



The Bee

Inverness Garden Club - February 2013



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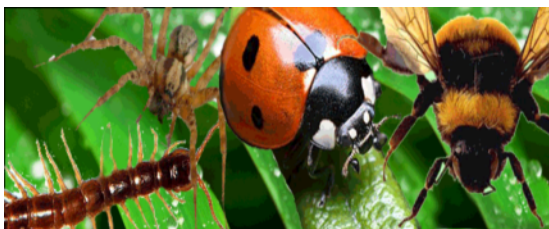
IGC GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, Feb 13 - 1:00 pm
Dance Palace Church Space

featuring a presentation by
Susan Miller

Marin Master Gardener
on

**INSECTS IN THE GARDEN..
HOW TO ATTRACT SOME
& REPEL OTHERS**



Message by President, Kathy Hartzell

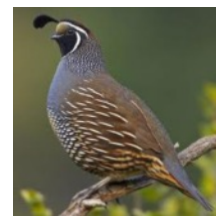
Dear Club Members,
I imagine that those who were able to attend our Hungry Owl Project presentation at the Dance Palace on the 11th, were as enchanted as I was. Our presenter, Trinka Marris was a terrific speaker, and the owls were astonishing, at least to me, to see up close. It's not the same as through binoculars! Thanks, Sandra, for putting the program together, I know it was a complicated one, with the special guests, Wookie and Sequoia.

We have our Primrose Tea coming up very soon, and there are some tasks including table hosting that Patsy still needs from the members - please do give her a phone call and see how you can help (*see page 4 of this Bee for specifics*). This is *not* a *one-woman show*, and its success is dependent upon your participation.

Thank you to all of the members who have taken the time to attend the Retreats put on by Martha and Barbara along with the facilitator, Shelley Hamilton. We have learned a lot from what members have shared and brainstormed. See the article that they have written of this Bee (also on Page 4) for where we go from here.

Moving on to one of my favorite topics, my vegetable gardens, I have to admit the winter garden hasn't lived up to my expectations - though the quail probably found it exceeded theirs. I love those busy little birds at my place, but they are really quite capable of decimating the greens! I'm trying to figure out a simple solution that doesn't render the beds an eyesore, and I'd love to hear what you've come up with!

Kathy



COMMUNITY PROJECTS ACTIVITIES

Linda Linder, Chair

Plant Park has been dark and cold, sleeping under its blanket of frost. Nick Whitney's crew, at the request of the Saltwater restaurant and with the approval of the Inverness Association and the CPC, have worked on the trees at the front of Plant Park. Thank you Saltwater for your support. We have also had that huge pile of brush at the back of the Park chipped. We will be back to work in the Park when weather and light permit.

Barry and I have been working on the Median a bit. Watch for an email about a work party there.

Our next meeting will be in March - watch for the date and location in your next Bee. There we will discuss, among other things, our role with the West Marin School garden, signage for the Point Reyes Library plant boxes, new plantings and new places to acquire them, our money management, new ideas for activities. I can be reached at 669-1434 or on line.



What's blooming now at Strybing?

Starting in December, high on the skyline of the Arboretum, you'll see the flamboyant pink and white of *Magnolia campbellii* mingling with the ever-green treetops of cypress and pine. Their distinctive "cup and saucer" shaped flowers appear before leaves form.



Magnolia campbellii is native to the Himalayas, growing at altitudes of 8,000-12,000 feet and reaching over 150 feet in height.

Magnolias are pollinated mostly by beetles, one of the earth's oldest known insects. The stamens (male) and carpels (female) of magnolias are spirally arranged on an elongated axis and encircled by tepals, a combination of petals and sepals of the same color-also spirally arranged. This arrangement is characterized as a very primitive floral structure.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Barbara Jay, Chair

Watching the Inauguration today I thought of IGC Scholar Walker Livingston who wrote us recently from Washington DC where he is in his first year at George Washington University:

I'll be attending the Inaugural Ball along with the inauguration...I really can't wait.. It's going to be one of those "only in DC" moments that I'll remember forever. I can also update everyone about the inauguration, too. I don't have standing tickets, but I'll get to the mall as early as possible with a blanket and claim my spot. Our housing board even sent an email saying we can't rent out our rooms for the inauguration!

We send our scholars off to get an education (and after that, a job!), but as we correspond with them, we are reminded that life in the larger world is yet another education for each of them. For many, the move from family life in West Marin to a California university is in itself, life-changing; others like Walker are ready to experience life on a larger, more distant stage. This year's scholars attend universities in 8 states; in addition, a number of them have traveled &/or studied in foreign countries including Russia and Ukraine, India, Spain, Morocco, Peru and New Zealand.

A Reminder: Scholarship Applications for 2013-14 are now available for downloading from the IGC Website. All students who live in coastal West Marin (Point Reyes, Inverness, Olema, Tomales, Marshall, Dillon Beach, Stinson Beach, Bolinas, Nicasio) or who have graduated from Tomales High School qualify for application. Students may apply for scholarships for any undergraduate year.

We contact school counselors, we publish announcements in local newspapers, we post flyers in libraries and post offices, and still, we get frantic letters past the deadline from students who could have used our money and did not know it was there. Help us spread the word! Make sure your friends and neighbors know about our Inverness Garden Club Scholarships!



Charlotte Kostelic & Melinda Borello at the Donor Party

MEMBERSHIP NEWS/NOTICES

Susan Nelson & Joyce Laws

Corrections to Membership Directory:

- Maureen Kennedy's correct address is 312 Pacific Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611
- Korè D'Abravanel -PO Box 1264, Pt Reyes 94956
- Lynn Relfe: prefers email: LynnRelfe@gmail.com

INSECTS IN THE GARDEN... HOW TO ATTRACT BENEFICIALS & REPEL OTHERS

Susan Miller, a Marin Master Gardener, will deliver a program that includes both a video and a lecture, which covers information on plants in the garden that can attract the beneficial insects we need to propagate our flowers/fruits. She will also discuss plants we can use to repel the insects that can ruin our harvest and destroy a summer of hard work. Many of the native plants she will feature in her talk will be available for sale - all grown by Master Gardeners!

In addition to being a Master Gardener, Susan began FOODSCAPE OF MARIN in 2009, encouraging people not to landscape but, to FOODSCAPE. She helps clients design, build and manage edible gardens to nurture, body, mind and spirit. She has also worked with GARDEN OF EATIN', part of North Bay Children's center in Novato, providing early nutritional education so children can make good food choices and avoid obesity and childhood diabetes. She is currently very involved with Marin Garden Challenge Program.



UPCOMING GARDEN-RELATED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Thurs., Feb. 7

Berries for the Home Gardener with organic gardening instructor Wendy Krupnick, 7-8:30 pm., Marin Art & Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ross. \$8.

Sat., Feb. 9

Pruning Trees and Shrubs with aesthetic pruner and certified arborist Peter Churgel, 9-10 am., Falkirk Cultural Center, 1408 Mission Ave., San Rafael. \$5.

Sat., Feb. 23

Bench Grafting with John Valenzuela & Henry Wallace, 10 am -1 pm, Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden, 1800 Ignacio Blvd., Novato. Check their website for details about the workshop & the why's & how's of grafting. Each participant will leave with one newly grafted tree.

Sat., March 2

How to Re-bloom That Beautiful Orchid with Master Gardener Glenn Smith, 10-11 am., Tamalpais Valley Community Center, 203 Marin Ave., Mill Valley. \$5.

Wed., March 6

ABCs of Growing Succulents with Master Gardener Jessica Wasserman, 10-11 a.m., Landmarks Society Art/ Garden Center, 841 Tiburon Blvd., Tiburon.

Thurs., March 7

The Mysteries of Cacao with UCCE Organic & Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator Juliet Braslow, 7-8:30 pm., Marin Art & Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ross. \$8.

Sat., March 9

By Seed, By Cuttings and By Pups, a propagation workshop with Master Gardeners, 9-10 am., Falkirk Cultural Center, 1408 Mission Ave., San Rafael. \$5.

Wed., April 3

How to Re-bloom That Beautiful Orchid with Master Gardener Glenn Smith, 10-11 am., Landmarks Society Art/Garden Center, 841 Tiburon Blvd., Tiburon.

Sat., April 13

Tomato Market at PINI Hardware, Novato & Bon Air Center, Greenbrae. Check the Master Gardener website for information about the heirloom and hybrid varieties that will be available.

LUNCH & CONVERSATION DISCUSSIONS

Barbara Jay & Martha Proctor

Forty-eight IGC members came together over two days in January to hear the results of last year's survey, and to share their responses. We're happy to report that participants, on paper and in person, continue to appreciate our club for its core values of friendship and gardening and community service.

The survey showed, and attendees agreed, that we want to reach outward to new members and other community groups, and simultaneously, we cherish the historical roots of our club; in an agricultural region where environmental and sustainability issues are in the fore, there is still a place for a club such as ours with interests in personal home gardening and the stewardship of small-scale civic spaces, as well as renewed enthusiasm for "digging in" and getting our "fingers in the dirt."



Shelley Hamilton

Older members remembered a time when IGC was much quieter: fewer members, fewer meetings, more time in the garden, and the Primrose Tea was a fundraiser for the Scholarship Committee. Now we noted, on paper and in conversation, the exponential growth of the Scholarship Committee, the more than a dozen annual Community Projects and Educational Programs, and the large number of both business meetings and social membership events each month. Nobody in our club planned for such change; many expressed surprise, not to say wonder, delight, and appreciation yet also a little concern, at where we had come over nearly eighty years.

The survey and retreat allowed members to acknowledge these changes and the weight of responsibility and operating complexity they have brought with them, not to mention the tension built into finding the volunteers to manage them; we thank all who took part in both the survey and the retreat and take comfort that participants in the two retreat days departed with relaxed consensus that in the coming year the IGC would experiment with some new leadership ideas designed to reduce pressure on a few people at the top and create opportunities for many more members to contribute in equitable ways.

Stay Tuned! Over the next few weeks we will be synthesizing feedback from our two retreats. We look forward to continued conversation with the goal of beginning some of our experimentation by early Spring.



Lunch & Conversation, Jan 23, 2013

PRIMROSE TEA BACK FOR 2013!

Jan Aston

Our Primrose Tea is all set to go under the able leadership of Patsy Bannerman and her committee. A Scottish theme has been chosen, calling into memory names such as Cameron, Perth, Aberdeen, Keith, Rannoch, Sterling - all names of roads in Inverness!!

The Inverness Garden Club's Primrose Tea, a tradition that goes back 75 years(!), is always a big success and is remembered year after year by those who attend. Most enjoyed are the beautiful hats created and worn by members and guests, who hope to win a prize for the "most beautiful", or "most creative". It's fun to help and participate!

Please consider participating by:

Hostessing a table? You need only bring your own tea service and flowers for your table. Contact Susan Rangitsch, 669-9749, or susan.rangitsch@gmail.com.

Baking? Teabreads, scones, shortbreads, cookies are needed. Contact Patsy, 663-1161, or via bluepond@svn.net.

Setting up at 10:00 a.m. on day of the tea, March 10. Again, contact Patsy.

Donating &/or helping at the Vintage Table? The Vintage table, begun several years ago, is enjoyed by everyone attending the Tea. It is sometimes thought of as an upscale flea market. Particularly popular items include jewelry, art, small antiques, vintage linens, small furniture, scarves, old hats. Patsy would love to hear from you!



Be sure to complete the registration form (see page 5 in this Bee), to reserve a place.

The Inverness Garden Club's 2013
Primrose Tea



Sunday, March 10, 2013
Dance Palace, Point Reyes Station

Come enjoy tea from 3:00-5:00 pm
in the fine Scottish tradition



\$20/person. Primroses available for purchase.
Join the spirit by wearing your favorite flowered hat..

Reserve by March 1 as reservations are limited. Send a check payable to
IGC Primrose Tea to IGC Tea, PO Box 1090, Pt Reyes, CA 94956

Welcome to the Land of Scotland!

The Primrose Tea

Sunday March 10, 2013 ~ 3:00 -5:00 pm

The Dance Palace

Member Name_____

Number of members attending @ \$20 each_____ Number of Guests @\$20_____

Guest's Names:_____

Amount enclosed (check to IGC, Primrose Tea): \$_____

How to contact you if we have sold out:

Mail your check & this form (or a note with the same information) to :

Alice Eckart, PO Box 1090, Pt Reyes Station, 94956

~No later than March 1, 2013~



ENLIVENING COLOR IN THE WINTER GARDEN

by Martha Proctor



WINTER OFFERS a breathing space for the garden and gardener, but when for days on end the sun never shines, some bright spots of color do wonders to lift the drabness of the winter garden. Now is a good time to see where your garden is lacking in winter interest and to add some year-round stars to perk things up. Winter-blooming flowers carry forward the beauty and complexion of the garden as fall fades into winter. Fortunately, there are numerous varieties.

It's important to select plants that will perform well in the microclimates within your garden. Not all plants can weather the cold and heavy rains typical of our Mediterranean climate. Even though there are many plants that bloom in the winter, many of them are not suitable for Sunset hardiness zones 15, 16 and 17 in which Marin County sits. Fortunately, there is an enticing selection of colorful, winter-blooming bulbs that complement the blossoms and berries of a variety of outstanding vines, shrubs and trees. Here are some worthy additions to your winter garden:

- **Helleborus:** From mid- to late winter, hellebores produce beautiful bell-shaped flowers in a wide variety of colors, including white, green, pink, red, purple and mahogany. These plants are also appreciated for their attractive foliage and because they are deer resistant. Plant in partial or full shade in good, well-drained soil amended with plenty of organic matter. *Helleborus niger*, also known as Christmas Rose, and *Helleborus orientalis* (Lenten Rose), both popular cultivars of this plant, thrive in many Marin gardens.



- **Rhododendron:** Several varieties of rhododendron add color to the winter garden from Christmas until late February. Rhododendron 'Christmas Cheer' (tight trusses of pink to white flowers) and rhododendron 'Rosamundi' (pink) are two excellent large leafed cultivars. Two Belgian Indica hybrid azaleas, 'Albert and Elizabeth' (white with pink edges) and 'Paul Schame' (salmon), both profuse bloomers with lush foliage and large semi-double or double blossoms, do well where temperatures don't fall below 20 degrees. For best results, plant in well-drained soil in an area with morning sun and afternoon shade.

- **Camellia:** Camellias provide beautiful, showy blossoms as early as October and as late as May. The most well-known camellia, *camellia japonica*, is a favorite of many California gardeners. Among the many named winter-blooming varieties of this popular cultivar are 'Daikagura,' 'Debutante,' and 'Elegans,' all of which produce blossoms in various shades of pink. 'Silver Waves' and 'Alba Plena' bear double white flowers; 'Tom Knudson' and 'Tomorrow,' large red flowers, and 'Wildfire,' semi-double orange red flowers. *Camellia oleifera*, the hardiest of all camellia species, produces small, fragrant white or cream flowers in autumn and early winter. Camellias grow better and bear more attractive flowers if grown in well-drained, amended, slightly acidic soil in partial shade. For the best results, protect blossoms from wind and rain.

- **Cyclamen:** *Cyclamen persicum*, known commonly as poor man's orchid, bears showy lavender, pink, purple, red, salmon or white flowers from fall into spring. The flowers, suitable as cut flowers, are carried above a clump of attractive, heart-shaped, basal leaves, many with silver mottling. Cyclamen prefer partial shade or partial sun and a fairly rich, porous soil, which has been amended with lots of organic matter. Protect plants from snails and slugs.



- **Clivia:** *Clivia miniata* produces brilliant large clusters of funnel-shaped orange flowers from early winter to late spring. Flowers appear on stalks, which rise above dense clumps of dark green, strap-shaped leaves. These beautiful plants do best when planted in groups in shaded areas of the garden. As clivias are damaged by freezing temperatures and survive only to 25 degrees, plant them in a well-protected, shaded area of the garden.



- **Raphiolepis:** *Raphiolepis indica*, Indian hawthorn, is a profuse bloomer that bears fragrant, showy white to nearly red flowers from late fall to mid-winter. Plant in full sun. These plants are drought tolerant and not often bothered by pests. Most are low growers. Good seacoast plants as they tolerate salt drift.

- **Clematis:** Two evergreen clematis, *Clematis cirrhosa* 'Wisley Cream' and clematis 'Freckles' reliably bring forth cream-colored, small, bell-shaped flowers all winter into spring. *Clematis cirrhosa* 'Wisley Cream' was selected in 2002 to receive the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Merit, which is given to recognize outstanding garden plants. Clematis require excellent drainage and a sunny, sheltered position that is protected from the wind.

- **Ribes:** A California native, *ribes speciosum* (fuchsia flowering gooseberry) is treasured, despite its thorny stems, for its deep crimson to cherry red flowers, which last from winter into spring. *Ribes sanguineum* (pink winter currant), also native to California, produces drooping 2- to 4-inch clusters of 10 to 30 small, deep pink to red flowers. Plant in well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade.



Other noteworthy plants that can add sparkle to a winter garden include:

- **Bulbs:** *Galanthus nivalis* and *galanthus elwesii* (snowdrops), *chionodoxa lucillae* (glory of the snow); vines: *jasminum mesnyi* (primrose jasmine), *jasminum nudiflorum* (winter jasmine)
- **Perennials:** *primula malacoides* (fairy primrose), *chaenomeles* (flowering quince) and *himealis* (winter pansies)
- **Trees/shrubs:** *garry elliptica* (silk tassel bush), *tagetes lemmonii* (Copper Canyon daisy) and *callistemon* (bottlebrush)

With all these wonderful winter blooming specimens to choose from, it shouldn't be quite as hard to wait for the first daffodils and crocus to emerge in early spring.

** (adapted from The Marin IJ, Feb 5, 2011).

OWL STRUCK - JAN 13 EVENING GENERAL MEETING at the DANCE PALACE

We had 80 guests, occupying all the chairs - and, there were even some people standing! The HUNGRY OWL PROJECT, co-founded by ALEX GODBE, and TRINKA MARRIS, along with Joe Fox put on an excellent program for us. They gave a very interesting and informational narration on the barn owl and three other owls, their natural habitat with recordings of their calls to help us identify the owls we may not see but, are living with.

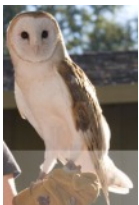
The room was silent, except for Trink's soothing voice, as their two owls passed through the hall, "WOOKIE", a barn owl accompanied by ALEX GODBE and "SEQUOIA," a northern spotted owl accompanied by MARIANNA RISER. The mood was a little magical - we were all in awe of these delicate, handsome, creatures that are also famous for ferociously securing their dinner. I'm sure I'm not the only one who dreamed of owls that night.. after meeting two real ones...

THE HUNGRY OWL PROJECT will present its second evening in the spring...DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED.. to promote BARN OWL HABITAT, while gaining sustainable eco friendly rodent control.....focusing on rodent control, owl boxes, offering help with finding appropriate and safe sites, and installations.

I would like to thank the two bar tenders, George Rangitsch and Barry Linder, Kathy and Chris Hartzell and especially Norma Ashby who put together the lovely assortment of delicacies.....Norma is always the first person to show up and the last one to lock the door and turn out the lights.....

THANK YOU

SANDRA KAZANJIAN



Wookie, the Hungry Owl's
Ambassador Barn Owl



Large audience in attendance



Juvenile Western Screech Owl



Sequoia, Hungry Owl's Spotted Owl

FEBRUARY 2013 CALENDAR

| | |
|----------|--|
| Feb 6 | 9:30 am -Scholarship Committee meeting at the home of Jody Wardle, 66 Laurel, Inverness Park |
| Feb 13 | 1:00 pm -IGC General Meeting, Church Space, Dance Palace - <i>Insects in the Garden, How to Attract Some and Repel Others</i> presented by Susan Miller, Marin Master Gardener |
| Feb 20 | CPC's next meeting is <i>March 20</i> |
| Feb 27 | 1:30 pm -IGC Board meeting, Point Reyes Affordable Housing |
| March 10 | Primrose Tea |

The Bee is published monthly, September through June, by the Inverness Garden Club.
Editors: Martha Proctor & Carrick McLaughlin

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HAPPY
MAIDEE



BIRTHDAY !!
MOORE



Thank you for your amazing contributions for so many years as our friend in the Garden Club and West Marin community. You've created beautiful experiences & worked tirelessly to add richness to Hospitality, Culture, Education and Preservation thru creating the Children's Swim Safety Skills program/Water Dogs; your Annual Christmas Party for the Inverness School, starting the May Faire Flower Show with Scottie Mendoza; volunteering at the Primrose Tea, Inverness Fair, Christmas Bazaar; setting up Photo shows as Jack Mason Exhibits, the Old Inverness Photo Show at the Inverness Fair, and the Photo Show of the Western Weekend Princesses. You raised contributions to the Smile Train with your unique walking sticks. Thank you also for your work with the Tomales Bay Historical Society & much much more! Thank you & Best Wishes!

Adding Spring Plants to your Garden?



Sale dates at Occidental Ecology Center

April 12 - Members Preview 3-6 PM

April 13 & 14

April 20 & 21