

DVGC December 2006 Calendar

Dos Valles Garden Club Chaparral

Dos Valles Garden Club
P.O. Box 123
Valley Center, CA 92082-5511

Member of:
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Pacific Region
California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Palomar District

General Meetings at Noon
2nd Tuesday of the Month
September thru June
Valley Center Community Center

President - *Marcia Townsend*
Vice President - *Evelyn Kent*
Recording Secretary - *Carol Curcio*
Treasurer - *Joan Patten*
Correspondence Sec'y - *Bobbie Workman*
Communications Coordinator -
Kristen Broomfield
Parliamentarian - *Sarah Beers*

Membership - *Joan Smith, 749-2958*

Chaparral Editor - *Joanne Berry*
Deadline, 20th each Month
jeb@mailaka.net

- 1 **Christmas Luncheon Reservation Deadline**
- 2 **Poinsettia & Gift Plant Sale** (See page 2)
- 5 **Greenhouse Propagation**, 9 a.m., Martin Gang Ranch

12 **CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCHEON**

Escondido Country Club
1800 Country Club Lane, Escondido
No-host cocktails begin at 11 a.m.
Entertainment, 11:30 a.m.
Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.
Inspiration - Charlie Bell
(See page 2 for more info)

- 14 **Board Meeting**, 9:30 a.m., Valley Center Library
- 19 **Greenhouse Propagation**, 9 a.m., Martin Gang Ranch

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Christmas, a time of giving and sharing with those we love and many times with those who have no one to love them. I know with the Garden Club members their giving is year round. However, there are twenty four boys that live up here in Valley Center who have had very unhappy lives. Our thanks to Lenny Passafiume and other members of our club who have helped in past years or are helping now, by reading, planting and gardening, or doing flower arrangements with the boys. A few years back, we started a tradition of bringing toys for the boys to our Christmas luncheon. Let's dig a little deeper and help make their Christmas a little brighter. See Lenny's article on page 4 for some gift ideas. It will put a smile on your face and I know for sure it will put a smile on those boys' faces.

Christmas, a time to believe in miracles, believe in love, believe in dreams, believe in yourself, believe in peace and happiness and joy and understanding.

Merry Christmas,

Marcia

P. S. And don't forget the Chargers! Believe

CHRISTMAS PARTY - "Sing a Song of Winter"

A special treat awaits us at our annual Christmas fete this year. The musical program, "A Classical Winter Wonderland", was created especially for us by the Palomar College Music Department. It will be presented by the budding opera students of Palomar College and their accompanists. Be sure and arrive no later than 11:30 to enjoy this program.

A delicious luncheon will be served at 12:30 p.m. The menu includes: Chicken Florentine topped with feta cheese and pine nuts in a champagne sauce; a festive salad with raspberry vinaigrette; creamy mashed potatoes and green beans almondine along with dinner rolls and butter. Dessert will be New York cheesecake with eggnog sauce.

At 1:30 p.m. there will be a business meeting (so short you might miss it if you blink) followed by the GRAND FINALE featuring the Dos Valles Garden Club Singers.

I must have your reservation check in the amount of \$25 per person by **December 1** if you wish to attend. Mail to me: Evelyn Kent, 13224 Blueberry Hill Lane, Valley Center, CA 92082. Questions? Call 749-5078.

REMI NDERS

SHINODA UPDATE FROM MARCIA - As we discussed at our meeting, I went down to Shinoda on Friday and filled out the paperwork for our admittance to Shinoda. We should have the cards in two or three weeks.

Note: Shinoda Design Center on Miramar road is a strictly wholesale operation and the general public has never been allowed access. Arrangements are being made for all garden club members to gain admittance by showing these special cards.

If we get them before our Christmas luncheon, I will bring them. Otherwise, we'll send out a notice and come up with a plan to distribute them. Marcia

MISSING AND WANTED - We have been unable to locate some teal placemats that match the covering and skirting used on our head table. Please call Marilyn Mazza, 751-4335 if you know their whereabouts.

POINSETTIA & GIFT PLANT SALE



Saturday, December 2

8 a.m to 1 p.m.

Martin Gang Ranch

28933 Cole Grade Road

Featuring decorated "Charley Brown" Christmas trees, garden baskets and a variety of blooming plants including Snow Poppies, Salvias, Lenten Roses and Pelargoniums.

(Note: the poinsettias will not be available for pickup until after 10 a.m.)

If you can help, call Julie Ramey, 751-1906, or Dana Behymer, 749-7654

HELPING HANDS NEEDED - A major planting effort will be made at Adams Park on Tuesday morning, December 5th beginning at 9 a.m. A native plant buying trip has resulted in a treasure trove of plants awaiting a new home in the park. Hope you are able to join our loyal crew of Memorial Garden volunteers to help bring our local community park back to its former glory. Bring your own tools!

GARDEN CLUB NEWS FLASHES - June has established a "Message Board" on our Website. If you wish to get the word out fast in between newsletters, send your items to her for posting at juniebug@vcweb.org or call her at 749-3737.

For the latest on Dos Valles happenings, go to our great website:

www.dosvallesgardenclub.org



Perhaps the best holiday decoration of all is to be wreathed in smiles. Anon.

FROM THE GROUND UP

AT THE GREENHOUSE - Martin Gang Ranch, 28933 Cole Grade Road (look for the driveway with a roadside mailbox). We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 9 a.m., this month on December 5th and December 19th.

Propagation is having a great and profitable season, we are learning a lot and making a lot! The Poinsettia and Plant sale will be on Saturday, December 2 and we will try to make it a festive and successful one.

The Calendar Girls gave our Gang Ranch three wonderful books to help us identify and propagate along with \$800.00 for some of our needs, including a new rake for Shirley!

At propagation on December 5th we will be starting seeds and cuttings. If you have something you would like us to propagate, do bring it along as we learn together. On the 19th we will be prepping our nursery for frost. We will move some things to the green house and use cloud cover to protect some of our tables, always lots to do and we have fun doing it. Come join us.

Mark your calendars for January 2nd! Our propagation crew has been invited to Don Schloat's home to learn how to propagate and care for orchids. He has an amazing collection and many named for him. We will meet at the Gang Ranch at 9:15 a.m. then will carpool to Don's. This will be a rare opportunity so plan on joining us.

Our thanks for all your help, Nancy and Dana

DECEMBER HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS BY BARBARA - Thank you Mexico for our original poinsettias! And now the hybrids are so many and so lovely for the Christmas holidays.

Shirley Skinner gives us a few tips to make them last longer indoors. The roots shouldn't sit in water, so poke holes in foil wrappings so the plant can drain. If they are on a saucer or in a basket, raise the container with a layer of pebbles or packing peanuts. Keep your plants in bright light, but not direct sunlight. Poinsettias like moderate to cool temperatures between 65 degrees to 70 degrees. Keep them moist, but don't drown them. They can last for a couple months. These flowers are such a nice gift to others and to yourself as well.

December is an easier month for gardeners which is just as well as we get so busy with the Christmas rush. If you do want to get ahead on gardening before January, you can start pruning deciduous tree or planting bare-roots. Bare-root purchases can save you money, and you don't have to worry about soil differences. Roses are what we first think of with bare-root season. A new variety I am excited about buying this year is "Sharon's Delight" from Day Lily Hill, Escondido. The rose is a great "Iceberg" type, but with no mildew or pest problems, just continual white roses all season long. But other bare-roots also beckon! Grapes of many kinds are available. Asparagus and strawberries can be planted bare-root as well as blackberries and raspberries. How about bare-root fruit trees such as persimmon, plum, apricot, and nut trees?

After you make your purchases, soak your plants for an hour in some warm water with 20 drops of "Super Thrive" per gallon of water. The roots are stimulated and ready to be planted right away. Make a little hill of dirt in your planting hole to spread the roots over. Be sure your stem where it meets the root is at soil level. (Strawberries are an exception to this, as they need to be planted high so as to keep the stem from rotting.) Do not fertilize until the plant shows growth. Keep watered well by building a little berm around the plant. Use mulch around the plant, but keep it away from the stem or trunk.

Don't fertilize or prune your roses this month. Keep the blooms that come along and don't water. Doing these things help the roses harden off for winter.

Have a great Christmas season! Barb

BEHIND THE GARDEN GATE - If there is an opening and you have the opportunity to participate, plan to attend these monthly visits to members' gardens. This month Helen Borchelt hosted the group at her home in Pauma Valley. She has lived there almost 2 ½ years and said that the landscaping of the almost 30 year old home was designed for "Snow Bird" golfers. When translated this means easy maintenance of rounded bushes, flat hedges, and evergreen grass by the homeowners' association gardener.

Helen said she enjoyed the opportunity for the sharing and the learning experience the Garden Gate

made possible. In preparing for the group's visit, she took stock of what she and her husband had accomplished and prepared a list of questions for the group that might help her with for future landscaping plans. She especially appreciated receiving planting recommendations for the home's southern exposure and the variety of ways offered to amend the depleted soil.

The hour closed with refreshments including an Ann Kezeor's famous lemon cookie recipe. Everyone was surprised when a passing golfer friend dashed over to beg a sample.

If you are interested in our program, please contact Helene at 747-4097.

DESIGN SCHEMES AND THEMES

DESIGN WORKSHOP - There will be no workshop in December but you are encouraged to visit the Valley Center Library this month to view the decorations our talented club designers have created to transform the spaces into a beautiful holiday feast for the eyes.

FLORAL DESIGN FORUM - A timely holiday program of Christmas design themes in both Western and Oriental styles will be presented by Vista floral designer and florist, Sandi Schmitt on Monday, December 4 at 12:30 p.m. Everyone interested in floral design is invited to attend at the Woman's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe Street in Carlsbad. Only \$8 per session. Call Marcia if you would like to carpool.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

OPERATION INTERDEPENDENCE - In November, we sent 2 boxes and each baggie (100 total) had a Christmas card. Many of the cards were from children. When we delivered the boxes to Oceanside for shipment, we spoke with Al Renteria, the retired Marine and founder of O.I. It was good to see him again. He told us that now that O.I. has 14 different shipping stations across the nation, we reach approximately 50,000 different troops each

month. Hold your head high, for you're a part of this great program that supports our men and women overseas. Of course, we'll send a December box. We haven't missed a month's shipment in 6 years, thanks to you!!! Dana & Shirley

GARDEN THERAPY FROM THE BOYS RANCH

I want to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year with lots of blessings and many good wishes from the boys, all the staff and myself.

We successfully grew watermelons this year as the gophers didn't bother them but our pumpkins were another story. The gophers ate the roots and we were left with only two little ones. The boys loved eating the watermelons and our tasty strawberries. The cook at the ranch was delighted at our abundance of zucchini. We always have a good crop of that.

As we have done in past years, I think we all agree, that we should continue to make Christmas a joyous time for the boys by bringing a small wrapped gift for a boy 6-12 years old to our Christmas party on December 12. Indicate the appropriate age range of your gift on the label.

Here are some suggestions for gifts that may be purchased for under \$5: Bey Blades (spinning tops), Yo-Gi-Yo cards, hard candy, jaw breakers or a small car or toy.

After our party I'll deliver them to the boys. I thank you as I know how much joy it will bring to these boy who have experienced some very sad times in their young lives.

Become a Grandma or Grandpa Reader to the boys. They need you. Phone me if you would like to participate in this great program, 751-1332.

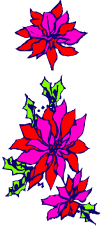
God Bless all the needy children,
Lenny Passafiume



May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope; the Spirit of Christmas which is peace and the heart of Christmas which is love. Ada V. Hendricks

Yearbook Update

A Warm Welcome to our new member:



Marc Allen
12720 Roberto Way
Poway 92064
Phone: 858-748-2041

*Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year!*

EVENTS FARTHER AFIELD

1-2 December Nights Community Festival, Balboa Park, free admission to museums from 5-10 p.m., lights, music and holiday-themed entertainment areas. balboapark.org

4 Floral Design Forum, 12:30 p.m., Woman's Club of Carlsbad. See page 3.

Garden of Lights, Quail Botanical Gardens, 5-9 p.m., Dec. 7-10, 14-23 and 26-30. \$8 adults. qbgardens.org

Festival of Lights, San Diego Wild Animal Park, Dec. 8-30 except 24 & 25, free with Admission. sandiegozoo.org/wap

