

BURBANK-VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

Member of the San Fernando Valley District, California Garden Clubs, Inc.,

Pacific Region, and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Newsletter Number 188 February 2023 Editor: Ingrid Nonnast

February 2, Meeting Agenda

10:00 a.m.	Business Meeting
11:00 a.m.	Speaker: James Hogue
	Insects and Mosquito Abatement



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR FEBRUARY 2023

What a January we have had! As of today's writing in mid-January, Burbank has already received over 7" just for this ½ month and the rain is still falling. I hope your roofs are tight, and you are each warm and safe this season.

At our January meeting you elected a Nominating Committee, including Jerri Lamb, Terri Davis, and Robin Gemmill. If one of these members calls you, do give them your time and attention. This is an important time for our club, as all current board members have each served you for a minimum of 4 years each, some for longer, and now is the opportunity to bring in your fresh ideas. An elected officer serves a two-year term, and speaking from my own experiences, it can be a refreshing and renewing time of your life. A garden club officer learns new things, develops new skills, makes new friends and finds new interests. For me, it has been one of the best times of my life. If you worry that such a position might be too demanding in some way, know that each current officer has pledged to mentor and assist your transition into your new position.

Our January meeting was well attended in spite of pouring rain. Members really enjoyed Noella's slide show and talk about her North American eagles. We all went home feeling up close and personal with these magnificent flyers about whom we now know so much more.

February's talk is with James Hogue, who manages the Biological Collection at Cal State Northridge. He is a biologist/entomologist and will speak on the role of insects in the natural world. He will also speak on how to manage/abate mosquitoes. This promises to be an important talk for gardeners.

Finally, we want to add something new to the business meeting (please see Robin Gemmill's article on page three) and to make room, we will be posting the previous month's meeting minutes, along with this month's treasurer's report, at the meeting near the coffee and tea table. We ask you to read both before the business meeting at 10, so they may be more quickly approved. Thank you for your help with this.

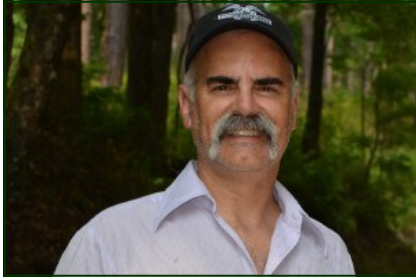
Best wishes,
Kathy

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February 2, 2023 Meeting

Insects and Mosquito Abatement

Speaker: James Hogue



Jim Hogue is a life-long and second generation insect collector. He earned his B.S. in biology from UCLA, his M.S. and PhD in Aquatic Ecology at Utah State University.

Currently he is the manager of Biological Collections and part-time lecturer in the Biology Department of Cal State, Northridge. Hogue collected previously unknown and unnamed groups of flies. Two are now named in his honor. The first insect named after him was named the *Megaselia hoguei* — a play on his name, the second was named the *Sphecomiya hoguei*.

His program will be about garden insects, the good and the bad.

COMING THIS MAY 4

THE GETTY VILLA MUSEUM BUS TOUR

By Susan Law

Step into the Ancient World: A one-of-a kind destination offering ancient Greek and Roman art, tranquil gardens, and ocean breezes.



Sometimes our fate resembles a fruit tree in winter. Who would think that those branches would turn green again and blossom, but we hope it, we know it.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

GROWING STRAWBERRIES FROM BARE ROOTS

By Kathy Itomura

At a recent gathering of garden clubs at the Southern California Horticulture Society, Steve List shared bare root perennial strawberries with attendees and generously shared his secrets for growing them. Now is the time to find and plant strawberries bare root and here's what Steve says to do:

1. Choose an everbearing variety for fruit all season long.
2. His faves are "Seascape" and "Sequoia." Use sharp scissors or garden shears to first trim roots to 6-8" long.
3. Soak plants before planting. In a large container, soak your plants for one hour to rehydrate the roots. Add vitamin B1 if you have it.
4. Plant them 12 to 18" apart in loose soil to which you have added compost. Crown of plants must sit above the soil line.
5. Strawberries need lots of room and sunlight to grow well. Keep fruit off the soil when it appears to avoid rotting, insects, and disease to invade your plant. Pick the first white flowers that appear to encourage strong root growth on your new plants.
6. Your perennial strawberries with healthy strong roots can produce fruit for 5+ years.

Happy February Birthday!

February 7	Kathy Itomura
February 7	Chris Van Deusen
February 17	Susan Eyraud
February 19	Millie Eberhardt
February 20	Joan Rothrock

Members' Change of Address

Grace and Vince Davis

Lake Balboa Boarding Care
15830 Marlin Place
Lake Balboa, CA 91406
Grace does not have a telephone.
The number of the facility is
818 988-0415. Call prior to visit.

Newsletter Contributions Wanted

Share with members: information, pictures from your garden, maybe some pictures from latest trip, good stuff. Cut-off date for submission: 15th of every month. Contact newsletter editor.

The Gardener's Calendar

By Robin Gemmill

Observing the cycle of life in our garden reveals the time for planting, pruning, sowing, harvesting, mulching and planning for the next season. Gardening in Southern California does not follow the traditional seasons as we know them, fall, winter, spring and summer. Instead, Southern California has two very distinct seasons, winter/cool weather and summer/hot weather. During a recent Burbank-Valley Garden Club meeting one of our members suggested we take some time during each monthly meeting to talk about and share expertise regarding common gardening activities throughout the year. So the Burbank-Valley Garden Club Board has decided to create a new article series for our monthly newsletter, ***The Gardener's Calendar***.

Each monthly newsletter will have an article related to common gardening tasks for that month. Then during the monthly meeting we will open up discussion of ***The Gardener's Calendar*** article. All members can offer suggestions or topics of interest for upcoming months of ***The Gardener's Calendar*** series.

Mulching

Traditionally, the month of February is our rainiest month during the year. This year we have had an early jump on our rain thanks to atmospheric river storms off the Pacific Ocean. During these extended episodes of rain we can collect rain through the use of rain barrels. We can also mulch around our garden beds, shrubs and trees. Mulch collected this time of year from local tree trimmers is predominately wood chips verses a mix of leaves and wood chip. Wood chip mulch takes longer to break down or decompose slowly, feeding our soil throughout the year. Using an app to arrange for a local wood chip drop allows the local tree trimmers to drop the chips locally without having to drive it back to their yard. <https://getchipdrop.com/>

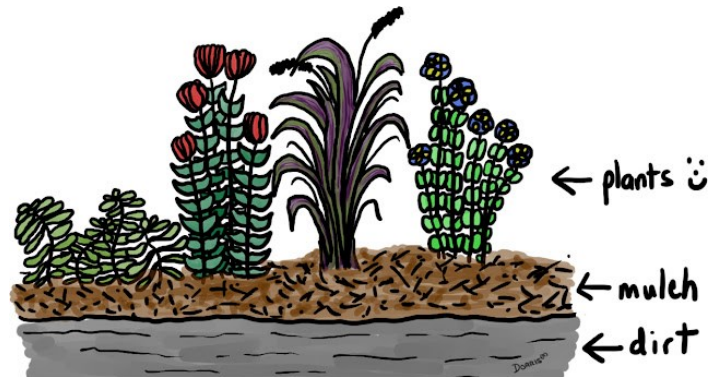
Mulching has a myriad of benefits, starting with protecting the soil from compaction. Compact soil increases soil erosion and runoff, leading to increased flooding and pooling of water. Mulch increases water permeability through the soil by adding texture to the soil. Increasing soil texture increases the water holding capacity of the soil. Once you mulch you want to make sure you turn off programmed irrigation during this rainy month, conserving more water.

Mulch also lowers soil temperature, reducing heat radiation which helps trees withstand increased heat during high heat days. For newly planted trees or young trees, lowering soil temperature with mulching supports strong root growth. You will also reduce your work of weeding in the garden with frequent mulching.

prevents light from getting to the weed seeds. Without light for photosynthesis weed seeds cannot germinate. An organic mulch breaks down and feeds the soil with nitrogen, improving soil fertility.

While mulching is most often done with wood chips you can also use other organic material, such as straw or lawn clippings. If you are going to use straw, make sure you get straw not alfalfa. Alfalfa has seeds that will reseed your bed with alfalfa. Straw on the other hand will break down slowly, releasing nitrogen over time and is an especially good mulch for under your citrus trees.

When mulching make sure you put down the mulch at least 2-3" deep and at least 4-6" away from the plant stem or tree trunk to avoid tree trunk or root rot diseases. Deciduous trees will naturally furnish themselves with needed mulch, their leaves. When you can, start leaving the leaves where they lie. This naturally occurring process will provide much needed insulation and protection for the soil while feeding soil microbes and the surrounding habitat. Mulch....mulch....mulch!



Happenings

February 13, 2023 @ 9:30 A.M.
San Fernando Valley District Meeting
Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd.
Encino, CA 91346

February 16, 2023 @ 10:00 A.M.
Burbank African Violet Society
The Little White Chapel Christian Church
1711 North Avon Street in .
"Growing African Violet Trailers"
Refreshments served and friendships are made.
Guests are always welcome.

**2022-2023
Executive Board**

President:
Kathy Itomura
1st Vice-President, Programs:
Noella Ballenger
2nd Vice-Pres., Membership:
D. Jean Collins and Anne White
3rd Vice-Pres., Ways & Means:
Susan Law
Recording Secretary:
Vonda Neundorf
Corresponding Secretary:
Janet Jack
Treasurer:
Ingrid Nonnast
Parliamentarian:
Roland Neundorf
Past Co-Presidents:
Grace Davis
Romelle Culotta

In my Garden

By Charlene Gallagher

The City planted a lovely Australian willow tree on my boulevard with strict instructions to take care of it. Yes, water it for the first two years, and, of course, it was staked so it has grown beautifully tall. The tree is similar to the weeping willow, but not a sissy as heat, cold, bugs and disease do not faze it.

The only thing I have to do is keep it trimmed so it doesn't slap an intrepid morning walker in the face. I looked up a "how to trim trees" site on the internet, and determined according to the site's instructions, that during the winter months of December through February, the tree needs to be trimmed. So, I have lots of time and can wait until the rain and cold are gone. First, I must carefully peruse the tree and decide which branches must go. Then get the proper tools and clean and sharpen them. I hope the tree doesn't get too tall, or I will be out of luck. Does the City trim the tree, or will I need my tree trimmer? Yes, I have a very good one. He periodically trims my 76 year old "London Sycamore tree" in the front yard. That tree demands to be trimmed, or I'm afraid I will wake up one windy morning and it will come through my front bedroom window and I will be wearing it. Anyway, with a little luck, instructions in front of me and good equipment....what could go wrong?



Australian Willow Tree