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February 2018

Fire-Safe Landscape

The Sonoma County Master Gardeners are assembling a program on fire-safe landscapes following the October Wine Country Fires. A document called “What Can I Do Now” presents steps homeowners can take to make their landscapes more fire-resistant. A preview of this document will be presented at the next Valley of the Moon Garden Club meeting on February 1st.

Taking corrective action in your landscape can reduce its flammability and provide a “defensible space” around your home.

Simple common sense improvements can be made by you or your gardener in time to provide protection for the next fire season.

This talk will be presented by VOM Garden Club VP and Sonoma Master Gardener Dennis Przybycien.

As usual, the meeting will be at the Sonoma Veterans’ Memorial Building, 126 First Street West, Sonoma. Arrive at 6:30 p.m. to pay any outstanding dues, peruse the raffle items and visit with other attendees during the meet-and-greet period. Then enjoy the lecture at 7:00 p.m. followed by a plant raffle and refreshments. Remember, the meeting is free for club members and five dollars for guests. For questions, call (707) 935-8986.



President's Message

Hello Garden Members,

We had our first VOMGC Board Meeting of 2018 on Wednesday, January 10th at 6pm.

The following items were discussed and we need your help and input.

1) POSITIONS THAT NEED TO BE FILLED

- a) Hospitality Chair Person – Will coordinate and set up the refreshment tables at the monthly meetings and organize members to bring treats, food and drinks.
- b) Editor – Will proofread the monthly newsletter and other publications.
- c) Social Media Developer – Will develop a Facebook page to help the Club reach out to a wider range of future members. (Does anyone know a Millennial?)
- d) Director of Garden Tours – Will organize tours of member's, non-member's, commercial and/or public gardens.
- e) Historian – Will digitize our past garden club photos, newsletters and related materials for our historical archive?

2) GREENHOUSES NEEDED

Does anyone have or know of any greenhouses that we can use to propagate plants for our Spring Plant sales? Our previous wholesale supplier, Blooms, was wiped out during the October firestorm.

3) RAFFLE TABLE ADDITIONS / BRING AND BUY

We would like to expand our raffle / fundraiser table to include goodies from your garden. Items could be homemade canned goods (like jellies, honey and relishes), small flower arrangements, fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables (like citrus), outdoor art and gardening tools in good condition.

4) Are you interested in giving a seminar on a garden-related topic? Topics such as canning, preserving and flower arranging would be welcome.

5) Please pay your yearly membership dues by **3/31/18** as dues will be increased to \$25 starting **4/1/18** for the year 2018.

Thanks everyone! We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, February 1st for our next meeting.

Best Regards,

Linda & Adrienne

Horticultural Column

Growing Kiwi (the fruit, not the bird)

As some of you know, I grow grapes and make home wine. I produce reds such as Zin and Pinot. I have planted some Chardonnay vines and produced a small amount of Chardonnay wine. However, with delicious Sonoma County Chardonnays such as La Crema and Artesa available at discount prices of \$12 to \$15 a bottle, I gave up on making Chardonnay and pulled the vines. In their place I put in a small citrus grove, and now I'm planning a row of kiwi fruit.

First, a little kiwi background. The first recorded description of the Kiwi fruit, previously known as Chinese gooseberry, was in the 12th century in China. It was not until 1904 that the Chinese seeds were propagated and planted in New Zealand. The fruit became a commercial product there, and then in 1954, a New Zealand ad agency rebranded the gooseberry as the Kiwi. It's a cute name and the fuzzy fruit does look like their fuzzy national kiwi bird.

Second, why plant kiwis? Well, they are delicious. Also, I can train them on the grape vine trellis system.

My research indicates that they are easy to grow and do well in Sonoma.

Producing kiwis requires both male and female plants. My plan is to have one male and two females. That seems fair. The typical grocery store fuzzy kiwis are not very frost tolerant, but there are smooth-skinned varieties that are hardy down to 20 degrees. That's what I'm planting. As a bonus, you can eat the skin on the smooth skin varieties. Peeling the fuzzy skin type is messy.

When my kiwi crop comes in, I will share some fruit with you at our club meeting.

Dennis Przybycien



Bonus Column

Chinese New Year Year of the (Brown) Earth Dog

The 2018 Chinese New Year is arriving on February 16th. It is the 4715th Chinese Year. The zodiac sign for this year is the dog and, according to Chinese Horoscope, it is the male earth dog. In feng shui / yin yang, the color brown is connected to the earth. Thus 2018 is also called the year of the Brown Dog.

As dogs are loyal, honest, amiable and good-natured with a happy disposition, this year looks like a great improvement over the last. Due to their loyal personalities, dogs tend to choose careers based on serving others. They are valuable employees and friends as they put their heart and soul into their tasks.

With the strong earth tenacity, people will focus on real estate, agriculture, environment, territory integrity or the greater exploration of spiritual growth. As dogs are naturally happy, they tend to enjoy good health and are highly sociable. Since they are active, alert and resilient when awake, dogs must power up with a good, hearty naps and need a lot of rest. They are basically easygoing and kind, but be careful if you cross one. Sometimes their bark is stronger than their bite, but why risk the other way around?

Wag on.

Adrienne



A Special Bonus!

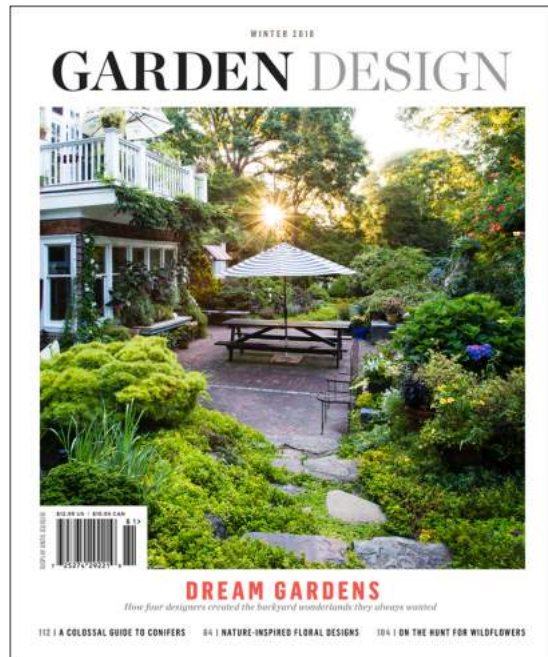
Discounted Subscription: Garden Design Magazine

Be sure to come to the meeting to find out how you can get a free issue of Garden Design with a new subscription. Garden Design will also donate \$12 per subscription.

More information about the magazine and offer can be found at:

<https://www.gardendesign.com/clubconnect.html>

Bonnie Brown



January 4, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Announcements:

Our new co-President Adrienne introduced herself and resolved that she and Linda Schill will collaborate to help the club flourish. She asked for volunteers for three jobs: refreshment providers or coordinator, newsletter proofreader/snail mailer and Tranquility Garden (Sonoma Valley Hospital) gardener. These are good opportunities to serve the community or our club.

Linda hopes the club will attract new, younger members with interests in farming and growing. Speak to Linda if you have ideas on programming they would respond to. Please invite new members to join us.

Bonnie Brown, who has secured so many excellent speakers in the past, turned over the reins to Co-Vice Presidents Doug Graham and Dennis Przybycien. If you have ideas for speakers, please check in with them.

Garden Design magazine has a special offer for us. The magazine will donate \$12 per new subscription to the club!

VOMGC will be working with two partners to create a Monarch butterfly habitat. Narrowleaf milkweed starts will be planted in an open area at General Vallejo's home in the State Historical Park. At the adjacent First Congregational Church of Sonoma, a

nectar garden will be planted to attract and feed the butterflies. There are many volunteer opportunities for members. (Reminder: plant the narrowleaf variety in your own garden, not the colorful cultivars.)

Paola Tonelli's Presentation:

Beautiful Geometry in Nature

Paola grew up in Italy and studied physics and engineering, leading to her interest in mathematics and geometry. After a career in the telecommunications industry, she and her husband retired to Petaluma. She became a Master Gardener and began combining her dual interests in mathematics and botany. Your faithful Meetings Secretary is only able to roughly describe this fascinating talk.

Plants grow according to the universal laws of physics, based on their DNA which has mathematical roots. Flowers and leaves may grow with axial or rotational symmetry. Spirals are another concept in plant forms; succulents, Romanescos (the green veggie), pine cones and fern fiddleheads are examples. Harmony is manifested by shapes and numbers, and botany has an affinity for certain number combinations, such as the Fibonacci (spiral) sequence. Petal formations tend to be in these numbers: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55. Paola also explained the proportions of the Golden Ratio and the Golden Angle. The arrangements of leaves on a stem are

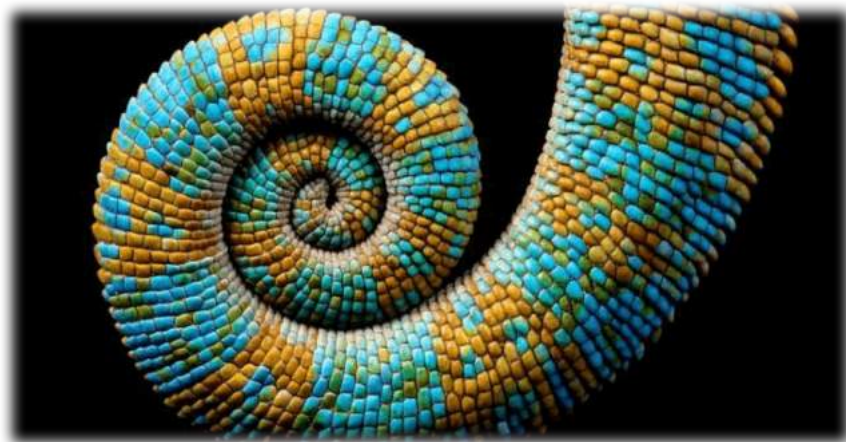
in opposite, alternate or whorled mathematical proportions.

In the seeming randomness of the natural world, there are many instances of mathematical order. After this talk, we may begin to observe our plants in an entirely new light.

For more on mathematics in nature, watch the NOVA documentary *The Great Math Mystery*.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/physics/great-math-mystery.html>

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



2018 Officers and Directors

Co-President: Adrienne Love	(707) 935-3590	addlove@aol.com
Co-President: Linda Schill	(707) 732-6306	linda.m.schill@kp.org
Co-Vice-President: Doug Graham	(707) 334-5472	Penguin52express@gmail.com
Co-Vice-President: Dennis Przybycien	(707) 933-0224	dennisnolga@sbcglobal.net
Board Secretary: Debra Rogers	(707) 227-9787	Debranr@comcast.net
Co-Treasurer: Jurine Biers	(707) 933-1696	Jurine2@aol.com
Co-Treasurer: Stan Pawlak	(707) 934-7178	stan.pawlak@gmail.com
Director: Bonnie Brown	(707) 935-8986	bonniebrown08@comcast.net
Director: Nadya Clark	(707) 938-4762	nadyaclark@hotmail.com
Director: Carol Dickason	(707) 935-0505	dickason05@gmail.com
Director: Jobina Forder	(707) 933-9176	Salisbury2@att.net

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	(916) 764-0772	iaindpryor@gmail.com
Newsletter Proofreader and Snail-Mailer: Position Open		



Treasurer's Report

INCOME

Membership Dues & Raffle \$367.00

EXPENSES

Veterans Hall Rental \$2,065.00
Holiday Party \$1,037.00
Bloom Firestorm Gift \$200.00
Fall Plant Sale \$275.00
Miscellaneous \$52.00

ENDING BALANCE \$10,917.00



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

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