

Clovis Botanical Garden IN THE GARDEN

Fourth Quarter 2006

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*Red Bird of Paradise
(Caesalpinia pulcherrima)*

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

Newsletter Editor: Rhoda Bryant

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The season is changing and so is the Clovis Botanical Garden. We have been in meetings with the City of Clovis regarding the progress of the Garden and that of the park that will be to the south of the Garden. It's very exciting to know that all parties are eager to see the growth and are coming up with ideas to share. The board of directors, along with many volunteers, is very busy planning, but always welcomes input and suggestions. There is a suggestion box located in the Garden for your convenience, or you can email or phone them. Stay tuned.

The winter weather signals the need for pruning and other maintenance work that needs to be performed. There will be scheduled work days and lists of projects to complete, which will be a perfect time for learning about winterizing the Garden and getting a little exercise to fend off those extra pounds we tend to put on at this time of year.

The Garden hours are also changing for two reasons: Daylight Savings Time and more open hours for public visitation. If you would be interested in volunteering or becoming more involved in the Garden, please contact us.

We are all looking forward to the completion of this special project that will be a Central Valley destination. It will be one that will beckon plant enthusiasts and gardeners; a place of education and learning meant for both the young and not-so-young.

Nelda J. Lewis

PROPAGATION PROJECT

by Georgia Porcella

The Red Bird of Paradise bush (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*) at the Garden, with its glowing red-orange flowers from May through October, has attracted a lot of visitors and has inspired me to propose a propagation project for anyone interested in propagating seeds.

I have collected seeds from both the Red Bird of Paradise bush and the Mexican Bird of Paradise bush and will gladly share them with anyone who would like to join this project. If you are interested, call me at 299-9633.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION & REASSIGNMENTS

We had good response from our membership in our annual September election of candidates for the Board of Directors. All four of this year's candidates were elected, and the bylaw changes were accepted by the voting majority. Here is our current Board membership:

Nelda Lewis,
PresidentNeldaLewis@paula.com
John LeBoeuf,
Vice President.....gridatasensing1@aol.com
Gordon Russell,
Treasurerclovisgarden@sbcglobal.net
Sheron Schiller,
Secretary.....schiller65@comcast.net

Nancy Crossfield..... yaharagirl@aol.com
Barry Lindner blindner@ceieng.com
Art Munger amam708@hotmail.com
Georgia Porcella georgiap@csufresno.edu
John Wheeler

Some of us may have titles, but all of us are involved in a lot of interesting and challenging activities. We invite our Garden members to consider joining the effort. Phone 298-3091 to find out how to apply for Board membership.

THE LAST FOUR PAVERS

With just **4 more** terrazzo bricks, we can complete the project around the flagpole. We will be filling in the spaces between the tiles with one of the decorative mediums we've been considering. You can reserve one of these few remaining tiles by leaving your name and number at 298-3091. During the Holiday Season, you can order a paver for a special minimum donation of \$100. What a great gift this would make!

Be sure to phone 298-3091 ASAP. We can reserve for only the first four who respond.

To order a paver, please fill in your choice of lettering below,
3 lines with no more than 22 letters each line.

Print Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address if different from your enclosed check:

Checks should be written to: Clovis Botanical Garden
And should be mailed to: 1865 Herndon Ave.,
Ste. K, Mail Box 330,
Clovis, CA 93611

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

by Georgia Porcella

Since December of last year, SaveMart has donated over \$3400 to CBG through the SaveMart S.H.A.R.E.S. card program!

A great big *THANK YOU* to CBG supporters who used their S.H.A.R.E.S. cards at SaveMart and FoodMaxx stores.

Please continue using your S.H.A.R.E.S. card for groceries and gift cards.

Both SaveMart and FoodMaxx now carry gift cards from a wide selection of nationwide stores, so you can avoid busy malls and do your holiday shopping of gift cards (Old Navy, Sears, Toys-R-Us, Macy's, to name just a few) with

your S.H.A.R.E.S. card when you shop for groceries. If you want to send or give a gift, but find gift shopping difficult, make it easy on yourself and select gift cards at SaveMart or FoodMaxx. Try it...you'll love the convenience as I do!

If you don't have a S.H.A.R.E.S. card, you can request one by emailing me at:
georgiap@csufresno.edu.

Please sure to include your full name and mailing address. Only your name goes to SaveMart for printing of the card; CBG keeps your address and we mail the card to you in three to four weeks.

WHAT MAKES THE GARDEN UNIQUE – OR

all you ever wanted to know about our public appeal campaign!

by Georgia Porcella

What makes us unique? Why and how is the Clovis Botanical Garden unique and different, from say, a city or county park?

The essential and important difference is that a botanical garden features identified and labeled plants and trees. It is an educational destination, as well as a beautiful and peaceful location. The public can go there to learn, in this case, about native and Mediterranean plants that do well in the San Joaquin Valley climate. Low and efficient water uses are displayed as well.

So — why do we need a public appeal campaign to raise funds? It costs money every month to maintain the Garden. Grant monies are specific and limited in use. Operational expenses such as water and utilities, mailings/postage, liability insurance, accountant fees, phone bills, port-a-potty rental, website services, post office box, etc. are ever present and growing as the Garden expands. Events take money to stage. All of these are good

things. Our Garden is growing, and our budget urgently needs your help to “grow” as well.

As members and interested parties for the Garden, you will soon be receiving an invitation to help us with a financial contribution. A return envelope and donation card will be included. Please give it your attention.

The CBG is the only botanical Garden in the entire San Joaquin Valley. We have members from all over the valley, and even as far away as Wisconsin! This is a gem in a valley known worldwide for what it grows! Please help us with your timely donation to keep this unique garden growing.

All donations to the Clovis Botanical Garden, a registered non-profit organization, are tax deductible.

Thank you!

Passionate about perennials, those non-woody plants that return year after year? Garden member and Master Gardener Marcia Rosenberg taught a class on perennials at the Garden on October 21st. Marcia has experience with garden design, and Evergreen Nursery loaned her a cartload of beautiful plants to use for demonstrations. For those who missed her, here is a summary of what she shared.

A garden should be interesting all year long. After checking the environment of your beds, consider a variety of plant textures and sizes – airy, open foliage versus more solid-looking leaves, taller spiky plants to break up an otherwise flat look, varieties that will bloom during different seasons, and some that will have interesting growth or seeds even during winter months.

Match the size of plants to the size of the bed – if you've seen the 6' mullein or exuberant pink salvias at the Garden you know that a cute little seedling can grow into a floral St. Bernard! Planting smaller perennials in groups of three creates a striking effect, while perhaps one taller plant will add interest. Colors and shapes can be coordinated and repeated throughout a larger garden for eye appeal, just as you would coordinate interior decorating.

Pruning perennials is no problem. Many plants will increase foliage and flowers if they are pinched back after blooming. Dead-heading, or removing spent flowers, will encourage more flower production later. Some bushy plants such as Mexican sages and big grasses (red Penesetum) do well with thinning. Remove about a third of the stems down at the base to open the plant up a bit. In August, larger plants such as the sages, salvias, and hydrangeas may

be pruned down to 3-6" for fall to control their size and to allow time for them to start to grow back before winter. In winter, these and seemingly dead grasses, California fuchsias, and others should be pruned back yet again to about 4". Remember, these will all look just awful for several months, so plant attractive winter-hardy companions nearby.

Want to share your plants? Propagation is the answer. Some clumps of bulbs, grasses, lamb's ear, society garlic, and others may be simply dug up or separated with a shovel and pieces moved or repotted.

But what if the plant is shrubbier and doesn't send up multiple branches or stems from the ground? It's best to work with these in the spring or summer to avoid the dormant period. Cut a stem about 4-5" tall beginning just below a node from which leaves grow. Remove leaves to reduce stress and encourage rooting. Dip the bottom of the cutting in a rooting hormone powder and tuck it into a small pot with a dampened mix of 50:50 finely shredded peat moss and perlite (no organics!). It should stick up 2-3" above the soil, and you may start several twigs in the same pot. Next, put a plastic bag or the top half of a 1-liter pop bottle over the pot, opening it every few days, and keep it in a bright but shady spot. Every week tug the cuttings gently – when you feel resistance, you know that roots are developing!

Marcia showed us bright blue Plumbago, hot pink autumn sage, purple Dianthus, bright verbenas and lantanas, a dark gentian sage, golden black-eyed susans, and a delicate white Japanese Anemone.

Go wild, and enjoy those perennials!

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

To receive the newsletter by e-mail, our address needs to be included in your e-mail list. Once you have made that change, please e-mail us at gardennews@sbcglobal.net, using "newsletter" as your e-mail subject. The next newsletter will be e-mailed to you.

THAT NEW FENCE

by Gordon Russell

Doesn't that new section of wrought iron fence in front of the Botanical Garden look great? Our special thanks to Clovis Community Foundation for providing the funds.

We also thank the engineering firms Blair, Church & Flynn and Provost & Pritchard for contributing to our campaign to complete the chain link fence needed for the other three sides of the expanded garden area.

While fencing is not the most glamorous part of the Botanical Garden, it is an important part. When the fence is complete we can continue development.



FALL PLANT SALE WAS A SELL-OUT

The Fall Plant Sale, held at the Garden on Saturday, September 30, was a great success. Both CBG and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) sold record numbers of landscape plants and shared knowledge of California native and other low-water landscape plants with an estimated 300 visitors to the Garden.

This was the second fall plant sale held in partnership with CNPS, and both CBG and CNPS organizers boasted of record sales. Thanks to all who came to shop and learn about water-wise plants.

The sale owes its success to the many volunteers, donors, and especially to the wonderful article by Nzong Xiong, in the Fresno

Bee on the morning of September 30. Our thanks to all and especially to the following businesses for their generous donations:

- Ace Hardware, Clovis
- Belmont Nursery
- Intermountain Nursery of Prather
- Johnny's Garden Nursery
- Monrovia Nursery
- Sierra Madre Nursery
- Starbuck's at Clovis/Herndon Avenues

If you don't want to miss our 2007 plant sales, mark your calendar for our spring plan, in early May 2007, and our fall plant sale, September 29, 2007.

TREE FRESNO SAYS WE'RE A WINNER!

The Clovis Botanical Garden is the first-ever winner of the Environmentally Responsible Project division of Tree Fresno's first annual Cityscape Awards. Five Hundred dignitaries and supporters attended Tree Fresno's outdoor dinner on September 15th at the Smittcamp Alumni House, including emcee Kopi Sotiropulos, award presenter and columnist Bill McEwen ("It's OK to boo"), Shinzen Garden landscape architect Paul Saito, and others.

TF's president Shannon Koontz described the new Cityscape Awards honoring businesses and organizations that exemplify the "spirit of

community improvement and civic pride in landscape and beautification." All 35 award nominees were visited by judges looking for qualities such as esthetic improvement compatible with the neighborhood, sustainable and well maintained landscape, and design innovation, creativity, and execution. The seven categories were: Industrial Project, Retail Business Project, Office Building Project, Multiple Dwelling Project, Special Landscaping Project, Historical Project, and Environmentally Responsible Project.

continued on the back

TREE FRESNO SAYS WE'RE A WINNER! *(continued from page 5)*

Koontz mentioned that the judges were impressed by the Garden's neighborhood beautification, well maintained plantings, broad and accessible pathways, and exemplary use of low-water-use landscaping. We received a beautiful plaque with a description of our award above a framed photo of the front part of the Garden. This plaque will be on display in our greeter's kiosk, weather permitting, so be sure to stop by and see it.

As an added bonus, the Garden received a personal letter from Clovis Mayor Nathan

Magsig, stating, "On behalf of the Clovis City Council, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you...on your recent award for the Cityscape Environmentally Responsible category. This is an outstanding achievement. Your hard work and dedication are assets to the citizens of Clovis which have not gone unnoticed. Again, congratulations and best wishes."

Congratulations to all you Garden members and volunteers. You are winners!

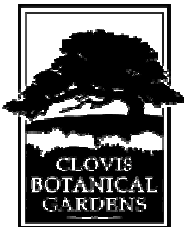
NEW MEMBERS

Steve & Lisa Grusis
Ellen Lipp
Carol S. Moll
Nancy Pryor
Arthur Shahzade

DONORS

Blair, Church & Flynn
Margo Cegielski
Nancy & James Crossfield
Provost & Pritchard

Share the Garden With Us!



Clovis Botanical Garden

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