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 183 ***September 2022*** *Editor: Ingrid Nonnast*

September 1, 2022 Meeting Agenda

10:00 a.m.	Business Meeting
11:00 a.m.	2022—"DESIGN FOR THE NEW NORMAL" Speakers, Amy Kalpin and Dawn Dyer of STUDIO-ONE

President's Message

Our first meeting of the 2022-23 garden year is just around the corner and your Board and Chairpeople have planned a great year for us. Read all about it when you pick up your new Yearbooks on September 1st. If you can't be with us that day, ask a friend to pick up your Yearbook and bring it to you.

The meeting begins at 10 a.m. with our business meeting, but you are welcome to come early to browse the Opportunity and Plant tables. Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. Masks are optional but recommended. We will not be offering food or beverages, but you may bring your own if you like. If you have a gently used item you would like to donate to the Opportunity table, please bring it. Also, if you have a healthy plant or two you'd like to donate, bring them along for the Plant table. Proceeds go to pay Club expenses and towards Club activities, such as our Scholarship Fund.

Our member, Robin Gemmill, will have a few handmade artist-created Monarch Butterfly sculptures for sale at this meeting. This is the last of these original garden sculptures. The proceeds from this sale are donated directly to a local Burbank volunteer group that is creating "A Monarch Mile" of native gardens along the Chandler Blvd Bike Path median.

We will have a Raffle at this meeting, so be sure you purchase your Raffle ticket ($1 each or 6 for $5) before 10:45 a.m. Raffle winners will be selected just before we introduce our speakers at 11:00 a.m. The speakers are professional landscape architects working at a noted Los Angeles design firm and in addition to their beautiful slide show, they will have much to tell us about helping our gardens respond to a changing climate.

I can hardly wait to see all of you!

Kathy Itomura

"My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece." – Claude Monet

Squirrels in our Yard

California Center for Natural History

For a majority of Californians, the tree squirrels in our neighborhoods will be one or more of three species: the native western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*), the introduced eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), and the introduced eastern fox squirrel (*Scirus niger*). A good way to tell western gray from the others is to look at the color of the fur on the face. Western grays are predominantly cool gray and white and don't have brown on their faces in contrast to the two introduced species who have a lot of orangey-brown all over their faces. Both eastern gray and eastern fox were brought from the other side of the United States in the early 1900s and have been increasing their range and population ever since, both on their own and from humans deliberately spreading them through the state, unaware of the consequent damage to environment, agriculture, and property that would cause. Meanwhile, the western gray has decreased in range and abundance.

Why is this? It's not due to the invaders being more aggressive—in fact, a researcher studying western gray versus eastern fox found that **75 percent of aggressive interspecies encounters were started and won by the western grays**, and that young eastern fox squirrels wouldn't leave their nests if they saw a western gray out foraging nearby. Western grays have a slight size advantage, and apparently a fighting spirit, and are capable of holding their own on an individual level. However, they have a big disadvantage at the population level due to their low tolerance for human development.

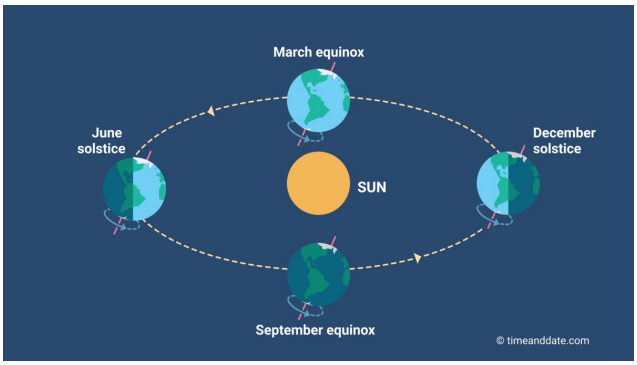
Western grays are true woodland creatures and need a continuous stretch of mature oak trees to provide their food and shelter. They're highly arboreal, preferring to be up a tree or near a tree. The bulk of their diet is acorns, pine nuts, and truffle-like underground fungi, all of which come from trees. Western grays themselves are a big positive for forest health since they spread the spores of the truffles around when they eat them. While more aggressive with other squirrel species, they're much more timid with humans, preferring to make their nests away from busy human-created areas. They have only one litter a year.

The introduced eastern gray and eastern fox squirrel thrive in human-dominated landscapes like city parks, suburban backyards and attics, and nut orchards, and are very familiar sights (and often, pests) to most Californians. They're nearly as ecologically flexible as rats and are perfectly happy to nest close to humans and to eat the same native plants as western grays, plus human garbage and non-native plants that the westerns won't touch. They're not much troubled by habitat fragmentation (eastern fox squirrels actually seem to prefer it) and will readily travel across open fields, roads, and power lines to get to isolated trees or food sources. They'll commonly have two litters a year, which means that they quickly make up for very high mortality rates. However, they have not been able to gain much of a foothold in undeveloped native forests like Los Padres National Forest or Mount Tamalpais. Western grays only like native forest, which unfortunately has been decreasing in size and quality due to residential development, drought, more and hotter wildfires, some land management practices, and invasive pests and disease. This means fewer places to live and less food to find, and more stress and mortality. Despite western grays being more human-shy, they're fine with living alongside us as long as there are enough large trees to provide food and cover. Western grays can still be found in towns like Santa Rosa that have lots of large trees along the streets and wooded parks nearby, along forested creek corridors like Stevens Creek in Mountain View/Cupertino, or even in Sacramento, where there are enough trees still lining the banks of the American River. In our own neighborhoods, we can help our native squirrels (and other wildlife) and begin to defragment habitat by planting food and shelter-providing plants like native oaks, pines, California bay laurel, manzanita, hazel in our yards, or by asking our city government to save water and landscape with any of those instead of more oleanders.

Fall Starts in September

North of the equator, fall begins in September; in the Southern Hemisphere, it starts in March.

Autumn Equinox, Northern Hemisphere (September) North America, Europe, most of Asia, Northern Africa.
In Los Angeles, California, USA: **Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 6:03 pm PDT**



Plant Sweet Peas

Sweet peas are grown throughout the cooler months of the year. The best time to plant them is between October and November. Sweet peas are the most fragrant, lovely, colorful flowers. Plant seeds in well-drained, loose, enriched soil. One of the secrets to hasten sweet pea germination is to just scratch the seeds or break the seeds with nail clippers before planting them 1" deep in the soil. Don't be impatient; the seeds will germinate in about 10-28 days. They will grow about 1" above the ground and will really take off in the spring.

In My Garden

By Charlene Gallagher

Ahhhh...sunflowers....the real sign of summer, cheerful, gorgeous, tall and useful, they are loved by birds for their seeds....
Humans love their nutritious, ancient seeds, once used in religious ceremonies, made into flour, and used for medicinal purposes, including treating snake bites. Who knew?
Sunflower seeds have lots of calcium and 11 important minerals. Sunflowers can come in many colors, not just the bright orange/yellow we commonly see along the highways or planted in a garden. The sunflower is the national flower of Russia and the state flower of Kansas, USA.
It turns its lovely face to the sun as it travels through the sky, a phenomenon called “heliotropism.” This plant has a life of its own.
Sunflower heads consist of 1,000-2,000 individual flowers joined together. One sunflower can produce up to 2,000 seeds. They make great cut flowers if you change the water in the vase every day, making them last a long time.
Also called “helianthus annuus,” sunflowers are native to North America, but the commercialization of the plant first took place in Russia. Native Americans were the first to domesticate the plants (about 3,000 years ago, possibly even before corn) into a single-headed form with a variety of seed colors, including black, white, red, and black and white striped. This was a common crop among Native Americans throughout Arizona and New Mexico.
I am growing the chocolate-colored group by my front gate and they are a joy to behold. Look up their history. Plant them from seed packets in many colors. Enjoy!"

pioneerthinking.com

“If they can’t do it in California, it can’t be done anywhere.” **—Taylor Caldwell**

September 20-22:
NGC Fall Board Meeting
Marriott Hotel, St Louis, MO

October 16-19:
CGCI Fall Board Meeting
Wyndham Hotel, Sacramento

September 15:
Burbank African Violet Society’s meeting, 10:00 a.m.
The Little White Chapel Christian Church
1711 North Avon Street in Burbank.

The guest speaker will be Mike Wronkowski, General Manager at the Santa Clarita Garden Center. Mike will present the program on “Fruit Trees: How to Create an Orchard and Keep It Small”.
There are raffle and silent auction tables. Refreshments are served and friendships are made. Guests, are always welcome to attend the meetings. For more information please telephone
(661) 940-3990 or reference our website:
www.burbankafricanvioletsocierty.weebly.com

September 29:
Surf City Surf Dog, Huntington Beach
Clearly, this Orange County town’s nickname of Surf City, USA does not apply solely to bipedals, as this is considered the premier event for dog surfing. Come watch the pooches catch (fetch?) waves; you can also register your own dog to compete, or just bring her along to pick up pointers

Welcome New Members

Paul Palmquist
3611 Virginia Street
La Crescenta, CA 91214-1746
310 850-1137

Marie Parker
344 North Meyers Street
Burbank, CA 91506-2116
818 967-9887

Burbank-Valley Garden Club
907 North Clybourn Ave
Burbank, CA 91505-2701

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

June Tea held in May at the Little White Chapel

Fun was had by all; especially Janet Jack who won the beautiful quilt donated by the Joslyn Quilters.

Shown above is the lucky winner, Janet Jack, and Maggie Hall, of the Sewing Knitting Crochet Group associated with Joslyn Adult Center.

At right, member, Shirley Thomas, with a beautiful celebratory tea table.

Printed By: Burbank Printing, 3131 West Burbank Blvd., Burbank, CA 91505