



Here's the Dirt!

Calaveras County Garden Club Newsletter

February 2024



Hi all you fellow gardeners!! We are well into winter now but if you look close into the landscape you will be able to see some early signs of spring! Fruit trees are setting their buds, spring bulbs are beginning to poke through the muddy ground, and robins are here regaling us with their beautiful song. And this is the month for all sweethearts to celebrate their love on February 14. Did you know that in 2022, Americans spent approximately 2.3 billion dollars on flowers on Valentine's Day? (statista.com). That's a lot of green!!! As our monthly meeting is on February 14 this year, we can all wish each other Happy Valentine's Day then! If you are not able to attend, Happy Valentine's Day to you!!!

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January 10, 2024 Meeting revisited...

The January meeting was held jointly with the Saddle Creek Garden Club at the Golf Club in Copperopolis. It was a full house despite the inclement weather that day. The tables were beautifully decorated by the hostesses of the Saddle Creek Garden club and the food provided by the lodge was just wonderful!! It was really nice to meet the members of a fellow garden club and we shared information regarding membership, meetings, and upcoming speakers. We did our best to recruit!!! Our guest speaker was Duane Kyle who is the owner/operator along with his family of the Dragonfly Peony Farm located in Wilseyville, CA. Mr. Kyle presented a very detailed PowerPoint regarding everything you would want to know about peonies to include many beautiful photos. He informed us that the farm will be open to the public for viewing and sales during the weekends in May and by appointment. Maybe this could be a destination for a future field trip? And of course we ended the meeting with the opportunity gift raffle that were provided by our members- Willi Kraus, Donna Anderson, Kris Pedroncelli, and Sharon Norris. Thank you ladies!

February 14, 2024 Meeting



The February 14, 2024 meeting will be held at the Murphys Grade restaurant located at 397 Main Street, Murphys, CA. Their phone number is 209-223-4367. According to their Facebook page, they specialize in high quality CBD products and oysters. Our speaker will be Linda Reavey of the Sierra Foothill Beekeepers Association. This association has a mission that includes facilitating education and community awareness about honeybees, beekeeping, and native pollinators while also encouraging responsible and sustainable beekeeping practices. If you would like more information regarding this group their website is www.sierrafoothillbeekeepers.com Hostesses will be Joan Enns, Kathy Collins, and Connie Bowser. Opportunity will be provided by Linn Pillsbury, Laura Baughman, and Candy Meyer.

Check in is at 1000 am and meeting is to begin at 1030 am. Please remember to send in your \$30.00 luncheon fee no later than January 31, 2024. And also could you please include in the check memo line what the check is for as this would be very helpful to Candy our treasurer. Checks should be mailed to CCGC, PO Box 646, Angels Camp, CA 95222. If you happen to miss the deadline please text Candy Myers at 209-559-5195 to make arrangements. Hope to see everyone there!!

Hort Report

Have you noticed that the days are becoming longer? Very soon spring will be upon us! February is the time to start preparing your vegetable and flower beds for planting. Pulling weeds and adding compost will help when it is time to put in your seedlings or direct sow your seeds. But also because this is the rainy season, it best to avoid walking on wet soil next to your plants or in your beds as this may cause the ground to become compacted

resulting in slow drainage and poor aeration. Wait for the ground to dry out a bit before actively working in your gardens.

This is the month to finish up pruning as described in the January issue newsletter as well. This includes roses, grapevines, non-flowering and deciduous trees and shrubs. And remember to always clean up all debris from around your freshly pruned plants to ward off disease and rot.

Along with this being the time to plant bare-root plants, it is also a good time to repot or transplant all of your outside plants that are in containers.

And if you are thinking of adding a tree to your landscape, there is an excellent resource to help guide you in selecting and planting the right tree for your space. Go to www.arborday.org/treetips There also have trees available to order as well at www.arborday.org/nursery

If you are interested in adding camellias to your landscape, this is a good time to visit a nursery while they are in bloom so that you can see the colors available. Just remember they prefer to be planted in dappled shade and/or afternoon shade and choose a variety that is appropriate for your planting zone.

Dividing summer blooming perennials such as daylilies and Shasta daisies-preferably on a cloudy day-can also be done now.

If you have ornamental grasses that are brown in winter, you can cut them back.

Continue to be vigilant regarding protecting frost sensitive plants from damage. See October 2023 newsletter for frost dates in your area. .

In the veggie gardens: You can plant seeds for fava beans, beets, carrots, swiss chard, collard greens, kale, mustard, leaf and head lettuces, peas, radish, spinach and turnips. You can start tomato, pepper, and eggplant seeds indoors for planting later in the spring.

In the ornamental/flower gardens: You can color up the garden by adding primroses, pansies, snapdragons, candytuft, and Iceland poppies. You can begin planting the following summer bulbs: Amaryllis (naked lady), Cannas, Dahlia, Gladiolus, and Lilies.



Daffodils-In the coming month, these cheerful blooms will be visible all about the county-what would spring be without them? These are some amazing fall planted bulbs that can naturalize and live care-free for many years. Also did you know that underground rodents-moles, gophers, and voles and above ground deer and rabbits will not munch on

daffodils as they have a bitter taste? Some growing tips include: Plant your bulbs so that the plant will receive full sun when it emerges in the spring. When the blooms start to fade, cut the stalks back to the base of the plant to allow the leaves to concentrate on storing food for next year's blooms. When the entire plant has completed blooming, apply bulb fertilizer around the base of the plant. Resist tying up the leaves as this stunts the plants ability to store nutrients. Allow the leaves to turn brown and shrivel up before removing for the same reasons that the bloom is cut back. And daffodils need no summer watering. Easy peasy!!! And a spectacular spot to see daffodils in bloom is at the Ironstone winery in Murphys. Sorry Daffodil Hill in Volcano, a popular spot, is no longer in operation.

Happy Gardening!!!

Rusty's Rose Garden Work Days

Beginning this month, there will be a workday each 3rd Thursday of the month at Rusty's Rose Garden located at the Calaveras County Fairgrounds, 2465 Gunclub Road, Angels Camp. These workdays are designed to have any or all members who wish to help maintain the roses and the garden gather together and work to keep the garden looking beautiful! We will meet at **900 am and end by 1100AM**. If you would like to attend, just show up, dressed for the weather and for working with roses. Please bring appropriate gloves (long sleeved if possible). Also bring tools that we would use- hand pruners for sure and loppers. Also if you would like you can bring a sack lunch and a folding chair, we can spend a little time afterwards sitting beside the beautiful roses. This is all weather permitting-so if it is raining the day of then the workday will be cancelled. We will notify members by email if there is to be a cancellation. If you have any questions please contact Diana at 209-403-6114 call or text or email at runner2056@gmail.com. Here are the dates for the next 3 months:

January 18, 2024-we will be cleaning up the garden by removing all old leaves and debris on the ground, removing weeds, and we will begin to prune the roses by removing dead wood, prune to encourage blooms, and removing any suckers that emerged.

February 15, 2024-we will complete pruning of all repeat blooming roses and strip leaves from all the roses. Clean up and weeding continues.

March 21, 2024-we will feed the roses this month. Monitor for any disease or insect activity. Check irrigation system to assure working order. Weeding as needed.

Looking forward to seeing some smiling faces out there!!

Field Trip Planning

Currently Judy Weddle is working on a fantastic field trip to a Spring Garden Tour in Oakland and Piedmont. According to Judy, several of our members have already signed up. If you have already signed up, please contact Judy as she would like to follow up with you-call her at home- 209-754-4706 or text at cell -209-728-4567 and please mail your money for the tickets to arrive at her house no later than January 26, 2024. Her mailing address is 510 Pope Street, San Andreas, CA, 95249. Details regarding the garden tour are in the flyer below. And if you are interested, contact Judy as above to let her know as soon as possible.



And a bit more info about this event:

The Hillside Gardeners of Montclair is having a Spring Garden Tour to raise funds for Scholarships and Conservation Programs. The Spring Garden Tour is planned for Sunday, April 21, 2024, from 10 AM to 5 PM.

This year's tour offers seven exquisite gardens featuring expansive views, classic landscape design, fascinating plant specimens, stunning garden art, innovative irrigation solutions, and more. The Garden Gift Shop, located at a landmark home in the Oakland hills, will offer edibles, annuals, perennials, succulents, and beautiful handicrafts by our members. Attendees may visit gardens in any order. Children 12 and over are required to have a ticket. Please do not bring dogs or strollers. Regrettably, none of the gardens on the tour is handicap accessible due to stairs and uneven terrain. The Spring Garden Tour is held rain or shine.

Possible Field Trip to Dragonfly Peony Farm

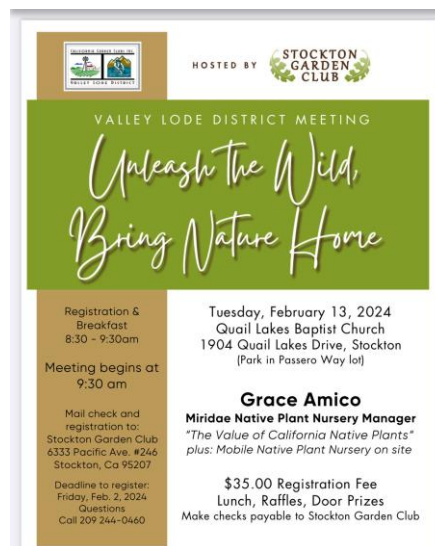
Many members are showing an interest in a possible trip to the peony farm in May. We will be discussing this at upcoming meetings. Stay tuned!

Upcoming Events



The Calaveras Master Gardeners have their demo garden open **every Thursday** 11 am to 4 pm located at 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas. See above flyer for more details.

The Tuolumne Master Gardeners will have their Demonstration Garden open to the public on **February 3, 2024** from 10 am to 1 pm and will feature demonstrations on fruit tree and rose pruning. The address for the garden is 251 S. Baretta Street, Sonora, Ca. (on the Cassina High School Campus)



The Valley Lode District Meeting will be held **Tuesday February 13, 2024** in Stockton. If you are interested in attending, please contact Linn Pillsbury by texting or calling to 209-890-9277 so she can add your name to the registration list. For the registration fee, please make out the check to Calaveras County Garden Club (**not** the Stockton Garden Club) and mail to PO Box 646, Angels Camp, CA 95222 and please put in the memo line that it is for the VLD meeting. All details are in the flyer above.



There will be a seed and scion exchange in Mountain Ranch on **February 25, 2024** from 11 am to 4 pm. Please see flyer above for details.



One of the roses offered at the upcoming auction.

The Mother Lode Rose Society will be having a bare root rose auction on **March 23, 2024** that begins at 10 am. Located at the Jackson Senior Center, 229 New York Ranch Road, Jackson, CA. Open to the public and featuring Star roses-some new and old varieties. Please visit www.MotherLodeRose.com for details.

Want to know about events in Calaveras County? You can go to the website www.gocalaveras for information regarding upcoming events, festivals, and things to do in Calaveras County.

And on a final note.....

The deadline for submitting information that a member would like to have posted in this newsletter to include upcoming events, suggestions for articles, etc.. is the 17th of the month prior. For example, for the March 2024 issue, kindly email Diana with the info by February 17th, 2023. Email address runner2056@gmail.com



“Daffodils are the harbingers of spring, bringing joy to all who see them”

Unknown

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