

Clovis Botanical Garden IN THE GARDEN

Third Quarter 2006

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Texas Ranger: *eucophyllum frutescens*, "Green Cloud" currently in magnificent color at the Garden.

Clovis Botanical Garden
Clovis, California
Located on Clovis Avenue
just North of Alluvial.
www.clovisbotanicalgarden.org

Newsletter Editor: Rhoda Bryant

BOARD CHANGES

Perhaps I should call this the *Treasurer's Message* because it occupies the space where the President's Message has resided since our first newsletter, nearly twelve years ago. It will return with the next issue, from a new President. Having become almost as much involved in cash management as in the many tasks I chose to do as President, it seemed like a good time for some changes.

Our Vice-President, Nelda Lewis, has become acting President, and I have become acting Treasurer. The 'acting' part of these titles could be removed if the Board of Directors agrees in November – the start of our next fiscal year. Nelda's management skills and diplomacy would be of great value to the Botanical Garden.

The work distribution has evolved over my presidency years, and of course other Board members have been involved in the changes, too. In October 1994, we had no more than thirty members. Some of those are still giving their support, even though we were not able to start the first acre until 2002. You have to admire such loyalty.

The past years have been very much a learning experience. I'm sure I will continue to learn, along with my fellow volunteers. It's a pleasure to see all the support we get from the many citizens who provide their time or their funds – and often both – as we continue to develop the Botanical Garden.

Soon the landscaping of the additional five acres will get into high gear. You will be proud to be associated with this great project. If you would like to be on the Board of Directors, this might be a good time to inquire.

Gordon Russell

FALL PLANT SALE

- WHO: Clovis Botanical Garden & Native Plant Society
 - WHAT: Plant Sale – Native Plants & Mediterranean's – Perennials, Shrubs, Herbs, and Trees – *For Our Climate*
 - WHEN: Saturday, September 30, 2006 – 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
 - WHERE: Clovis Botanical Garden, Corner of Clovis Ave. and Alluvial
 - WHY: To raise funds, to share plant knowledge and expertise, and
to have fun!
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COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

Operations and Maintenance Committee

by Art Munger

For the last three months, the new Garden Operations & Maintenance Committee has been monitoring the care of the Garden's plants and their physical changes. We meet informally each Saturday morning to address such items as the current state of plant irrigation, the need for pruning and other landscaping maintenance, and to list recommendations for changes which then may be passed on to the other appropriate committees.

One current emphasis is to review the amount of water being delivered to plants, based upon their current health. Changes in the number of emitters, or gallons per hour per emitter per plant, sometimes have to be made.

Another main emphasis is on the detailed care of the plants. The plants in the garden not only show specific growth characteristics but are arranged with other plants to show how different combinations present a landscape picture. This can then provide homeowners with ideas for plant

choices, and shows how various combinations figure together.

Specifically, during the summer we trim back spent flower heads, separate plants that crowd out neighboring plants, prune and trim up young trees, and do whatever else improves the health and visual neatness of the Garden. We anticipate having a job list available so volunteers can to choose specific tasks that interest them. Our committee members will not only help volunteers choose and carry out a needed task, but will offer encouragement and praise for a job well done.

We invite your comments and suggestions for ways you think our committee can improve to Garden operations and maintenance. If you become interested in working in the Garden or with our committee, please join us on most Saturday mornings.

For more information, please leave a message at 298-3091.

Horticultural Educational Committee

by Nancy Crossfield

Tours on Tap — Free one-hour tours of the Garden are now offered at 9:00 a.m. on the 4th Saturday of each month, thanks to eager volunteers on the new Horticultural Education Committee. An introductory docent training class was led on June 24th by Susan Stiltz, well known locally for her knowledge of trees and plants. We reviewed the history and mission of the Garden, discussed the importance of tailoring presentations to the type of visitors, and learned interesting tidbits about our trees and shrubs. Did you know that the graceful chitalpa tree is actually a cross between the purple-flowered desert willow and the taller catalpa? Or that we have a cork oak?

Susan led our first official tour in July, and two more tours are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on August 26th (Kathi Fernandes) and September 23rd (Marilyn Creel). If you would like to learn a bit more about our water-wise Valley friendly landscaping, bring your family and friends to one of these tours.

Committee community education activities include encouraging the imminent purchase of over 100 new metal plant identification signs, discussing possible speakers at the Garden, and preparing a visitor hand-out that will provide scientific names and growing

Continued...

advice on 20-30 of our larger trees and shrubs. We hope more brochures will follow to answer questions that are as perennial as our plants!

If you are interested in learning and sharing simple information about the Garden and its plants, we hope to have another training session this fall when it is cooler. The time commitment is minimal – training, studying important talking points and plant information, and then giving just one or two tours a year. We need at least six more volunteers, and would

like to expand the tour program to include occasional weekday tours for special groups such as seniors and school children. Our visitors are not demanding; potential guides need only be cheerful and willing to share the basics.

Please contact committee chair Nancy Crossfield via sign-up at the Garden, or send an e-mail to clovisgarden@sbcglobal.net for more information on training and brochures, and for a great way to share with our Valley neighbors.

NEW MEMBERS

- Agatha Breedlove
- Caroline Gaebel
- Ron & Cheryl Gentzler
- Linda Gragg Christine Ortiz
- Sharon Rossi
- Roy, Susan and Mark Thornton

DONORS

- Sequoia Equipment, Inc. – *free use of tractor for one week*
- Margil Vanderhoff – *building fund donation*
- Deloria Martin
- Chowchilla Construction – *Founder’s plaque installation*

SAVE MART S.H.A.R.E.S. CARDS

Thanks to all who are using your Save Mart S.H.A.R.E.S. Cards, Clovis Botanical Garden has received over \$2,300 in donations from Save Mart!

Did you know that Save Mart sells gift cards for many national merchants? And that you can purchase these gift cards with your S.H.A.R.E.S. Card? When you plan to give gift certificates for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, etc., check out the selection at Save Mart.

I found gift cards for Macy’s, Old Navy, The Gap, Kohl’s, several restaurants, and many

by Georgia Porcella

other merchants. I put the gift amount on my S.H.A.R.E.S. Card, and then purchased the gift cards along with my groceries using my S.H.A.R.E.S. Card, with Save Mart donating 3% to CBG. Check out the gift card selection—it is usually near the check out area, or ask at your local Save Mart.

If you need a replacement S.H.A.R.E.S. Card, or have family or friends that would like to support CBG by using a S.H.A.R.E.S. Card, just call Georgia at 299-9633, or send an e-mail to georgiap@csufresno.edu.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Nelda Lewis, Acting President
NeldaLewis@paula.com
- Georgia Porcella, Secretary
georgiap@csufresno.edu
- Gordon Russell, Acting Treasurer
clovisgarden@sbcglobal.net

- John LeBoeuf agridatasensing1@aol.com
- Nancy Crossfield yaharagirl@aol.com
- Liesl Garner liesl@garnertree.com
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- Art Munger amam708@sbcglobal.net
- Sheron Schiller..... schiller65@comcast.net
- John Wheeler jwheeler@attitude.com

by Sheron Schiller

FOUNDER'S PLAQUE INSTALLED

A founder's plaque, honoring our founder, GORDON RUSSELL, was recently installed in the garden. It was placed on a large boulder which is situated by the drinking fountain, near the entrance to the Garden.

The installation work was generously donated by FRANK ROSS SR., of CHOWCHILLA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY. The actual installation was done by FRANK ROSS, JR. We thank them for making this possible.

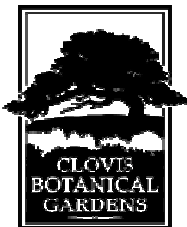
This is an extremely attractive, artistic, and informative addition to the Garden.

Come to the Garden and see for yourself! The weather is cooler and we'd love to have you visit.



June 2006
Member/Volunteer breakfast
held at the Garden

Share the Garden With Us!



Clovis Botanical Garden

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