



# Sacramento Perennial Plant Club NEWSLETTER

Founded 1988

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

March / April 2010

## Contents

Upcoming Programs - page 1

Board Meetings - page 1

Garden Tours - page 2-3 & 7

Spring Plant Sale - page 2

Hypertufa Pots- page 2

Membership-page 2

Vendor Sale-page 3

Radio Show-page 3

New Members-page 3

Improve Your Soil-page 4

The Summer Garden-page 5

Rosy Advice-page 6

Presidents Message-page 7

Mae's Orange Peels-page 8

Flower&Garden Show page 8

### March Program

Sacramento Perennial Plant Club

10th Annual Vendor Sale

Unusual Plants and Garden Treasures

March 20, 2010, Saturday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Shepherd Garden and Arts Center at McKinley Park

Speaker: Tom Fisher 12:00 noon

The Perennial Plant Club is once again sponsoring an extraordinary collection of specialty nurseries, many from just outside the immediate Sacramento area to help you get a jump-start on this year's gardening season. Please come and browse thru the selection of unusual plants, herbs, vegetable starts, pots and garden art. We are excited to have this year as our guest speaker, Tom Fisher, Editor-in Chief of Timber Press Books. His talk is titled '*Planting the Mediterranean Garden: Perennials*'. We will also offer used books and magazines for sale at bargain prices and this year will have **Timber Press Books** available at discount prices including two books by Tom Fisher. Proceeds from this event will help fund our work supporting community gardens and local horticulture projects.

**There will be no Thursday Night Meeting in March**

### April Program Speaker

Patio Ponds and More

Marco Tjaden

Shepard Garden and Arts Center

Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 7:00 PM

Marco Tjaden, along with his wife, Wendy, is the owner of Flora Tropicana Aquatics located in Elk Grove, CA. It is Northern California's largest water garden nursery. This five acre oasis contains gardens of flowing ponds, waterfalls and twelve fish ponds containing many colorful Japanese koi. They have unique garden decor and sculptures from local artists and a wonderful selection of colorful pottery from around the world. Flora Tropicana Aquatics has been featured in Sunset and Via Magazines.

Please join us as Marco inspires us to enhance the natural beauty of our own surroundings with peaceful sounds of ponds and water features with his presentation: *Patio Ponds and More*.....



Water Lily 'Director Moore'  
The Water Garden

The next two Perennial Plant club Board of Directors meetings will be held March 9th at Madeleine Mullins (455-7815), and April 13th at Sue Mortensen (488-8522). As always, board meetings are open to all members. These meetings are a great chance to see how the club is run and where you might like to help. We also get a chance to tour the wonderful gardens of our members before dinner. Friends, gardens, food, and club business. Can't beat that! Meetings begin at 5 PM and start with a potluck dinner – informative *and* delicious.

# *Perennial Plant Club*

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## **Annual Spring Plant Sale**

**Shepard Garden and Art Center**

**March 27, 2010 Saturday 9:00AM – 4:00 PM**

**March 28, 2010 Sunday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

Please donate plants and garden related items. Labels with pictures of the plants are helpful. Bring plants and items to Center on Friday, March 26th. We have a large selection of plants ready for spring planting. Many of the flats of perennials have been propagated by club member Emma Ahart. We need **volunteers** to pick up the flats Friday morning and transport them to the center and help set up. **Volunteers are needed to man our tables and clean up.** This is a good way to get to know other members of the club and it is fun to work at the sale. For information call Madeleine Mullins at 455-7815.

We are looking for some members to each take care of a few of the plants that do not sell at the spring sale and care for them until the fall sale. Each person would take only a few plants. Please volunteer so that one person does not have to do all the work.

## **GARDEN TOUR**

**Old City Cemetery and the Historic Rose Garden**

**Saturday April 10, 2010 10 AM**

**Lonnie Ratzlaff and Jane Howell**

Join us as Club members, Lonnie and Jane, walk with us through this wonderful perennial garden. Established in 1849 and tucked away in the Historic Old City Cemetery at Riverside and Broadway, the City Cemetery is the oldest existing cemetery in Sacramento. Keeping with the popular style of the times, it was designed to resemble a Victorian garden.

We will traverse the pathways and grand avenues as this park-like garden that is decorated with beautiful statues dramatic historical markers. The roses are beautiful and the fragrance is heavenly.

Please meet at the main gate located at 1000 Broadway. Parking within the cemetery is very limited. Park across the street at the Sacramento Works building and enter the Cemetery at the main gate on 10th Street and Broadway.



## **Making Hypertufa Pots**

**Chuck McMullins**

Hypertufa is a combination of cement, peat moss, and sand that is molded to make plant containers and other garden ornaments that look like weathered stone. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, English gardeners discovered that old stone sinks from cottage kitchens and limestone and sandstone troughs, which were used to feed & water livestock for centuries, made ideal containers for alpiners and rock plants. As a consequence these containers became quite scarce by the 1930's. This is when enterprising gardeners developed the Hypertufa mixture

Chuck McMullins has been making Hypertufa containers since 1992. His first encounter with Hypertufa was in 1991 and he still has the article that first peaked his interest. He makes small pots and troughs and plants succulents for his own use, birthdays and special occasions. He has done several presentations and demonstrations for various groups, including speaking at our September 2009 meeting. Chuck has offered to give classes to members at his home. He wants to keep the class small, four or five people. If more members are interested he will do additional classes. To sign up and for additional information call Chuck at 916-967-9006

## **Membership list and Newsletter**

Please check that your name has been listed correctly in the membership roster. If there are any corrections or if you want to be removed from the list please call Jeanne Christopherson, 916-283-6999. Check your mailing label to see if your membership dues are paid. If you have any questions about the information in the newsletters or you are not receiving your copy of the newsletters please call Janice Sutherland 916-481-2137.



**Hypertufa Pot**



### **Spring Garden Tour of Old Broadway Cemetery Hamilton Square, The Heritage Rose Garden and The Native Plant Garden**

**April 17, 2010 Saturday, 9:30AM-2:00 PM**

Tucked away in the Historic City Cemetery at Riverside and Broadway is a perennial garden of special delight. Sponsored by the Perennial Plant Club as one of its community projects and managed by Sharon Patrician, long-time club member, and cared for by many club members, this unlikely garden in the midst of Sacramento's history is a wonderful surprise. Sharon has led the planting of the half-acre site with many species of aster, buddleia, cistus, Echinacea, lavender, shrub roses, penstemon, salvia and bulbs. There will be guided tours of the garden on Saturday. Club member Barbara Oliva is the curator of the beautiful historic rose garden in Old Broadway Cemetery, and with volunteers many of which are club members have developed this award winning garden. The rose garden will be in full bloom and there will be free tours of the garden. The sale of rooted rose cuttings and snacks and a raffle will raise funds for the maintenance of the gardens. If you have not been to the Open Garden Day put the date on your calendar. The perennial gardens in Hamilton garden are beautiful and full of ideas for your own garden. The historic roses will be featured at the front of the cemetery, and you then stroll south to Hamilton Square to view what's blooming. Stroll on to the east and visit the California Native Plant Garden.



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### **Farmer Fred Radio Program**

Turn in Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> to the Farmer Fred Show on KFBK 1530. Saul Wiseman and Sharon Patrician will be on the program between 9:00 and 10:00AM. They will be talking about the Perennial Plant Club and the Vendor Sale we sponsor. Sharon will also talk about the perennial garden in Hamilton Square.

### **Welcome New Members**

Welcome to the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club: Greg Gayton, Jane Howell, Florence Reaugh, Charles Schinkel, Virginia Schnitt, Brenda Smallwood, Jane Thompson, Delores McKinnon, and Lori Fackenthall, and returning member, Judy McClure.

### **Vendor Sale - March 20**

Our perennial plant club will be selling used garden related books and magazines. If you have any to donate please bring them either to the Center on Friday, late-afternoon, or early Saturday morning, the day of the sale. We also need you to look in your garden for what is blooming and bring in a sample (just one bloom or branch) of the plant and label it. We will have a display table.

For those of you unable to volunteer your time for club events, there is a very important way that you can still help out the club and yourself: Drop by and support the event! It is fun and informative, and provides a chance to buy plants that are unusual, extra healthy and the grower is present to answer your questions, and you will also have a chance to hear a great speaker.

## **How to Improve Your Soil**

One way to have maximum crop production in garden beds, when not planting a cover crop because the ground is used for a summer and a winter crop, is to add nutrients. One way to compost the winter crop is to bury the plants. Start by digging a hole 2 ft. X 3 ft. and 15 in. deep. Toss in cabbage, broccoli, carrot, radish, turnip tops, etc. plus kitchen items used for vermiculture. Cut into pieces with the shovel and cover the hole with the dirt dug from the next hole. Wood ashes can be spread over the ground before digging. Before planting for spring or fall, spread some of the following on the ground, water if ground is dry, spade, and rake before planting. Or have the soil tested to determine which nutrients should be added. Experimentation is always a challenge. Adding amendments will give you rich, fertile soil. Following are amendments from which to select:

**1. Wood Ashes:** Wood ashes contain no Nitrogen, 10% Potash, 1% Phosphate, 1% Magnesium, and 25% Calcium Carbonate. Wood ash can be used to repel insects, slugs, and snails when dry. Too much ash can increase pH so use carefully/limited. Wood ash can also be used to neutralize acid soils.

**2. Alfalfa Pellets:** Alfalfa pellets/meal contain 1.5% Calcium, .22% Phosphorus, 2.39 Potassium, 2% Nitrogen, and some Copper, Manganese, and Zinc. It stimulates new stalk/cane growth in roses. Then experiment by adding to other stalk/cane crops as tomato, pepper, daylily, raspberry, hibiscus, cucumber, etc.

**3. Epsom Salt:** Epsom salts contain 10% Magnesium and 13% Sulfur. Magnesium helps form chlorophyll in plants and is essential for photosynthesis. Soils that lack magnesium tend to be acidic. Sulfur helps activate many plant protein and enzymes needed for growth and assists in root production. In house plants, magnesium sulfate help cleanse the soil of harmful salts. Put several Tbs. in the bottom of a planting hole and mix with the soil before planting tomato and pepper plants. Mix 1 Tbs. of Epsom salt in a gallon of water and spray on plants when they start to bloom - roses love this stuff.

**4. Soil Sulfur:** Soil sulfur helps make soil acidic so add to balance out too much alkaline material. Add soil sulfur to balance the use of steer manure

**5. Chicken Manure:** Chicken manure contains 1.1 Nitrogen, .80 Phosphorus, and .50 Potassium. Be careful if using fresh manure as it is "hot" and will burn plant roots. It is recommended to compost to 150 degrees or age for six months. Bagged is not as "hot" but

be careful by watering before spading. Fresh chicken, turkey, sheep, and goat manure that man uses are all "hot".

**6. Steer Manure:** Steer manure contains .70 Nitrogen, .30 Phosphorus, and .40 Potassium. It will raise the pH of the soil if too much is added to the soil. Steer manure may also contain weed seeds if not composted well.

**7. Cottonseed Meal:** Cottonseed meal is a first-class organic reservoir of plant nutrients. Its Nitrogen (6%), Phosphorus, Potash, Potassium (1.5) and many minor elements are used over a long period of time for a vegetable patch. It is risk-free to use in generous quantities without the risk of burning plants. Good for acid-loving plants.

**8. Soybean Meal:** Soybean meal is high in Nitrogen (7%) and as a source of Phosphorous (2%). Like alfalfa meal, it is beneficial to nitrogen-loving plants such as roses.

**9. Kelp/seaweed:** Contains only small amounts of N-P-K fertilizer, but adds valuable micronutrients growth hormones, and vitamins that help increase yields. Can be applied to the soil or applied as a foliar spray.

**10. Blood Meal:** Blood meal contains 14% Nitrogen and many micronutrients. Leafy, nitrogen-loving plants, such as lettuce, grow well with this fertilizer. Can be applied to leaves and mixed into the soil around the root stem. Blood Meal may attract dogs and cats.

**11. Bone Meal:** Bone meal contains 11% Phosphorous, 22% Calcium, and 2% Nitrogen. It is commonly used in a powdered form on root crops and bulbs. Phosphates do not easily pass through soil. So mixing the bone meal with the soil or putting it in the planting hole can help. Bone Meal may attract rodents.

**12. Gypsum:** Gypsum contains 20% Calcium and 15% Sulfur. It is used to add calcium to soils without raising the soil pH.

**13. Compost:** Compost improves soil texture and is a valuable source of moisture holding humus.

**14. Fish Emulsion:** Fish emulsion is a great complete liquid fertilizer (5-2-2) and adds trace elements to the soil. When mixed with water it is gentle, yet effective for stimulating the growth of young seedlings

**15. 15-15-15:** Time for one to be a weather person. The raindrops dissolve commercial fertilizer very quickly. Time a storm and add when the storm is almost over. Put on a raincoat and spread where desired. If not enough rain falls, wash off the pellets as they will burn the plants. Too much rain falls, and the nutrients wash away. Experiment, or have the soil tested, but have fun.

N - Nitrogen      P - Phosphorus      K - Potassium

### Planting The Summer Vegetable Garden

Carolyn Singer teaches and writes about planting two crops together. Interplanting is usually done by planting or seeding two different crops close together at the same time. The crops must be compatible, and attention given to spacing to allow adequate light. Eggplants are interplanted with bush beans. Spacing between eggplants is about 20 inches. Each plant has a small wire cage to provide support. Adjacent to, but outside, the cage plant one or two bush beans to provide an early crop. When the beans slow production, pull them down and incorporate them into the straw mulch.

Tomatoes are interplanted with climbing Nasturtium which will appreciate the summer shade and produce edible flowers for salads. Dill is interplanted with chard and peas, providing light shade for both. Pole beans are interplanted with the tomatillos in one large cage.

The garden is a beautiful and bountiful medley of flowers and vegetables, and every year all the crops seem to do quite well.

Fran Clarke gardens with her grandson, so every year they have to plant his favorite tomato 'sweet million'. Fran has good luck growing the tomato 'celebrity'. She also grows a couple of heirloom tomatoes, trying new varieties each year. Fran always grows 'Blue Lake' pole beans, she loves their flavor.

Bobby Frieze is a corn grower. She always grows Illini Xtra-Sweet Corn by Burpees. Bobby says this corn stays sweet long after it has been picked. It also freezes well. Do not plant with any other variety of corn. Bobby has a large trellis that she plants with a wide Italian pole green bean and Japanese cucumbers. She likes the Japanese cucumbers, they grow long and strait and have small seeds. She plants 'Ace' and 'Beefsteak' tomatoes and each year picks one or two heirloom tomatoes to try.

Daisy Mah plants the tomato 'Amish Paste', she likes this tomato because it is good for eating and for cooking. She love the tomato 'Black Krim', it is a large dark purple-red color. Daisy says she has a sweet tooth, so that might be why she likes Kellogg's Breakfast tomato, it is a large yellow-orange heirloom tomato, with a sweet tangy flavor and few seeds. She grows the heirloom tomato 'Oxheart'. It is a large deep pink heart shaped fruit with a sweet, rich flavor and very meaty. Daisy plants the Chinese long green bean also called asparagus beans.

Margaret Cossey plants 'Golden' beets and 'Ruby Queen' red beets. 'Chantenay' carrots which are long, sweet and meaty. She always grows green Swiss chard. For tomatoes she likes 'Early Girl', 'Roma' and 'Beefsteak'. She also

tries one new heirloom each year. Margaret loves the butternut squash 'Waltham'. It is a deep orange color and hold well in storage; she still has three left. She grows 'Fordhook' green zucchini. An Uncle, years ago, came back from a trip to Holland with some zucchini seeds in his pocket. The family is still saving the seeds and plants this wide flat Italian type of green bean. This year Margaret is going to try two new vegetables. She bought celery root seed at Peaceful Valley Farm in Auburn and some edamame seeds.

Emma Ahart has a productive garden and the most beautiful vegetable plants I have ever seen. For tomatoes she plants 'Goliath', a bright red, sweet flavor with a heavy yield. 'Bush Goliath' grows to 3 1/2 feet and needs little staking, 'San Marzano' (roma) tomato, 'Celebrity', 'Sweet Chelsea' (cherry) tomato. Emma plants Bell Boy, California wonder, and Sweet Banana peppers. She plants 'Iciban' and 'Black Beauty' eggplants. The cucumber varieties she plants are 'Tasty King', 'Sweet Success', 'Lemon', 'Armenian', and 'Sweet Slice'.

Phyllis Hill likes to grow the Japanese cucumber because it never gets bitter even if you miss watering the plants. She has great luck growing butternut squash and she plants a Japanese eggplant. For tomatoes Phyllis loves the heirloom tomato 'Mortgage Lifter'. She grows 'Ace', and 'Early Girl', (she says she grows 'Early Girl' because she can't wait for the first tomato of the season) and for a cherry tomato she like the variety that is just called 'cherry tomato'.

Janice Sutherland plants 'Tasty Jade', 'Orient Express' 'Cool Breeze', and lemon cucumber on a trellis. I plant 'Pot Luck' cucumber under my tomato plants. Last year at the vendor sale Rose from Morningsun Herb Farm told me I needed to try 3 new tomatoes. The first was 'Black Cherry' which is a rich, sweet purple tomato. I always grow 'Sun Gold' an orange gold colored cherry tomato and the two of them looked pretty together. The other two tomatoes were 'Thessalonki' a pink red Greek heirloom tomato with a good acid flavor and 'Orange Russian' a heart shaped fruit with red streaks inside. Very pretty. It has a sweet flavor and very few seeds. I like the tomato 'Mortgage Lifter'. I grow 'French White' bush zucchini; it has a mild nutty flavor. 'Corno Di Toro Red' is a good pepper, and I like 'Sweet Banana' peppers.

Have fun trying new varieties. If you don't have a vegetable garden, Take author Rosalind Creasy advice and mix a few veggies in the flower beds.



## **Rosy Advice**

**Consulting Rosarian...Barbara Lane-Piert**

Our Feb. auction has past...we have bought our roses, hydrated them, planted them and now it's time to care for them. I love giving advice even though I know very few will heed it. We all have our own way of loving our family, friends, pets and our roses. Some of us think that extra care for roses will do the trick, some think less care will win the prize and others just talk to them and hope for the best. I personally have done it all...I've bent over backwards with sprays, and soil amendments, extra water, extra fertilizer, extra love and care and I find after soooo many years of rose growing that it really all boils down to some basics. Number one: The right rose for the right location. Two: Water, water and more water. Three: Fertilizer, fertilizer and more fertilizer. Four: Dormant Fungal sprays and maybe a little fungicide on the roses that get fungal diseases but that you can't live without. The sunshine goes without saying...you can't grow good roses in the shade.

I'll attempt to expand on the above in the hopes that it will be helpful. I spent many years (In the eighties) spraying every 10 days in addition to dormant spraying... What a waste of money, time and effort. The aphids still survived and all those beneficial insects flew the coup. I didn't have fungal disease but I was exhausted keeping it away. By the time I had on my halloween outfit (gloves, boots, long sleeved shirts, (even at 104 degrees) long pants etc. I was over the edge. Now in 2010 I enjoy, enjoy and enjoy my roses and my garden. In midwinter I spray dormant spray a couple of times for fungal disease and in spring I have a small can (that lasts the year) to spray the two roses that are magnets for that hated disease (Arcanum & Memphis Music). If I see blackspot on other roses I ignore it knowing that Sactown weather will soon be in charge and it will take a sabbatical. I cannot stress enough to all rose growers that there are disease resistant roses to be bought and effort should be made to find them. Your life will be made easier and your passion for roses whetted. Of course growing fewer roses will also do the job but we, as rosarians, are somewhat obsessed and there is no hope for that. Here is my advice encapsulated. Buy the right rose. Usually a catalogue will say "disease resistant". Pay no notice to "disease free"...means nothing. It may, however mean that the rose is very resistant to fungal diseases. More and more of the newer roses are resistant so I'm sure you bought some of the latest.

After our Sactown sunshine (at least 6 hours a day if possible) water and more water will mean healthier and stronger roses. They stay thirsty...just like you and me. Many of us are now on meters and afraid of next month's statement. However, when you grow roses you make a choice...Grow

a rose, eat beans. Haven't you heard that beans are the ultimate when it comes to health? Leave all that red meat at the grocery store; grow some vegetables and fruit and grow roses....works for me. There are ways to preserve water, water that our plants will not mind using. Catch the cold water prior to stepping in the shower. Pour into the roses in pots (if they are not on a watering system). With Sactown heat we usually take a daily shower...that's lots of water. A little extra effort but you can go to Starbucks with the savings. If you rinse, or hand wash, dishes catch the cold water that you run first...it all adds up. The babies or the grandbabies love to play in a pool...use the water either with a siphon or with a bucket. Think of all that great exercise...the babies might help too...they will think it fun.

Fertilizer...now that is another story. It costs. If you have the funds go ahead use it all...composted horse manure, alfalfa meal, time release, foliar sprays. Your roses will love you...your bank account may not. I personally cut corners (living on Social Security now). In the winter I have a truckload of horse manure delivered. In the spring I put down time release and if I find a great sale (I mean a great sale) on any other form of fertilizer I buy. Your roses are not picky...only you are. I received this advice from, in my opinion, a great rosarian, rose show judge, rose show winner etc....Tom Bonfigli. In the fall there are so many sales on fertilizer. Fertilizer has a long, long shelf life so if you find some really cheap buy it all. It will make you happy when spring finally arrives. If you have some left over call me. I used to use a fork to make holes around the roses then put time release or other fertilizer in the holes...what a waste of valuable time. Just sprinkle it around...every time you water it will release its rose stimulator and will work down in the soil by itself. Another tip I received from a great rose grower Don Marshall.

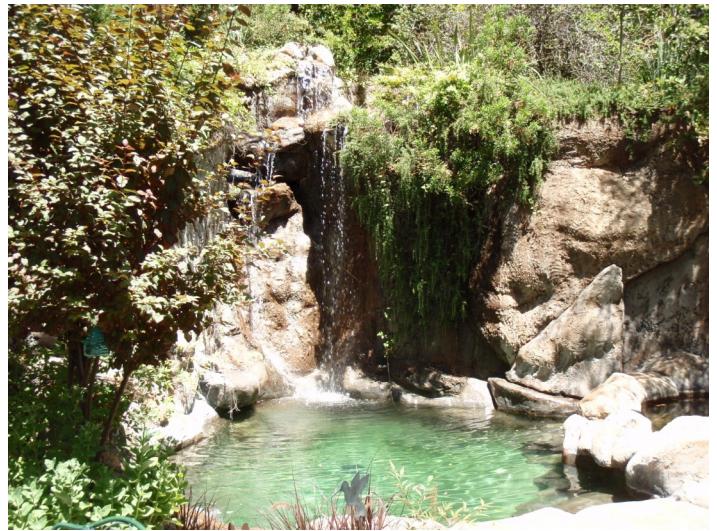
The love of the rose can be an obsession and yes I'm so glad it is. What would I be doing with my time if I didn't have this garden to think about and enjoy. In winter when the catalogues arrive I spend soooo much time looking. When another rose book arrives on the market I'm first in line. When going to the thrift shops I find the old rosy books that show that what is old is still new. When the ARS magazine arrives I get so excited...so much information...again advice I read but rarely heed. Love it anyway. In midwinter the bare root orders arrive, and then comes spring and my heart pounds as I await that first bloom. Once it was the hybrid tea that excited me, then the floribundas, the shrubs, the heritage roses and now the miniatures and the minifloras... What a world to live in...a rosy one... May all those rose dreams come true.



**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour of Folsom Gardens**  
**Sponsored by the *Folsom Garden Club***

**"SPRINGTIME IN THE GARDENS"**  
**Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 29, 2010**  
**11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

The self-guided tour is of six beautiful gardens featuring: tropical style; drought tolerant, natural; bonsai collection and turtle habitat; children's learning garden; garden art; formal garden; pools and outdoor kitchens. Ticket Cost: \$10.00. For information go to [www.folsomgarden.org](http://www.folsomgarden.org) or call (916) 989-122 All proceeds will benefit Folsom Garden Club community projects including a Scholarship Fund.



**President's Message**  
**Saul Wiseman**

It's early March, and my wife is happy to see some color in the garden. She is also happy to see what is missing from her garden --- my chickens. The coop got moved to just the other side of the fence on the neighbor's property.

Each year she looks forward to the flowers of Clematis 'armandi' which she planted about 20 years ago about one foot beyond the fence on the neighbor's property. It is blooming in a two story tall oak tree on the other side of the fence.. When she planted the one gallon, she realized that the vine would need lots of room to grow. Now, the trunk of the vine is as big as my wrist. 'Armandi' is a vigorous, evergreen, early-flowering climber bearing white saucer-shaped flowers two inches across.

The Magnolia 'stellata' (Star Magnolia) is now two stories high. Again planted as a one gallon almost 40 years ago, the tree has been pruned once to keep our view of the American River canyon from the bedroom window. The compact, deciduous tree has silky buds that open to star-shaped, pure white flowers about five inches across.

I did move some small Star Magnolias that my wife had planted on the neighbor's side of the fence to make room for my coop. Yes, I did plant them on the other side. I also have planted other shrubs, Calycanthus occidentalis (Spice Bush) and Carpenteria californica (Bush Anemone) on my neighbor's property, of course with his permission.

I propagated cuttings from a friend's large Daphne odora (Winter Daphne). I grew the cutting for five years until they were good size in a one gallon pot. I planted some in my wife's garden and gave many away. Now when I walk in her garden the pervasive, pre-spring fragrance of the flower gets my attention.

Now my chickens on the other side of the fence will be getting their late afternoon exercise, scratching the soil and eating native plants, rather than my wife's plants.

I do have one concern. Chickens have wings. What if they fly over the fence to my wife's garden? Stay tuned.



**Clematis armandii 'Snowdrift'**

# *Perennial Plant Club*

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## **Mae's Candied Citrus Peels**

Many members have asked who makes the delicious Citrus Peels that are served at many of our meetings. Mae Ferral is the cook who makes these treats, and is sharing her recipe with us.

Peel from 4 grapefruit or 8 oranges or 12 limes or 12 lemons (or an equivalent mixture)

Cold Water  
2 cups sugar  
1 cup water  
Sugar

Cut peel into thin strips. Place in saucepan and cover with cold water; slowly bring to a boil. Drain. Repeat boiling and draining process 5 times. Make a syrup of 2 cups sugar and 1 cup water. Add peels. Boil until syrup is very thick and mostly absorbed. Spread peels on cake rack to cool. At this point, Mae uses a food dehydrator and dries the peels to a pliable, leathery stage. (Length of time depends upon your dehydrator)

Roll in additional sugar. Spread on waxed paper or a cake rack to dry.

Mae uses Trader Joe's Pound Plus dark chocolate melted carefully in the microwave to dip the orange peels.

Good Luck!

### **San Francisco Flower and Garden Show**

There are a few seats left for the bus trip to the flower show on March 24, 2010. Bus leaves Shepard Garden and Art Center at 7:30 AM. Cost \$50.00 per person. Call Bobby Frieze at 916-383-8054 for information.



Janice Sutherland  
Newsletter Editor  
3221 Chenu Avenue  
Sacramento, CA, 95821