preparation for winter, we put a plastic covering around the shade house and at the Hoop House entrances to help protect the plants from frost damage. When the temperatures were warm enough, we opened the plastic to get air flow around the plants and then closed it again when the night temperatures were forecast to drop below freezing. Thank you to Toni and Doug Hegemier, Jesse Cruz, and Patty Remoy for helping to put up the plastic coverings. Jesse and Doug also installed a very nice pull down shade (Coolaroo) which will really help keep us shaded in the summer and should give some frost protection in the winter. We girls (Diane Selmer, Toni, and I) installed a new shade cloth over our work area structure.

The plants are looking very good. Every Saturday and Tuesday we have been checking to make sure the pots don't dry out, especially the ones in the Hoop House. Since most of the watering has been taken care of by Mother Nature, the watering team has had a little vacation.

We have to be careful not to water some of the plants too much. I learned at our Alden Lane Nursery outing that we killed the candytuft (Iberis) plants by overwatering. Oh well, we are always learning, many times the hard way. To make it easier for the watering crew, we've put yellow stickers on the plants that need to dry out before watering.

Thank you to the brave folks who have been coming out to help in the rain and cold: Toni, Doug, Jesse, Patty, Diane, Carolyn Whitmore, Lynda Smith, Lew and Carla Thompson, Gloria Utley, Judy Disbrow, and Cara Wahl.

Spring will be a busy time at the Hoop House. There is still cardboard to lay down and a mountain of mulch to spread. We also need to get busy propagating for the plant sale. There is lots of other work to do at the Hoop House such as: weeding, trimming, fertilizing, checking plant labels, keeping pots topped up with soil, treating pest infestations, and organizing. Please come join us on Saturday and Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Gloria Utley's property.



CVGC PLANT SALE - submitted by co-Chair, Linda Cruz

The 2019 Plant Sale will be here before we know it and there's lots of work to do. As usual, the sale will be held the day before Mother's Day, Saturday, May 11th. Co-Chairs Linda Cruz, Toni Hegemier, and Rory Richmond will host a Plant Sale Committee meeting in February and a plant sale sign up sheet will be available at the February CVGC meeting.

We need to do more propagating to prepare for the sale. Tomato seeds can be started now although herb seeds should wait until later or they will go to seed before May. If you need to trim your succulents, please root some florets or leaves in a pot of soil and put them in bright indirect light. They don't need much water during winter but will want it when the weather warms up. If you would like to give us volunteer starts or divided plants from your garden, please bring them to the Hoop House for potting up.

We are planning to hold propagation work parties on February 16 and 23 from 10 a.m. to noon, weather permitting. More information will be provided at the Feb 13th meeting. If you are willing to host a work party, please let Linda, Toni, or Rory know. We also have paints and supplies for making painted rocks stored at the Hoop House Project shed.



BLOSSOMS FOR BARBARA - submitted by Chair Linda Karp

The first week of February, we will have our 8th annual 'Blossoms for Barbara' event. We will be delivering decorated flowering plants to hospice patients, elderly Meals on Wheels recipients, battered women's shelters, veterans in hospitals, and convalescent facilities.



DIABLO FOOTHILLS DISTRICT MEETING

The Diablo Foothills District Board and general meeting will be on Thursday, February 28, at the Walnut Creek Elks Club. The social time starts at 10 a.m., the meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m., and our speaker Tom Perlite of Golden Gate Orchids, will talk at 11:30 a.m. about how to care for orchids. Attendance is free and all DFD garden club members are invited. Please RSVP by February 25 to Linda Holmes at pljn@aol.com. For more information about Golden Gate Orchids, go to Tom's website at: goldengateorchids.com/

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY/MARCH

*** **Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon CVGC Hoop House Project work parties at Gloria Utley's property in Clayton.**

Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at North Wiget Lane and Mitchell Drive in Walnut Creek: Diablo Valley Farmers' Market. For more information, go to: www.cafarmersmkts.com/diablo-valley-farmers-market

*****February 1.** CVGC membership renewals for 2019 are due.

February 2 from 10 to 11 a.m., Saturday, at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek: Brian Kemble will give a tour of aloes blooming in the garden. The tour costs \$30 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. For more information and to register, go to: www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/event/blooming-aloee-garden-tour/

February 2 at 10 a.m., Saturday, at Sloat Garden Center in Concord: Dustin Strobel will give a workshop on growing citrus. The class is free for Sloat Rewards Members (membership is free) and \$10 for nonmembers. For more information and to register, go to: www.sloatgardens.com/whats-happening/seminars-events/

*****February 9 at 9 a.m., Saturday, at the Clayton Museum Educational Garden.** Work party. See page 4.

February 9 at 10 a.m., Saturday, at Sloat Garden Center in Concord: Dustin Strobel will give a workshop on how to clean the air in your home using houseplants. The class is free for Sloat Rewards Members (membership is free) and \$10 for nonmembers. For more information and to register, go to: www.sloatgardens.com/whats-happening/seminars-events/

February 9 from 10 to 11 a.m., Saturday, at Orchard Nursery in Lafayette: Valentine's Day terrarium workshop. The workshop costs \$45. For more information, go to: www.orchardnursery.com/events/

February 9 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, at the First Lutheran Church in Concord: Diablo View Orchid Society will hold their Valentine's Day Orchid Show and Sale. Admission is \$5. For more information, go to: dvos.org/

February 9 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, Saturday, at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek: The Garden will host a class on creating a heart-shaped succulent wreath. The class costs \$65 for members and \$70 for nonmembers. For more information and to register, go to: www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/event/diy-succulent-heart-wreath/

February 10 from 1 to 4 p.m., Sunday, at the Clayton Historical Society Museum on Main St. in Clayton: the Clayton Historical Society will host the 42st annual Camellia Tea. The event and parking are free. For more information, call 672-0240.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY/MARCH

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*****February 13 from 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, in Clayton:** CGVC meeting, Cheryl Miller and Kathy Woofter will talk about protecting your home from wildfires. See page 1.

*****February 16 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Saturday:** Propagation work party. Location TBA. See page 6.

February 21 from 10 to 11 a.m., Thursday, at Orchard Nursery in Lafayette: Free orchid repotting demo. For more information, go to: www.orchardnursery.com/events/

February 23 from 10 to 11 a.m., Saturday, at Orchard Nursery in Lafayette: Free talk on caring for houseplants. For more information, go to: www.orchardnursery.com/events/

February 23 at 10 a.m., Saturday, at Sloat Garden Center in Concord: Dustin Stroebel will give a workshop for kids on using old toys in a planter. The class is \$15 for Sloat Rewards Members (membership is free) and \$25 for nonmembers. For more information and to register, go to: www.sloatgardens.com/whats-happening/seminars-events/

*****February 23 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Saturday:** Propagation work party. Location TBA. See page 6.

February 24 at 10 a.m., Sunday, at Sloat Garden Center in Concord: Elizabeth Ruiz will give a workshop on how to prune Japanese Maples. The class is free for Sloat Rewards Members (membership is free) and \$10 for nonmembers. For more information and to register, go to: www.sloatgardens.com/whats-happening/seminars-events/

*****February 28 at 10 a.m., Thursday, at the Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr. in Walnut Creek:** Diablo Foothills District (DFD) Board and general meeting. Tom Perlite of Golden Gate Orchids will talk about how to care for orchids. Attendance is free and all DFD garden club members are invited. Please RSVP by February 25th to Linda Holmes at pljn@aol.com. See page 6.

March 2 at 10 a.m., Saturday, at Sloat Garden Center in Concord: Elizabeth Ruiz will give a workshop on how to prune citrus. The class is free for Sloat Rewards Members (membership is free) and \$10 for nonmembers. For more information and to register, go to: www.sloatgardens.com/whats-happening/seminars-events/

March 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, in Pittsburg: Greywater Action will give a workshop on how to install a system to use washer water in your landscape. The workshop costs \$15. For more information and how to register, go to: www.eventbrite.com/e/greywater-installation-workshop-tickets-55431642535

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY/MARCH

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March 2 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, at Mt. View Sanitary District in Martinez:

Kelly Davidson and Lisa Tell will give a free workshop all about hummingbirds. For more information about the workshop and how to register, go to: mvsd.org/event/hummingbird-workshop/?instance_id=84

March 3 at 10 a.m., Sunday, at Sloat Garden Center in Concord: Dustin Strobel will give a workshop on how to prepare a spring vegetable garden. The class is free for Sloat Rewards Members (membership is free) and \$10 for nonmembers. For more information and to register, go to: www.sloatgardens.com/whats-happening/seminars-events/

March 9 at 10 a.m., Saturday, at Sloat Garden Center in Concord: The staff will give a seminar on soil and fertilizer. The class is free for Sloat Rewards Members (membership is free) and \$10 for nonmembers. For more information and to register, go to: www.sloatgardens.com/whats-happening/seminars-events/

March 9 - 10 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, and 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday at St. Andrews Celebration Center in Pleasant Hill: Northern California Camellia show and sale. For more information, go to: californiagardenclubs.com/calendar

March 12 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, Tuesday, at Orchard Nursery in Lafayette: Free orchid repotting demo. For more information, go to: www.orchardnursery.com/events/

March 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, at the Lafayette Library: UC Master Gardener Terry Lippert will give a free talk on container gardening and gardening in small spaces. For more information, go to: ccmg.ucanr.edu/?calitem=433996

*****March 13 from 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, in Clayton:** CGVC meeting. Jimmie St. Arnold, an instructor at Mt. Diablo Adult Education, will demonstrate how to make flower arrangements. See page 1.

March 20 - 24 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday - Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at the Cow Palace in Daly City: The San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. Tickets vary in price. For more information, go to: www.sfgardenshow.com/

March 21 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Thursday, at the Rodgers Ranch Heritage Center in Pleasant Hill: Anna Marie Beauchemin will give a workshop on growing and using herbs. The workshop costs \$25. For more information and to register, go to: sustainablecoco.ning.com/events/growing-and-using-herbs

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY/MARCH

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March 23 from 10 to 11 a.m., Saturday, at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek:

Nathan Miller will give a talk on Tillandsia (air plants). The talk costs \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. For more information and to register, go to:

www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/event/all-about-air-plants/

March 24 from 10 to 12 noon, Sunday, at McDonnell Nursery in Orinda:

Lori Caldwell will give a talk about mulch, compost, drip irrigation, and native plants. For more information and to register, go to:

www.ebmud.com/about-us/events/sustainable-practices-water-wise-gardening/

CVGC OFFICER AND CHAIR CONTACT INFORMATION

Bates, Judy (Parliamentarian): JLBates5900@sbcglobal.net

Billeter, Elaine (Vice President): b.billeter@sbcglobal.net

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Cline King, Laney (Mt. Diablo Elementary School co-Chair): laneycline@gmail.com

Cruz, Linda (Membership co-Officer, Hoop House co-Chair, Plant Sale co-Chair):
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Hackett, Nicole (Fourth of July Parade Chair): gardengirl94517@yahoo.com

Hegemier, Toni (Plant Sale co-Chair, Hoop House co-Chair): theggie@aol.com

Karp, Linda (Blossoms for Barbara Chair): alohalindak@yahoo.com

Kinney, Marlene (President): hmk101@comcast.net

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Sexton, Vicki (Treasurer): VickiSexton@hotmail.com

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Whitmore, Carolyn (Membership co-Officer): cew3340@mindspring.com

Willis, Robin (Programs, Webmaster): rdwillis927@gmail.com

Hospitality, Clayton Community Library, Club Rep to the Diablo Foothills District, Diablo View Middle School, Historian, and Publicity: **Open**