



You are invited to the...

*A 501(c)(3) nonprofit and
a member of California Gardens Clubs, Inc.*

December 2017

Valley of the Moon Garden Club's

Annual Holiday Party!

Saturday, December 16, 2017 – 2:00-5:00 p.m.
at Faith Lutheran Church, 19355 Arnold Drive
(near Petaluma Avenue)

~ for you and your spouse or one guest ~

The Club will provide the entrée and side dishes.
Please bring either an appetizer, salad or dessert to share and BYOB.

President's Message

Hello VOMGC members! This is the last newsletter of the year. It is also my last President's message since Adrienne and Linda are taking over the reins as Co-Presidents at the first of the year.

I think that I kept my campaign promise of "Fun, Friends, and a Little Garden Information" during my term.

I will still be around. I am next year's VP and will be booking our meeting speakers. If any of you know of interesting potential guest speakers, let me know about them. I want the meetings to be interesting and diverse. Yes, we will talk about fire-safe gardens and yes, we still need to consider water-wise gardening, but I also want to have speakers that have beautiful gardens to show and subjects that are just fun.

Our last meeting of the year is the **Holiday Party on Saturday, December 16, from 2:00 to 5:00PM at the Faith Lutheran Church.** Thanks to Elizabeth for booking the room for us! We will have a lovely supper courtesy of our head chief, Katherine and her team. Entertainment will be a 3-piece band with plenty of opportunities to sing along, thanks to Gina, Valli, and Cheryl. Bonnie has assembled the decoration team to give our event a holiday/horticultural pop.

There is no cost to members and spouses. The entrées and sides will be provided by the club, so you can bring a pot luck appetizer, salad, or dessert, and BYOB.

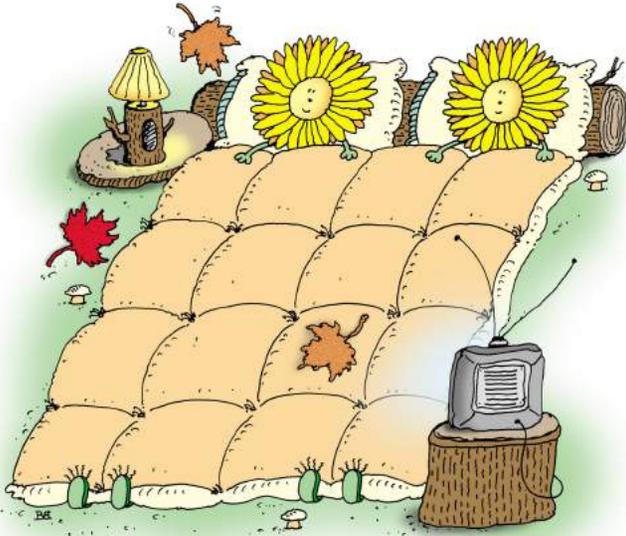
Thanks,

Dennis Przybycien



Horticultural Column

Nite Nite Veggie Garden: Winter Preparation of Our Vegetable Garden



With the cold wet weather, our vegetable gardens are shutting down. You can pick the last of the tomatoes and peppers, pull up the last carrots and even prepare fried green tomatoes. However, if you don't clean up the garden soon, then you will have a slimy mess.

Here is what I do in the winter veggie garden. First cut the plants off at ground level. You don't have to pull up the roots. As we have recently heard from several speakers, plant root systems contain beneficial fungi that help our plants take up nutrients from the

soil. Over Winter, the roots will break down and add additional organic matter to the bed.

Chop up the cut-down plants into smaller pieces and add them to your compost pile. If you don't have a compost pile – what is wrong with you?

Next, clean up any weeds that have grown over the summer. I put the weeds in my green waste can and let Redwood Empire do the composting to kill weed seeds.

Roll and tie up your drip irrigation tubing so it is out of the way.

Rake the beds smooth and you are ready to jump into spring planting on April 15th, after our final potential frost.

There are some options. My beds are filled with compost so that each year, the organics break down and the soil level drops. I add 1 -2 inches of compost in the spring to bring the level up and add nutrients. When I don't have enough of my home-made compost, I add steer manure in the Winter. It is only \$1 a bag. By the time Spring comes around, the smell is gone and soil microbes have worked the organic additive into the soil. In Spring, you are ready to plant.

You can also use cover crops to add nutrients to the soil. Use something short, like clover, or for a big burst of nitrogen, plant fava beans. Note that they will get really tall and you will have to cut and compost the greens, or you can cut them down and decompose them right in the bed. For me, that is a little messy and not as easy as just adding my free compost or \$1-a-bag steer manure.

I love to look at of nice, clean, unplanted vegetable beds at during the winter. Plus, in Spring, it is a reminder to get going on the spring planting.

Happy Winter Gardening,

Dennis Przybycien

dennisnolga@sbcglobal.net



November 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Announcements:

The 2018 VOMGC budget was presented and approved unanimously. Treasurer Stan Pawlak stated that our largest expenses are room rent and insurance, which exceed the income from memberships. President Dennis Przybycien noted that this will be another year without an increase in dues, as the plant sale proceeds make this possible.

Nomination Committee Chair Doug Graham introduced the proposed slate of officers for 2018. There were no additional nominations from the floor. The slate was approved by a show of hands.

- Co-Presidents: Adrienne Love & Linda Schill
- Co-Vice Presidents: Doug Graham & Dennis Przybycien
- Board Secretary: Debra Rogers
- Co-Treasurers: Jurine Biers & Stan Pawlak
- Directors: Bonnie Brown, Nadya Clark, Carol Dickason, Jobina Forder

Doug mentioned how much we all appreciate Iain Pryor's work on the monthly newsletter.

Nadya Clark spoke about how important the spring and fall plant sales are for funding the Club. Blooms Nursery, which has generously donated plants

for several years, suffered damage in the wildfire and may not be fully operational in time for the Spring Sale. Members are encouraged to divide and pot their own plants this fall for the upcoming sale. Add some composted manure to the remaining plant's hole.

As Membership Chair, Nadya requested that we renew as soon as possible to make the process move smoothly.

Bonnie Brown reminded us of the valuable Master Gardener talks that are held on Saturdays at Sonoma County Libraries.

Bill Klausing's Presentation:

Building a (Mostly) Native Habitat Garden

Sonoma County Master Gardener, Bill Klausing, is passionate about habitat gardening, which means focusing plant choices on what grows naturally in your specific locality and in the nearby areas. We have been losing habitat for birds, native bees, dragonflies and other species. If your neighbors also plant natives, together you will create a large enough habitat to support them. Your chemical-free landscape will be water-wise and beautiful.

He showed many slides of his beautiful, mostly-native Santa Rosa garden. He stressed the importance of

having a multi-seasonal succession of blooms to support all types of birds and insects. His calendar handout listed the bloom times for many plants. Having a five-year plan for developing the garden is the first step. Make your choices based on what the plant will do for the habitat garden. Plan for a diversity of true natives and some near-natives and Mediterranean plants. Have a diversity of bloom size and form, plus berries. Many wildflowers will self-seed. Grasses and shrubs provide good shelter. Do not mulch heavily everywhere, because bare ground is needed by some insect species. Plant native trees.

For more information:

- www.pollinatorpartnership.org
- www.cnps.org (California Native Plant Society)
- www.calflora.org (wild California plants)

Plant Sources:

- California Flora Nursery, Fulton
- Mostly Natives, Pt. Reyes Station
- Annie's Annuals, Richmond
- Larner Seeds (California native wildflowers)

The plant raffle, information tables, conversation and delicious refreshments followed the presentation.



2017 Officers and Directors

President: Dennis Przybycien	(707) 933-0224	dennisnolga@sbcglobal.net
Vice-President: Bonnie Brown	(707) 935-8986	bonniebrown08@comcast.net
Board Secretary: Joan Robertson	(707) 227-9787	Joanie27@sbcglobal.net
Co-Treasurer: Jurine Biers	(707) 933-1696	Jurine2@aol.com
Co-Treasurer: Stan Pawlak	(707) 934-7178	stan.pawlak@gmail.com
Director: Nadya Clark	(707) 938-4762	nadyaclark@hotmail.com
Director: Katherine Couture	(707) 935-9358	Kc339@sbcglobal.net
Director: Jobina Forder	(707) 933-9176	Salisbury2@att.net
Director: Doug Graham	(707) 334-5472	Penguine52express@gmail.com
Director: Iain Pryor	(916) 764-0772	iaindpryor@gmail.com

Lifetime Members

Barbara and Larry Audiss, Katherine Couture, Al Fisk, Helaine Forte, Linda Garaicotchea, Nancy & Herb Heil, Barbara & Michael Heiman, Charlene Hunter, George & Marianne Paul, and Doreen Proctor.

2017 Chair Persons

Meeting Secretary: Liz Vaughn	(707) 799-6939	Lizvaughn707@gmail.com
Publicity: Bonnie Brown	(707) 935-8986	bonniebrown08@comcast.net
Community Services: Doug Graham	(707) 334-5472	Penguin52express@gmail.com
Horticulture: Dennis Przybycien	(707) 933-0224	dennisnolga@sbcglobal.net
Hospitality: Katherine Couture	(707) 935-9358	Kc339@sbcglobal.net
Membership: Nadya Clark	(707) 938-4762	nadyaclark@hotmail.com
Insurance: Valli Vieira	(707) 280-2420	sonomavalli@gmail.com
Program Chair & Special Events: Bonnie Brown	(707) 935-8986	bonniebrown08@comcast.net
Sunshine Chair: Elizabeth Krauss	(707) 938-5982	
Tranquility Garden: Position Open		
Newsletter Compiler: Position Open		
Newsletter eMailer: Iain Pryor (See Board Director above)		
Newsletter Proofreader and Snail-Mailer: Position Open		



Treasurer's Report

INCOME	
Membership Dues & Raffle	\$163.00
EXPENSES	
Newsletter Printing	\$6.00
Printer Supplies	\$144.00
Event Insurance	\$35.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$13,361.00



Contact

Website: www.vom-garden-club.org

(Please note that our website is currently down due to a server problem. Thank you for your patience.)

As a VOM Garden Club member, access the "members-only" info on our website by using the
If you are mailing a letter to the Valley of the Moon Garden Club, mail to:

VOMGC Attn: (name of the person you wish your letter to reach)

P.O. Box 501

Vineburg, CA 95487

