



Forget Me Nots

Orinda Garden Club
Member of Garden Club of America

March 2007



REGULAR MEETING Thursday, March 22

Orinda Country Club
9:30am coffee,
10:00am meeting

Prepare for the Fiesta! flower show. The news of our show has traveled among other local clubs and they will be visiting us to see what we can do. We will do a lot of fun things and “wow” them.

Joan Andrews will explain how to enter the photography division and how to prepare your photo for judging. Isa Mary Ziegler will discuss horticulture and what to expect when you bring your beautiful plants to be judged as well as the passing and grooming process. Gail Emmons will conduct the flower arranging sections and demonstrate how to get your arrangement ready for the passing. Phoebe Kahl will show you some mechanics that will enhance your entry. Finally, Diana Kennedy will construct a monochromatic arrangement — a demonstration both informative and interesting. Enjoy! Heather

President's Corner

This last OGC horticulture meeting, a slide presentation on garden features and elements by Jackie Voigt, was such a treat to see. Jackie, Betsy Bingham and Judy Cortese had taken slides of members' gardens and shown that a bench, a statue, a water feature, a gate or an arbor created interest and a uniqueness in the individuals' garden. I thought of a speaker at a recent meeting who spoke about what a garden is and what it shows. "A garden should embrace both calmness and activity. Plants and objects should be placed so that it works as a balanced whole." We were shown areas of quiet such as a comfortable bench where we could view our garden and other areas where we could dine with our family and friends. We were shown many gates which might take us on a journey through the gate, up a pathway, toward an end point of a statue, a fountain or a bird bath. We saw many water elements such as ponds, waterfalls, water trickling down a rock, or just a basin filled with water.

I have dug holes, moved plants and brought in art longer than I care to remember but each year is like a new one and I, for one, am ready to tackle my garden! I hope you enjoyed their presentation as much as I did. Joyce

CALENDAR

**WAGNER RANCH
NATURE AREA**
March 8 9:00 am

FIESTA ! COMMITTEE
March 8 1:00.
Orinda Country Club

BOUQUETS
March 12 10:00
Jean Schommer's

HORTICULTURE
March 15 10:00
Suanne Inman's

GENERAL MEETING
March 22 OCC
mini-luncheons

FMN DEADLINE
March 28

BOARD MEETINGS
April 3 9:45 am
Dona Snow's

CONSERVATION
April 17 10:00am
Alice Waters Edible
Garden Tour

*** **FIESTA !** ***
Friday, May 4

HORTICULTURE

Thursday, March 15 10 am
Suanne Inman's

Join us at Suanne's home for a discussion of "Life after Lawn" by Anthony Garza. Anthony, an engaging speaker, is the Supervisor of Horticulture and Grounds at UC Botanical Garden. His expertise in ornamental grasses and Mediterranean plants will be of interest to all.



SAVE-THE-DATE —

Thursday, April 12

Field trip to Quarryhill Botanical Garden
Sonoma

FLOWER SHOW

March 8 1:00 OCC

Fiesta Committee meeting

All OGC members are urged to come to this very important meeting. Whether you have experience in flower shows or not, please attend. The more ideas and suggestions will make for a better event. We need you!

CELEBRATING FIESTA!

The evening of the *Fiesta!* flower show OGC will celebrate its anniversary with a Mexican buffet/cocktail party. Reservations will be taken by Midge Zischke at \$50 per person (cash bar). A reservation form will be found in the April FMN.



Phoebe and Heather

FROM CONSERVATION . . .

Tuesday, April 17th 10:00am

Tour the Alice Waters Edible Garden project at Martin Luther King Jr. school followed by lunch at 11:30 at Chez Panisse.

Although space for the tour is open, we are taking a waiting list for the lunch, due to limited space at the restaurant. We are currently negotiating to increase the number of reservations at Chez Panisse. Call Jane or MJ before March 12th. Carpools will leave from the OCC lower parking lot at 9:30 am.

This month we continue to spotlight organizations receiving funds from OGC:

"Save Mt. Diablo" is dedicated to saving as much of the natural environment of Mt. Diablo as possible. The organization buys land when it can and adds it to public parklands, and works with developers and local government to include open space in every development project proposed on the mountain's slopes. It provides a strong voice in Sacramento to make sure that Mount Diablo State Park will always be open to the public.



Calochortus pulchellus

Mt Diablo provides habitat for over one-hundred species of animals and six-hundred and fifty species of flowering plants, including a dozen endangered species along with *Calochortus pulchellus* depicted in the OGC logo.

Tuesday, May 22nd — Save the Date — Bay Area Ridge Trail Hike high above the town of Crockett. Lunch follows at the trendy "Dead Fish" restaurant. Look for the sign up sheet at the March meeting.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

THE GARDENS AT HEATHER FARM

- INTRODUCTION TO ORCHIDS
March 10 9:3 - 12:00
- CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS/
PERENNIALS March 24
Susan Handijian & Patrice Hanlon
call GHF 947-1678 for reservation & more info on
all events at gardenshf.org

NORTHERN CALIF. DAFFODIL SOCIETY

FLOWER SHOW- March 10,11
Pleasant Hill Community Center

TULIP FESTIVAL, MT VIEW CEMETARY

(Oakland, off Piedmont Ave)
March 30 - April 1
Flower show & garden display.

BOUQUETS TO ART 2007

Returns to the de Young Museum!
March 20-24

OGC UPDATES

MEMBERSHIP —

Applications for membership are due on Mar 15. We do have 4 openings. Send application forms and supporting letters together to DD Felton.

MINI-LUNCHEONS

March 22 — following the regular meeting

Don't forget the mini luncheons! Our hostesses will contact you soon with your "spot". Please try to attend, as we have arranged an extra house, to accommodate everyone. Call me if you have any questions. Happy lunching — Patty

FOLLOW UP TO JANUARY'S PROPAGATION CLASS OF PELARGONIUMS

Almost six weeks have passed since the Pelargonium propagation class for the flower show was done. By now some of you should have cuttings that have rooted. If the roots are quite well developed the next step is to plant them in potting soil. Lift the clump carefully — it is not necessary to remove the vermiculite from the roots — and place in a half filled (with light potting soil) four inch plastic container, set in gently and put more soil in on top of the roots. Firm gently

with your hands, water and continue to leave the plant in the house in light and warmth. In about two weeks a very light fertilizing can be done; try a half strength solution. Keep in light and warmth.



About the first of April this plant should be repotted in the container for the flower show. At that time you will fertilize again every two weeks until the show.

If you set the plant outside be sure to condition it first. It needs to get accustomed to the sunlight. This you do by leaving it only for a short time, but keep it in light and warmth. After it is hardened (that takes about a week) continue to feed, water, pinch to form its shape. If I am growing a container for a flower show, I often leave it in my greenhouse or house to avoid the disasters which can occur outside. Call me if you have any questions.

Joyce

NEWS FROM GCA

Founder's Fund Projects

OGC will vote on one of the Founders' Fund projects at the March meeting. More details can be found in the Bulletin or on the GCA web page.

"CHILDREN IN THE DELL" Crestwood, KY. Proposed by Glenview Garden Club and seconded by Garden Club of Lexington. "Children in the Dell" project will rehabilitate an overgrown eight-acre woodland and will help overcome what psychologists call "nature deficient disorder" by providing a model outdoor laboratory to address the unmet need for children's environmental education.

RESTORATION OF THE GARDENS AROUND POPP'S BANDSTAND

at New Orleans City Park. Proposed by Garden Study Club of New Orleans and New Orleans Town Gardener, Inc. and seconded by Magnolia Garden Club. The award would enable an expansion to restore a fountain garden and to create an educational wetlands along historic Bayou Mataire to illustrate the vital roles of coastal wetlands. This area would become an outdoor classroom featuring the flora of a healthy wetlands ecosystem.

EBENEZER'S HERITAGE GARDEN, Tacoma, WA. Proposed by Tacoma Garden Club, seconded by Seattle Garden Club zone XII. The proposed renovation of the gardens around the Lodge, the former home of Ebenezer Roberts, will bring new life to Point Defiance Park, which is an urban public garden. The award would allow development of a welcoming and educational historic garden for the one-million visitors annually.

WAGNER RANCH NATURE AREA

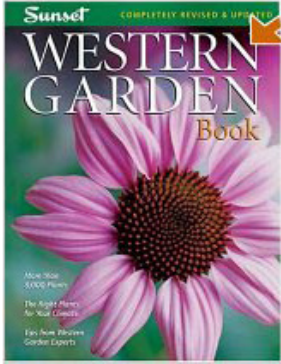
March 8 9:00 am

Please join us for our monthly work day with Toris. See you there — Midge

TWO REVISED EDITIONS WORTH HAVING

OGC is very fortunate to have a resident “book-worm”, and she has generously written a brief review of two recent discoveries.

Two books have been revised and republished that will broaden your horticultural expertise and be a joy to own.



The Sunset Western Garden

Book is in the bookstores. If you have never owned one it is high time you did, and if you have an older copy it's high time you update. This soft bound \$34.95 edition is the eighth and includes 500 new plant listings in its over 8000 plant encyclopedia. The pho-

tographs are sensational and the 'Practical Guide to Gardening' section includes more information on organic methods as well as native plants. If you are interested in such statistics, it is #1 on Amazon.com list of preorders in the home & garden category.

Hardy Californians — Another book which I think is a real treasure is the new expanded edition of Lester Rowntree's **Hardy Californians**. Lester Rowntree, an incredible lady who lived 100 years and was a plant explorer of the first order, was also a beautiful writer and lover of our California landscape and all it holds. Her grandson, another Lester Rowntree, is responsible for the revised edition of her travels and explorations of California. The biography of his grandmother takes up a good portion of the book and reveals a brave and energetic woman who was not afraid to follow her passion for plants and love of nature. (University of California Press)

Joan Andrews

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Hyacinth by Catherine Watters