

NEWSLETTER

December 2011 - March 2012

The April-July 2011 issue included news from Sept. & Oct. 2011. The August-November 2011 issue of the newsletter was not published because of time restraints on the volunteers

HAVE YOU SEEN THE OCTOPUS AGAVE?

Nine years ago, when the Kids' Adventure Garden was designed and planted, an *Agave vilmoriniana* 'Octopus Agave' was planted in the 'zoo garden.' After nine years, the Octopus Agave has started to bloom. It is my understanding that the flower will grow about 15-20 feet tall. After the blooming cycle is finished, the mother plant will die. We are all very anxious to follow the growth of our new flower. While the Huntington Library and Botanic Garden has the 'stinky flower', we have the *Agave vilmoriniana*. Come by often and follow the growth of this exciting plant.

---Jean Reiley



Octopus agave

Opposite: Enjoying the day were Irene, Jan, Lillian, Jim Allyn & Beverly

GONE IS THE EUCALYPTUS TREE AT HILLTOP

In spite of some additional watering and treatment, one of the original trees lost its fight for life. Marking the spot of the tree, there now stand three 'chairs' and a table- all created out of the stump and trunk cuttings of the tree.

---Beverly Brune



Testing the new seating area are Brian, Joseph, Melvin and Bob Brune

RSVP RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

Conejo Recreation and Parks District again sponsored the annual two-day RSVP Recognition Luncheon at North Ranch Country Club. This event honors senior members who volunteered 150 hours or more during the year.

---Beverly Brune



The Conejo Valley Botanic Garden is a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, cultivation and display of native and other water-conserving plants.

TRANQUILITY GARDEN

New things have been taking place in the Tranquility Garden. The bridge has been sanded and stained a reddish color. Several Correa and Salvia greggii have been planted. A Crape Myrtle and a Blue Palo Verde will be planted in the near future. Thanks to Jim and Frank for their work.

---Jean Reiley



Newly painted bridge in Tranquility Garden

RARE FRUIT ORCHARD

A good deal of time has been spent on sprucing up the orchard. Work was recently completed by removing a couple of dead fruit trees, and thinning out dead wood and overgrowth. Joseph, Mel, John and Shane got to do the fun stuff, planting five new fruit trees under the direction of Ed Hager. A Nectarine Panamint '*Prunus persica nucipersica*', Black Mulberry, Strawberry Guava '*Psidium guava*', Black Mission Fig and a Kodota Fig. Two piles of mulch were dumped close by, and will be spread by the WellPoint/Blue Cross volunteers in April.

---Jean Reiley



Melvin, Joseph, Ed Hager with newly planted black mulberry tree

SAGE HILL

Work continues on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) on the south slope. One hundred native plants have been planted in the center of the project and weed control of the whole area continues. This area where many native sages grow will be known as SAGE HILL. Our diligent volunteers have worked on the various aspects of this project.

Beverly Brune



Planting day: Frank, Emily, Joseph, Marion, Jim Cyr

IMPROVING THE NATURE TRAIL

Conejo Recreation and Parks District arranged for Park Ranger Bruce to widen and level the nature trail on the south slope. With the use of a traildozzer, the 'Sweco', the narrow trail was widened into an improved four-foot wide comfortable trail. The same machine was used to create berms on the service road to deflect rain water off the road. Thank you Conejo Recreation and Parks District and Bruce for this important work.



Park Ranger Bruce and the 'Sweco'

KIDS' ADVENTURE GARDEN

On a Sunday evening, a drunk driver ran his car through the iron fence at the KAG and taking out part of our kiosk. It is our understanding that the police arrested the person. We want to thank CRPD for repairing the damages and handling the paper work with the local authorities.

---Jean Reiley

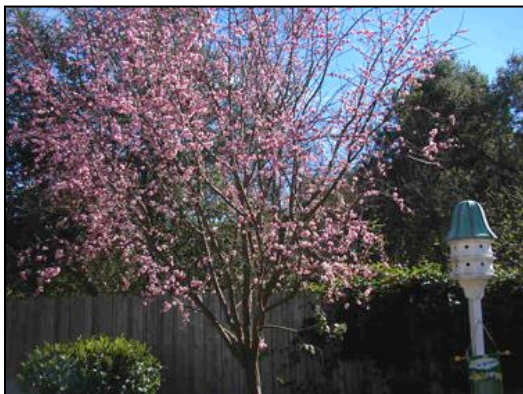


Waiting for repair

Just a Reminder-Sunday Plant Sales

Plant sales are held every Sunday from 11:00-2:30 in the area next to the Kids' Adventure Garden, located at 350 Gainsborough. California natives, hardy, water wise perennials, shrubs, trees and succulents, reasonably priced are available. CVBG volunteers will be happy to help you with selections and share their expertise. For those who can't make the Sunday sales, Irene Benyoung has offered to take orders for plants if you contact her at ibenyoung@yahoo.com. She will be available on Wednesdays for pick-up at the Kids' Adventure Garden.

---Barbara Song, Propagation and Sales Volunteer



Prunus xblireiana Flowering Plum in the Kids' Adventure Garden



Apple blossom with bee in the Kids' Adventure Garden

LITTLE LOOP TRAIL & DAVE MORTIMER

Little Loop Trail on the north side of the garden is the shortened version of the garden's 3/4 mile Nature Trail. The little trail has been in need of major cleanup for some time and gratefully that happened in mid-February when Dave Mortimer donated a day of work from his tree service crew. But that wasn't all! The crew also pruned the trees in the Kids' Adventure garden, removed a tall tree that grew to the top of a large valley oak on the Tuolumne side of our property, and removed a large walnut tree trunk on the garden's main path. THANK YOU, DAVE for this valuable service to the garden.

---Beverly Brune



Path in the Little Loop Trail

FINANCE INFORMATION

Beverly Brune, Treasurer

DONATIONS RECEIVED

Marion Ward in memory of Marie Harding

Hermosa Garden Club

Maryanne Lucas

Nancy Most

Christy Enns

Southern California Garden Club

Lillian Davies

Bob & Kathy Vieth

Dr. Wm. Carter & Dr. Gulko

Philip & Marlene Grant

Karen Aguilar

Barbara Song in honor of CVBG volunteers

INSCRIBED BRICKS

In memory of Riley G. Slama by family

In memory of Bob Tanger by Karen Dean

In memory of Louis L. Tanguy by Laura White

TREES TO BE DEDICATED IN THE TRAIL OF TREES

Prunus subhirtella 'Pendula' WEEPING CHERRY

In memory of Riley G. Slama by family

Quercus virginiana SOUTHERN LIVE OAK

In memory of Marie Harding by Kathy, Marcy & Jack

Eucalyptus ficifolia RED FLOWERING GUM

In honor of Nick & Marisa by Nick Flores

WESTLAKE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL TOUR AND ANNUAL DONATION TO THE GARDEN

Westlake Village Garden Club has been a regular and generous donor over the past many years. The club has again given the garden a generous donation of \$2,500. THANK YOU, members of the garden club, for your on-going support.

The club organizes an annual garden tour of five local home gardens where funds are raised for their many donations. This year's tour is April 29 and we hope many of our members will come to enjoy the tour. Tickets are \$20 and are available at Armstrong Garden Center, Nordic Nursery, Westlake Florist, Sperling Nursery & Century 21 Adobe Realty. Jean & Beverly also have tickets.

CHEVRON HUMANKIND

\$1000 was donated in honor of Ted Hermsen for his hours of volunteering at the garden in 2011. Many thanks to Ted and Chevron Humankind.

DIRECTOR

In order to acquire a person to serve as director and to have funding for that position, a letter was sent out in December requesting donations. The response to the letter was overwhelming and to date \$1950 has been donated. Jean & Beverly continue to fulfill these duties as volunteers, but the future is being considered. THANK YOU to the following who so generously gave donations.

Camille van Ast

Judith Kiner

Nobuko McClure

Richard deAnda

John & Jackie Cushman

Sam & Anya Avar

Carolyn & Walter Wilke

Steve & Evy Schultz

John & Margie Fetter

John & Carmen Oblinger

Garry & Barbara Song

Arline Miller

Don Oeffling

Jan Segal

Charles & Carrol Lucas

Scott & Sandy Kurtilek

Bob & Beverly Brune

Jim & Tracy Friedl

Angie Pastor

Lillian Davies

Jean Reiley & Bill Waters

Garden Calendar/Events

Garden Tour, by Westlake Village Garden Club, April 29, 2012. Tickets at Armstrong Garden Center.

Matilija Poppy Festival, Sunday May 6, 2012 at the Kids' Adventure Garden.

Plant Sales, Every Sunday 11am-2:30pm at the KAG sales nursery

Floral Design Classes in the Sogetsu Style, first and third Thursdays of month. Call Camille 805 498-7421.

Kids' Adventure Garden open from 11am-3pm Sundays (Contact Jean at 805-374-8255).

Birthday Parties at the Kids' Adventure Garden call Betty (818) 889-0560

Matilija Poppy Festival

Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

**In the Kids' Adventure Garden
Gainsborough & Jeanine Dr.**

May 6 Sunday Noon–5 p.m. 2012

NO CHARGE



Docent-led tours will lead you to the main garden and the Matilija Poppies

EVENTS

- Starter plants for children
- Children's activity
- Popcorn

AND IT'S FREE!

TOURS & LECTURES

12:30-1:15: Tour

1:30-2:15: Birds in the Garden

Dee Lyon, Audubon Society

2:30-3:15: Tour

3:30-4:15: Owls and More

Sharon Hardee, Naturalist

4:30-5:15: Tour

PLANT SALE: in Kids' Adventure Garden

To Reach the Garden. Exit 101 Freeway at Lynn Rd. & go north 0.7 miles. Turn right at Gainsborough Rd. and continue for 0.5 miles to Jeanine Dr. on the right

Sponsored in cooperation with Conejo Recreation & Park District and City of Thousand Oaks Community Events Endowment Fund

Please direct all inquiries regarding the Newsletter to:
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CVBG is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization and works in cooperation with the Conejo Recreation and Park District.

CVBG is located adjacent to the Conejo Community Center, at Hendrix and Dover Aves. The garden is also accessible from Gainsborough Rd (half mile from Lynn Rd).

Open Hours

7am-5pm

Closed on major holidays.

Exceptions, see website

Directors

Betty Rohan

Joseph Scarpine

Barbara Song

Carolyn Wilke

Officers

President- Jean Reiley

Vice-president- Beverly

Brune

Treasurer- Beverly Brune

Secretary- Sandy Krutilek

Historian

Sandy Krutilek

Volunteers

Jim Allyn

Donald Amerine

Janna Austin

Sam & Anya Avard

Debbie Barber

Irene Benyoung

Volunteers (cont'd)

Pat Brubaker

Beverly & Bob Brune

Mary Ann Campbell

Pat Carlson

Dong Hyun Chang

Diane Conejo

Ann Coons

Jackie Cushman

Jim Cyr

Lillian Davies

Bill & Kathy Dobner

Melvin Earley

Mitzie Elchyshyn

Marian Fleming

Mary Freed

Frank Greenleaf

Ed Hager

Ted & Bella Hermsen

Dan Herschel

Shane Kinney

Sandy Krutilek

Ruth Lee

Maryanne Lucas

Carrol & Charlie

Lucas

Quentin Lucas

Nobuko McClure

Arline Miller

Brian Murphy

Don Oeffling

Tracey Parish

Ray & Joyce Prouty

Tanya Quin

Joyce Reid

Jean Reiley & Bill

Waters

Christina & Charlie

Rocha

Quentin Rocha

Betty Rohan

Emily Roth

Joseph Scarpine

Elliott Schaffzin

Steve Schultz

Janet Segal

Barbara & Garry Song

Ed Tabor

Gordon Thomas

Judy Thompson

Camille Van Ast

Lovita Vandenberg

Carolyn Wilke

John Wolf