

## 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 208 February 2025 Editor: Ingrid Nonnast*

### **February 6, 2025— Agenda**

9:30 a.m. Doors Open  
10:00 a.m. Business Meeting  
11:00 a.m. "Cactus and Succulents"  
Speaker: Roxie Esterle



### **Burbank Valley Garden Club Newsletter February 2025**

#### **President's Message**

Hello Gardeners,

Sadly we have started off 2025 with a devastating firestorm in our local mountains and neighboring communities. All of us have been affected in some way, whether you have friends, family and co-workers who have lost their homes....lost everything. Or you have been asked to evacuate. Some of us have already begun to open up our homes, offer donations and resources to those in need. These are uncertain times for all of us. A few club members have suggested we use some of our fundraising efforts to support those in our neighboring communities recover and rebuild. I will bring this suggestion to our meeting for further discussion and a vote.

Many gardeners have questions about the effects of post-fire smoke and ash on our garden produce, as well as the impact to the landscape. Fortunate for us, most of this information has been researched by University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources advisors and utilized by other counties that have been impacted by wildfires. Here is a link for a handout you might find helpful. I will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/SoCo/files/337032.pdf>

In the meantime, one of the things we all can all do immediately is make sure we are using what water we do get efficiently. January is usually one of our wetter months, not this year. We can hope we get lots of rain in February, but there is no guarantee. That means we will need to rely on creatively saving water and watering efficiently. If you have not already purchased a rain barrel this might be a good time. Some gardeners have already set up gray water systems funneling water from the shower, the air conditioner, or the washing machine into their gardens. Make sure you have irrigation that has the timer set to water 1-2 times a week in the early morning, for no more that 10 minutes. For others of us who live near the hillsides, always have a Go Bag ready. A bag with all of your important papers, laptop computer, medications and a change of clothing with shoes. You never know when you will need to leave your home quickly.

This month we will be offering a cup of coffee for \$1. Eula Warren and Ann Foose will have their Keurig Coffee machine ready. If you have your own K cup pod, you can bring that at no cost. We will NOT have coffee cups so you will need to bring your own mug.

Our speaker this month, is Roxie Esterle. Roxie has traveled the world visiting unique biological habitats giving her a rare perspective on cactus and succulents. Roxie will be speaking on her adventures as well as give insights into how to grow many of these rare succulents. She will be sharing more of her exquisite photos and her tips for where we might find many of these rare cacti and succulents to purchase. Planting cactus and succulents is one way you can create desert beauty while planting a drought tolerant landscape.

I hope you all will join us on Thursday February 6, 2025 at 10am at the Little White Chapel located at 1171 North Avon St. Burbank, CA 91505.  
Stay safe,

*Robin*

## **February 6, 2025 Meeting "Cactus & Succulents"**

Speaker: Roxie Esterle

Roxie is returning to us to continue to share more of her photographs from her travels and to share specimens she is currently growing at home.

Roxie has traveled the world to visit unique biological habitats—the Galapagos Islands, Madagascar, Barnes, Ethiopia, South America and South Africa.

She is a member of the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

### **WE NEED PICTURES OF YOUR GARDEN!**

Now is the time to photograph your garden. Photos of all seasons are needed.

Send photos by e-mail to [Noella1b@aol.com](mailto:Noella1b@aol.com)

**Without your photos we can't produce a calendar for 2026.**

### **February Bulb Gardens** published in *Los Angeles Times*

South Coast Botanic Gardens in Rolling Hills Estates and San Marino's Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens have tulip and Bulb gardens—the Huntington plants them for filler color after the roses are pruned. But for an awe-inspiring display, visit Descanso Gardens, which plants 30,000 tulip bulbs every January for early spring blooms. (this is weather-dependent)

### **In Memory**

This month we will be purchasing a Penny Pines memorial for club member Marlene Osborne. Sadly, Marlene passed away in December.

Jerri Lamb had this to say about her dear friend. "I knew Marlene for 7 years. We became good friends upon meeting at church. She was the most kind-hearted person I ever knew. She would do anything she could for people. Marlene, her husband Mark, and I would go out to breakfast, at least once a week. I miss just being able to call her up and talk."

Susan Law recalls meeting Marlene as a teenager. Lifelong friends whose lives wove in and out over time. Marlene joined the Burbank-Valley Garden Club at Susan's suggestion. She quickly became the Event Chairperson, (Third Vice President's right hand man). She always "had my back". I was very blessed to have Marlene in my life.

We will all miss you Marlene.



## **Mrs. Chipmunk Speaks**

Charlene Gallagher

What a winter this is! I have recovered from two burned feet...and a burned tail...not as presentable as I would like to be.

All of the trees in our immediate forest have been burned...some dead...and hopefully some will recover. I understand the spoken news that two-legged creatures follow. Talks about the trees and the groundcover burning and the loss of such. Not much on the news about the creatures of the forest who have died in the fire; their homes are destroyed; their families are gone and sadness reigns in the forests.

We, who live here, are fully aware. I do not want to count how many...or the ones that have been burned. We are all trying to make a new way of life. The ashes, the destroyed forest structure, the missing members all take a toll on us.

Remember us also. We are part of this one time beautiful paradise. It is gone! Now we must move on to where the fire has taken a toll of everywhere we go.

Hope for rain...less heat in the future and more care from visitors in the way they respect the land. We only have so many forest rangers, our friends and firefighters to help us. And now we only have so many trees left and food provisions left, let alone water.

So, think of us also...take care of us in the future. Take care of the new trees that hopefully will find a way to grow as large as their destroyed family members.

I wonder if trees think?

## **Welcome New Members**

**Bruce Hale**                      [bruce.m.hale@att.net](mailto:bruce.m.hale@att.net)  
3025 Alabama St              818 744-7252  
LaCrescenta, CA 91214

**Sylvia Nielsen-Ioka**              [ringsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:ringsylvia@gmail.com)  
1229 N Fifth St              818 843-1173  
Burbank, CA 91504

**Nancy Pruitt**                      818 618-4579  
1431 N Kenwood St  
Burbank, CA 91505

**Rosa Alba Quinn**              [rosaalba916@gmail.com](mailto:rosaalba916@gmail.com)  
8956 Etiwanda Ave              818 886-1568  
Northridge, CA 91325

**Rhina Walton**                      [rhinazamoraW21@gmail.com](mailto:rhinazamoraW21@gmail.com)  
2334 Beadslee St              626 857-6154  
Duarte, CA 91010

**Eula Warren**                      [eulamark@aol.com](mailto:eulamark@aol.com)  
2101 W Pacific Ave              818 568-3328  
Burbank, CA 01506

**Karen Winchell**                      [kfwinchell@gmail.com](mailto:kfwinchell@gmail.com)  
4440 Forman Ave              323-816-4580  
Toluca Lake CA 91602

## ONE DAY MORE: SIMPLIFYING FOOD-DATE LABELING

### Southern California *Green Thumb*

By Maria Orefice

Are you committed to reading and believing food label expiration dates? Or are you a rebel like me and question the validity of these dates? Do food manufacturers want us to toss so-called expired food without a second thought so that we will spend and buy more? If the food item smells good, looks good, feels good, or tastes good, should it get thrown in the recycling bin? Not so fast.

Help is on the way! California Assembly Bill 660 (AB 660) is a new law designed to reduce food waste by standardizing date labels on food products. Starting July 1, 2026, food manufacturers and retailers in California will be required to use specific terms like "Best if Used By" to indicate when a product is at its peak quality, and "Use By" to communicate when it is no longer safe to consume. This change is intended to clear up confusion caused by the previous "sell-by" dates and other phrases which often led consumers to throw away food prematurely.

The bill also mandates that food items be labeled with these standardized terms to ensure consumers can easily understand the quality and safety of the products they purchase. By doing so, AB 660 aims to help consumers make better decisions about their food, ultimately reducing the amount of food waste generated in California. Given that food waste contributes significantly to environmental and economic issues, this is important.

Food waste is a huge environmental problem in the U.S. and worldwide. In the United States, over 100 tons of food is wasted annually with almost 30% wasted by consumers and retailers. Organic waste accounts for the largest amount of methane emissions and 8% of greenhouse gases. Decreasing the amount of organic waste going to landfills will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, as well as the cost of waste disposal and the need for new landfills.

The goal of AB 660 is to help make food labeling consistent and easy to understand. The bill will assist consumers in reducing food waste and saving money while promoting sustainability. It's a step towards a more environmentally conscious approach to food consumption and waste management in California.

**Bottom line—dates are guidelines.** Use your nose, eyes, and head to determine if you feel comfortable using a food product before throwing it out.

#### **Newsletter Contributions Wanted**

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

## Burbank-Valley Garden Club History

On January 13, 1847 at the Campo de Cahuenga, Andres Pico and John C. Fremont signed the Cahuenga Capitulation Treaty, to end all hostilities throughout California between the United States and Mexico.

Burbank-Valley Garden Club, along with several of the San Fernando Valley District member clubs, used to participate in the celebration of the signing of the treaty at the Campo de Cahuenga. Each of the participating clubs would lay a wreath at the memorial stone.

Here is a picture of Grace Davis, a former club president, laying the wreath in observance of the treaty signing.



## Happy Birthday!

January 23	Connie Weir
February 7	Kathy Itomura
February 7	Chris Van Deusen
February 17	Susan Eyraud
February 19	Millie Eberhardt
February 20	Joan Rothrock
February 21	Bruce Hale





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

**2024-2025  
Executive Board**

**President:**  
Robin Gemmill

**1st Vice-President, Programs:**  
Rosalia Gomez

**2nd Vice-Pres., Membership:**  
Janet Jack  
Susan Law

**3rd Vice-Pres., Ways & Means:**  
Laura Duran

**Recording Secretary:**  
Anne White

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Nancy Bryant

**Treasurer:**  
Ingrid Nonnast

**Parliamentarian:**  
Ann Foose

**Happenings**

**February 10—12, 2025 Gardening School  
Course 2**

**New Smyrna Beach FL (Virtual)**  
Organizer [Sally Flanagan](#) 386-428-3170  
[sfflan@aol.com](mailto:sfflan@aol.com)



**February 16, 2025—1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.**

Descanso Gardens, Camellia Walking Tour  
Join Jim Fitzpatrick, the Vice President of the Southern California Camellia Society, and Arian Noorzai, Descanso Gardens' Camellia Horticulturist, for a tour of the camellia collection.

Meets at Center Circle. No advance registration required, free with admission.

**February 20, 2025-10 am Burbank African Violet Society**

Little White Chapel, 1711 North Avon St., Burbank  
General Meeting  
Everyone welcome.

**April 28-30th 2025 Pacific Region Garden Clubs  
2025 Convention**

Wyndham Phoenix Airport Hotel  
Host: Arizona Garden Clubs  
[www.AZGardenClubs.com/Conventions](http://www.AZGardenClubs.com/Conventions)