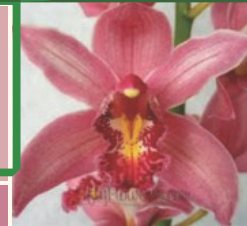




The Bee



INVERNESS GARDEN CLUB - MARCH 2014

In this issue...

- **March Meeting - March 12**
- **Message from Leadership Circle**
- **Scholarship News**
- **Community Projects update**
- **Membership News & updates**
- **Article: Coping with Drought**
- **Upcoming Seminars/Events**
- **Recap of Owls meeting**
- **Open Garden April 19**
- **May 10 - IGC's 80th Birthday celebration**

Message from your Leadership Circle:

SAVE THE DATE! May 10, 2:00 pm IGC's



It's your birthday!

As IGC members, we are all celebrating this 80th year of our Club, founded in 1934. On **Saturday, May 10**, we're pulling out all the stops and giving ourselves a High Tea at an elegant 1907 Inverness house. This will be an occasion to honor our history and all the wonderful women who have been part of it, as well as the history of Inverness. So start looking through your closet for your best dress and hat. Beg, borrow or steal, but plan to come in all the glory you can muster!

Meanwhile, note the announcement (page 2) of our **March 12** meeting at the Jack Mason Museum at the Inverness Library as well as at the Food Shed behind the Blackbird. We'll be meeting some of the young people in our community who are leading us into the future with food and farming businesses that reflect the historical, agricultural economy of West Marin and build a stronger community for all of us here now and in the future.

And look forward on **Wednesday, April 9** to our own private IGC member garden tour. Three IGC members who live on the Point Reyes Mesa will be opening their gardens to us. In addition, we will tour Table Top Farm on Cypress, run by Aaron Wilder.

Looking forward to next year, we, the five members of your IGC Leadership Circle, have enjoyed their terms in this first year of our new structure, and we're planning for next year's inclusion of some of you. Pick up your phone when it rings, and see what you might enjoy contributing to our fine, 80 year old best friend!

*Kathy Hartzell
Linda Lustig*

*Barbara Jay
Martha Proctor*

Ann Johnson

IGC MARCH GEN MEETING

Wed March 12 - 1:00 pm

Local Ventures in Food, Gardening & Community

with Maggie Levinger

&

The Food Shed

**Meet at Jack Mason
Museum with a visit to the
Food Shed to follow**



Old Traditions Made New

Wednesday, March 12 1:00 pm

The Jack Mason Museum at the Inverness Library

Local Ventures in Food, Gardening and Community

from

Your Younger Neighbors

Talk with **Maggie Levinger and friends**
about new local ventures in
Food, Farming & Community

at

**Wild West Ferments, Little Wing Farm,
The Food Shed & Table Top Farm**

and

Visit the Food Shed for a first hand look*

*After Maggie's talk we will walk over together to the Food Shed, behind the Blackbird



CPC UPDATE

Linda Lustig, Chair

Art in the Parks: We are very pleased to be working with Claudia Chapline of Art Contemporary Marin to place sculptures in Plant Park late spring or early summer. We are now in the process of confirming availability of the sculptures and will then go forward with formal approvals and finally installation. We'll let everyone know as the project progresses.

The art works will be on loan from the artists; Art Contemporary Marin (a non-profit) will handle all the associated expenses—everyone will be able to enjoy our enhanced public space! Members of the CPC met with Claudia at Plant Park and at the Gables by the Inverness Library. We decided to begin with Plant Park and add the Gables if an appropriate sculpture can be located. The project also involves approval by the Inverness Foundation Board. To this end, Julie Monson joined the group at the parks. We are very thankful to Art Contemporary Marin for this opportunity.

Supporting Community Members: We've been invited to participate in the benefit scheduled for **April 5th** for Alex Porrata and her children, EZ and Lu. Our role will be to donate potted plants for the stage at Toby's. The plants will then be sold as part of the fundraising effort. Please contact Linda Lustig (415-663-8636 or slustig@yahoo.com) if you have a plant to donate.

Digging in the Dirt: Come join us – we will have a work party at the Gables Garden in Inverness on **Wednesday, March 5th** starting at **9:30 am**. We'll be there for at least 2 hours, and each volunteer is expected to work for only part of the time. So please come and help for as long or short a time as fits your schedule.

Next CPC Meeting: We'll meet on **FRIDAY, March 7th** (this isn't a typo- we'll really meet on Friday) at **2:30** in the afternoon. We'll be discussing ongoing projects including Art in the Parks, care of the parks, library and post office boxes, and the upcoming fundraiser listed above. The meeting will be held at 21 Mesa Road, Pt Reyes Station.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Susan Fisher, Chair

It's official! Our IGC scholarship applications may now be completed online which makes it possible for each Scholarship Committee member to read them



the day each is received, and to access them again in their electronic 'file' for rereading and evaluation before Decision Day. Check out our "new look" by going to invernessgardens.org and clicking on "Scholarship," then on "First Time Scholarship Application" on the left.

Applications are due this year on March 3, a month earlier than usual, in order to schedule our Decision Day on April 2. We anticipate that the earlier awards date will help our scholars make more financially informed choices about which college to attend.

Next year there will be two places open on the Scholarship Committee when veterans and former Chairs **Martha Proctor** and **Barbara Jay** retire. Their combined skills in computer savvy, wide knowledge of the community, finance, and development highlight the breadth of skills needed to nurture what has become a small business. Candidates who have experience in the helping professions (nursing, teaching, counseling, etc.), and in the business world are vital to our continued success. A depth of experience in local community activities is equally important.

New members sign on for 3 year terms, with the hope that they'll remain for 2 terms. All Committee members make a significant time commitment. In addition to monthly meetings from Sept through May/June, our calendar of events includes distribution of the annual appeals letter in Oct, the IGCSF jam booth at the Holiday Craft Fair, a Friends of Scholarship party in late Dec, and, of course, the application reading process that culminates with scholarship awards in April for new and continuing scholars. If you are interested in joining the Scholarship Com, or would just like to help out from time to time, please contact me, and let's talk!

Susan Fisher 663-1484

MEMBERSHIP NEWS/NOTICES

Admin Circle - Kathy Hartzell

I am happy to report that the Club has 111 members paid in full for this fiscal year (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014). Gathering the dues has been very slow this year and unusually time-consuming. Due to the changes agreed upon last year, we were not quite behind the 8 ball & did not put an envelope in the first Bee of the year as had been done in the past. In the next fiscal year, all members will receive a dues notice in July for the following year to simplify and standardize the renewal process.

As far as I can tell from my rosters, we have not gotten any new members this year. Susan Nelson and I will go over the roster soon to see if there are any new members from late spring who deserve a bit of a social gathering. Of course, any member, quite new or returning, is welcome to send a note for a refresher on what we do and where you might fit into the circles of our organization. If you have any questions about membership or dues, contact Kathy at khartzell@sbcglobal.net.

The Garden in March

In March, the westerly winds scurry thru the garden, increasing the wind chill factor. On the brighter side, March can also bring days of sunshine during which the gardener can prepare for Spring. Just be sure to watch out for frost which can harm new seedlings when they are leafing out with new growth. March is the time to think about doing the following chores in your garden:

- ☛ Sow seeds of summer vegetables & annuals indoors.
- ☛ Begin weeding while the weeds are young.
- ☛ Watch out for snails & slugs if (hopefully!!) we get some much needed rain.
- ☛ In this period of drought, consider purchasing a Save-A-Drop water meter to take the guesswork out of watering your garden.
- ☛ Fertilize roses, citrus, and flowering plants which are about to bloom.
- ☛ Fertilize azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons after they finish blooming.

SUCCESSFUL OWL EVENT

Barbara Jay

It was a first-ever collaboration between The Dance Palace, the Audubon Canyon Ranch and the Inverness Garden Club, and on a stormy night, it brought out a large crowd that filled the performance space at the Dance Palace, enjoyed the beautiful desserts and made friends with the



three majestic owls brought from San Rafael and Santa Rosa Wild Care by the Hungry Owl Project.

The other attraction that night, enjoyed by all, was the ongoing *Birdhouses and Beyond* silent auction in the lobby and the performance space.



This evening, which raised over \$600 for the Dance Palace, will hopefully be the first of many events in which local non-profits help each other by sharing resources and data-

bases and volunteers.

If you were unable to attend, Trinkia Marris, co-founder of the Hungry Owl Project, gave an informative narration and slide show on 4 local owls, their natural habitat and life patterns along with recordings of their calls.

In addition to all of these delights, members of the Dance Palace and Inverness Garden Club made luscious desserts for attendees to savor as they listened to the owls and learned about their life cycle.

If you would like to add an owl box to your garden or neighborhood, contact the Hungry Owl Project. Amazingly enough, owls are known to consume as many as 3000 rodents in a year!!

COPING WITH DROUGHT

Martha Proctor

According to a January 2014 issue of the Point Reyes Light, rainfall since July 1, 2013 for West Marin has been 3.75" against an average since 1925 of 37.71". Marin County, as well as the entire state of California, is facing the driest year on record. To make matters even worse, the current drought follows below normal rainfall for both 2011 and 2012. In fact, scientists say that studies of tree rings, sediment and other natural evidence document evidence of multiple long-lasting mega-droughts in California lasting 10-20 or even up to 180-200 years. One look at the Nicasio Reservoir tells you how far behind we are in rainfall!



Drought stress in plants occurs when the roots are not absorbing enough water for their needs. Symptoms of drought stress include damage occurring from the top of the plant down and from the outside of the plant inward. One of the first signs is wilting or the loss of turgidity. Other symptoms can include a decrease in growth both in girth and length, thinning of the canopy, curling or yellowing of foliage, premature leaf/fruit drop or leaf die-out, less resistance to disease or pests, smaller than normal leaves, shorter flowering period and flowers failing to open.

The amount of water needed in any garden depends on rainfall, soil type, wind, sunshine, fog, relative humidity, temperatures, day length, age of the plants and the number of plants growing in a given area. Deeper, less frequent watering results in healthier and deeper roots which are more resistant to drier conditions and stress as they can draw from a larger volume of soil. In the absence of rain, provide your garden, including your vegetable garden, with one inch of supplemental water each week or whatever is necessary to make up the difference; an additional half inch of water should be supplied for every 10 degrees the temperature climbs over 60°F. Insert a soil probe (your finger inserted down to the 2nd knuckle, a shovel or moisture meter) to a depth of 6" to check the moisture content of the soil. If your measuring implement comes back with soil stuck to it, the soil has sufficient moisture. If, however, your finger or other measuring device remains relatively clean, the soil is dry and in need of thirst quenching. On average, 1 inch of water applied at the surface wets sandy soil 12 inches deep, loam soil 7 inches deep, and clay soil only 4 to 5 inches deep. Clay-based soils can be watered less frequently, but need heavier applications of water because they hold more water within their structure. The water should be directed toward the base of the plant to avoid wasting as little as possible.

To further delineate your irrigation circumstances, set out a few small cans and measure the amount of water in the cans after the sprinkler runs for one hour; when the flow is adjusted to fill a gallon container in 30 seconds, it'll take ~30 minutes to apply 1" of water to 100 sq ft. To encourage deep roots, water deeply by applying the 1" of water 1-2x/week instead of every day. Never apply more than 1" of water at a time. Water plants only when they need it, not by the clock or calendar. Allow the top inch or two to dry out between waterings so that plants can extract the available moisture and develop deeper roots. Check soil moisture before and after you water.

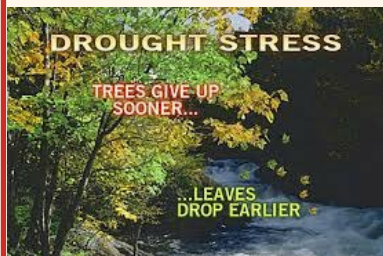
Plants need water for metabolism, transpiration, photosynthesis and even for holding themselves up. The total water requirement is the amount of water lost in transpiration plus the amount evaporated from the soil. Improving the soil is one of the key ways to ensure the best use of the moisture present in soil. Soil amendments e.g., compost and mulch, should be added to assist soil to retain all available moisture. The right combination of components allows the soil to soak up natural rainfall and encourages roots to grow deep and wide so they can make the best use all of that available moisture. The ideal soil contains comparable amounts of sand, silt, clay and organic matter at least one foot deep for good aeration and drainage.

The main components of water wise gardening are: •choosing plants which mature early and/or need less than average water, •grouping plants according to their water needs in hydrozones, •preparing the soil properly to encourage a large root system to gather water/nutrients and •conserving water with drip irrigation and mulch. Plants which need less water once they are established usually fall into 2 groups: plants from arid climates which need less water year round and dry summer plants which grow and flower in the winter and spring and need little water during the summer. There are a few fruits that require less water: figs, olives, and pineapple guavas which require little additional water once they are established. Most vegetables require regular watering through the summer. Some vegetables that get by with less water include tepary beans, black-eyed peas, eggplant, chickpeas, snap beans, chard, mustard greens and amaranth. Also, tomatoes, squash, melons, okra and peppers develop deep root systems quickly so need less. To see a list of quick-maturing vegetable varieties, go to http://harvesttotable.com/2009/02/quick-maturing_vegetable_varie/.

If you use an average amount of water in the home landscape, by watering only when you need to and only as much as your plants require, you'll reduce your water consumption by ~25% or by an average of 11,000 gal/ of water/year.

How to help your garden survive the drought - 10 things you can do now:

1. Care for established fruit/ornamental trees 1st, give them a deep irrigation in early spring if the winter has been dry.
2. Reduce or turn off irrigation to the lawn (a 1000 sq ft lawn uses over 20,000 gallons of water annually source: http://ucanr.edu/sites/MarinMG/Marin_Master_Gardener_Help_Desk/Leaflet/Water-aving_tips_for_the_home_garden/.)
3. Monitor shallow rooted and young plants frequently for signs of drought.
4. Add mulch and compost to the soil to increase its ability to retain moisture.
5. Water in the morning when winds are calm and evaporation is at a minimum so that water goes into the soil and to the plant roots. Use drip irrigation to reduce water loss by up to 60% as compared to traditional watering methods as this method keeps water and oxygen levels within the absorption limits of the plant.
6. Make sure your water system works efficiently: examine it frequently, checking for leaks, clogs, mis-directed sprinklers or drip-emitters. Purchase a water meter that attaches to your hose that gives the exact amount of water you are distributing.
7. Remove grass or weeds from around plants as they compete with plants for nutrients and water.
8. Space plants so that they have more elbow room to find water and nutrients in the soil.
9. Don't prune live branches from your trees now as this will stimulate new growth. Remove only dead, diseased, and damaged limbs.
10. Do not fertilize as this also stimulates growth.



Guidelines for specific types of plants in drought conditions:

- **Fruit and Nut trees:** Deciduous fruit and nut trees need adequate water in their root zones continuously from bloom until harvest. Citrus trees need adequate soil moisture during spring to set fruit and steady water in summer and fall to produce acceptable size, numbers and quality of fruit. If just kept alive with a few early season water applications, they may not set much fruit.
- **Edibles/Vegetables and Fruit:** Water is most critical during the first few weeks of development, immediately after transplanting, and during flowering and fruit production. Most vegetables need 1" or 3/4 gallon of water per week divided into 2-3 irrigations during the growing season and 1/2" or more if temperatures are high. During cooler months, most vegetables need 1/2" to 3/4" of water per week. Fruit trees and berries benefit from a 2x/week deep soaking during their first and second growing seasons to keep the rootball moist. Once established fruit trees, unless they are very large, need deep watering once every 2-3 weeks. At minimum, a 1'-7' fruit-bearing tree in summer requires 2 gal/day; a 7'-15' tree, 4 gal/day; a 15'-23' tree, 8gal/day and trees over 23' require 14 gal/day. (http://www.drought.wsu.edu/pdf/Tree_Fruit_EM4820.pdf). All edibles grow best if irrigated regularly; if unable to provide regular water, monitor frequently for signs of drought.
- **Young trees** need deep regular watering during their growing periods. During periods of little or no rain, consistent deep watering once a week will keep trees growing well until they become established. Water established trees during heat waves and drought conditions.
- **Established shrubs:** thorough spring watering and 1-2 thorough waterings in the summer keep most well established shrubs alive for at least one season.
- **Ground covers** often survive on ~1/2 of the amount of water they would receive under better conditions. Water them at least every 3-6 weeks from April through September, depending on location and soil conditions.
- Water **young plants** more often, as they have small root systems and tend to dry out quickly. **Older plants** have established root systems with plenty of root hairs (the organs that collect water for the plant) so they do not need to be watered as frequently as younger plants.
- **Container grown plants** dry out more quickly than those in the ground. Remember, too, that **shallow-rooted plants** such as rhododendrons, azaleas, heathers and bedding plants may continue to need more frequent watering than most other plants.

Avoid overwatering: it results in the soil becoming oxygen deficient. This, in turn, damages the root system -plant roots need oxygen to live.

Helpful Definitions:



Plants that "need no supplemental water once established" usually don't need to be irrigated by the 2nd or 3rd summer after planting, and can usually survive strictly on seasonal rainfall.

"Drought tolerant plants" can survive with 3-6 deep soakings during a dry summer but do need regular watering until they are established.

"Regular irrigation" usually means weekly or bi-weekly watering for established plants during very hot weather; however, newly planted plants will need more frequent watering.

Upcoming Events/Classes

Wed March 5, 10 am: Conserving Water in the Garden; Master Gardener: Tony Mekisich, Landmarks Society Art & Garden Center, 841 Tiburon Blvd., Tiburon
-Thurs March 6, 7:00 pm: Backyard Chickens; Master Gardener: Catherine Wolfers, Larkspur Library, 400 Magnolia Ave Larkspur.
-Sat March 8, 10:00 am: The Secret Lives of Bees; Master Gardener: James Campbell, Tamalpais Valley Service District, 203 Marin Ave., Mill Valley. \$5.00 FEE
-Tues March 11, 7:30 pm: Backyard Composting; Master Gardener: Joan Irwin, Marin Rose Society, San Rafael Corporate Center, 75 Lindero St., San Rafael.
Sat March 15, 1-3:00 pm: Marin Master Gardener Panel on Edible Gardening; Corte Madera Community Recreation Cntr 498 Tamalpais Dr., Corte Madera, \$5 FEE
-Sat March 22, 11:00 am: Tomatoes! • Master Gardener: Joe Jennings, Novato Library, 1720 Novato Blvd, Novato
-Sat -Sun April 12-13: IVC Plant Sale of edibles e.g., squash, peppers, eggplants and grafted fruit trees.
-Sunday, May 4, 10am- to 5pm: Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: Visit a [variety of bird/butterfly-friendly, pesticide-free, low maintenance, water conserving, gardens](#) that contain 60% or more native plants in Alameda & Contra Costa counties. 40 garden talks are scheduled. Suggested donation \$15. register: www.bringingbackthenatives.net/registration-p1.

Bouquets to Art

The San Francisco Auxiliary of the Fine Art Museums is sponsoring a spectacular Bouquets to Art Floral Design Demonstration program at the De Young Museum the week of March 18 thru 20 featuring a line-up of renowned talented artists. Ron Morgan, a nationally recognized floral designer will team up with Shane Connolly, a floral director who works with the members of the monarchy & the UK's V&A Museum; David Stark, a party event planner for celebrities in Hollywood, New York & Washington DC; Thierry Chantrel, a Parisian floral designer, Laura Dowling, White House floral designer, and Soho Sakai, the renowned Ikebana designer.



Tickets to the various floral design demonstrations are \$40. For more info and to purchase tickets: call 415-750-3504 or go online to deyoungmuseum.org/bouquets.

GARDEN TOUR TO BENEFIT PORRATA-POWELL FAMILY Saturday, April 19 - 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Patsy Faulkner and Phil Jonik plan to open their beautiful garden full of blooming azaleas and rhododendrons on Saturday, April 19th (the day before Easter) from 11:00 to 3:00 to benefit their neighbors, the Porrata-Powell family. Everyone is welcome. The suggested donation is \$25 per person. All proceeds will be donated to the Porrata-Powell Family Fund.

In addition to the beauty of the rhododendrons, there will be live music and refreshments. It has been 10 years since their lovely garden was open during an Inverness Garden Club Tour so this is a rare opportunity indeed.



Please RSVP if you would like to attend. When RSVPing, let Patsy know if you would like to be a docent in the garden or provide cookies or treats. Thank you! A Porta Potty will be available on site; there will also be someone to help with parking.

Patsy Faulkner
501 Via de la Vista
Inverness
RSVP: (415) 669-7444 OR Patsy@horizoncable.com



March/April 2014 calendar



- March 5** **9:30 am - Scholarship Com meeting at the home of Maureen Kennedy**
- March 12** **1:00 pm - March General Meeting: Maggie Levinger & the Food Shed - Meet at the Jack Mason Museum Room**
- March 7** **2:30 pm - CPC meeting at Linda Lustig's, 21 Mesa Rd, Point Reyes. (Friday, 3/7)**
- April 2** **9:30am - Scholarship Com Meeting for the Review of applicants at the home of Barbara Jay**
- April 9** **Garden Tour on the Pt Reyes mesa (more info in April Bee)**

The Bee is published monthly, September through June, by the Inverness Garden Club.

Editor: Martha Proctor - Communication Circle

Quotable Quotes



A weed is a plant that is not only in the wrong place, but intends to stay. Sara Stein



An inch of rainfall drops 7,000 gallons, nearly 30 tons, on a 60 x 180 foot piece of land, about the size of an average suburban household property.
Hortus Miscellaneous



Friends are flowers that never fade.



God made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done!



A garden is a friend you can visit any time.



You know you are a hard-core gardener if you deadhead flowers in other people's gardens.
Sue Careless



Gardeners have 3 weapons to use against drought: mulches, watering pots and prayers.
Tyler Whittle



Gardens are a form of autobiography.
Sydney Edison



Inverness Garden Club
P.O. Box 203
Inverness, CA 94937
www.invernessgarden.org