



President's Message

by Paula Elias



Happy New Year Manteca Garden Club Members,

It's a brand new year and baby it's cold outside! I know we are all looking at our gardens saying, "Oh my, I hope those plants come back." As you know that's the cycle of the seasons and soon Spring will be here and our gardens will be bursting. I can't wait!

What a nice holiday lunch with over 40 members attending! Wow! It was a fun time. Thanks to Bertie for all of the planning and decorations.

It was fun to judge our Smokey the Bear posters thanks to Gloria and our May 13 poster contest too. Such a nice holiday time for all!

Thanks to Beverly and Camellia Garden members for taking the lead with our St Jude Care Center holiday gift bag giving! We will hear more about this special event at our club meeting. Beverly is sure appreciated!!!

Hope you all have marked your calendars for rose pruning with Hank on Saturday January 28 at 9:30 at the senior center. When everyone helps, the work goes fast and it is always fun. Rain will delay the pruning until February 4.

We have lots of activities planned and we are excited to have everyone involved. Can't wait to share more with you at our next meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Paula

Key Dates

Meeting

Wednesday, January 11	Board Meeting at 10:30, Paula Elias' house
Monday, January 16	Manteca Garden Club, Manteca Library 12:30-1:00pm refreshments; 1:00 meeting Speaker: Jonas Schambeck, Rainforest Nursery Topic: Fruit Tree Pruning
Monday, January 23	Garden Tour Committee Chair Meeting, 10:30, Paula's House
Saturday, January 28	Rose Pruning with Hank at 9:30am at the Senior Center

Gardening Chores for January

by Sandi Larson, Master Gardener



I hope you all had a wonderful time with family in December! Now back to thinking ahead into the spring in the garden world. When we lived in Boston for a couple of years when my hubby was transferred there I was literally depressed when the winter weather came. It wasn't cold enough to snow much and the area where we lived had a few evergreen trees and shrubs but being a California girl I found it very disheartening to live where most things were pretty gray in the winter. My big thrill that year was the Boston Flower and Garden Show which was in March. At last I could see flowers, ferns, orchids, bulbs, seeds...I was taken out of dreariness for only a day but that day gave me enough hope for the spring that I could survive another couple of months in the dreary weather.

If you're like me you've realized that the garden in the winter in Central California isn't much to look at. You can still choose cyclamen, holly, camellias, pansies, stock, to name a few. I think that's why it's so important to plan your garden around each season. If you tend to go crazy in the spring, try and leave a little spot here and there in your yard for some interest during the other three seasons. That will take some planning but also give you an excuse to go to the nursery every quarter or so. If you're new to our area and just moved into your home, you know that until you've lived in your home for a full year you really aren't going to know what the impact of exposure and weather are going to have on your home and yard. Even if you've lived in your home a number of years you realize as landscape matures your shade and sunny areas may no longer exist as they did originally. This year I am going to consult with a landscape person to redo some of my backyard plantings. Some aren't doing well because they've lost their sun exposure but I hate pulling anything out so I need a little guidance to make the most of my yard.

January is a time of new beginnings in the yard. Our grass grows a lot slower. The insect world has slowed down a little (except for ants, snails and pincher bugs) and we have time to evaluate the "hits" and "misses" in our yards. Take a good look at your yard from a critical eye if you can. What plants are overgrown, misshapen, thin, leggy or just plain ugly that you could replace? Now grab a good old but so important thing to remember is what your exposure is for each spot and how much wind it gets, whether it receives reflective heat, ie from concrete walls reflecting into the plants.

January tasks include pruning roses, summer and fall-blooming trees, shrubs and perennials. Be careful that you don't prune plants that flower on old wood. You can also plant dormant trees, shrubs, vines and perennials and roses this month.

Annuals to plant this month include cyclamen, primrose, pansies, cineraria, Iceland poppies, stock and snapdragons. These all make great pops of color in a flower bed, pot or moss basket. It's also not too late to get summer blooming bulbs or tubers such as begonia and cannas.

Vegetables to plant this month include Cauliflower and broccoli seeds or transplants, onion or lettuce seeds or transplants, and shallot transplants.

Watering in January should be as needed. If we have a dry spell monitor your shrubs and perennials and annuals to see if they need to be watered by hand or hose. That also applies to potted plants or plants under the eaves which don't always get enough rainfall.

Watch the weather forecast for freeze warnings. You can prevent or lessen the chance of freezing plants

Recycling water - If you've thought about saving your water as it by doing one or a combination of some of these such as putting twinkling lights in the tree or shrub; water prior to the freeze warning; cover entire plant with a freeze blanket provided it goes down to the ground and doesn't rest on the plant; there are also several antitranspirants such as Wilt Pruf or Moisturein that help reduce moisture loss from plants.

If you've thought about saving and recycling water that comes off the roof, bravo for your water-conserving initiative!

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Gardening Chores for January (continued from page 2)

There are many water saving vessels out there you can adapt to your yard but most of them seem to need some kind of cutting of your drainspout. My only thought about saving roof water is that if you use that water for watering edibles be aware that the water could be contaminated by bird bacteria and roofing chemicals. I looked into the vessels last year but decided I didn't have enough space in my yard.

Another thing to do in the winter when things are relatively dormant is to clean your garden tools and possibly have them sharpened. Disease can spread fairly easily if you don't clean your pruning tools after you have pruned plants that are infected with bacteria or disease. Also a good time to remove rust, sand down wooden handles down and rub with oil to condition them and make them easier on your hands. Another way to prevent disease is to keep a container of disinfecting wipes handy to wipe after you prune each plant.

Feed citrus trees this month with a fertilizer like 10-5-5 or 20-10-10 which is higher in nitrogen to keep their evergreen growth.

Think Spring!

School Gardens by Tom Powell

Last month we provided an article on the Banta School garden. This month we are providing an example of a cooperative effort at Lincoln Elementary School. Last September I was contacted by GECAC, who runs an afterschool program at Lincoln, to help solve an irrigation problem in their existing garden. They have 6 raised beds with an existing irrigation system but no timer. They had purchased a timer and wanted my assistance in installing it. Seems pretty straightforward, right?

Well, when I visited the garden I noticed that it was more involved than simply installing a timer. There were leaks in the line and an existing sprinkler system was spraying water in unneeded areas, thereby wasting water and contributing to a weeding problem.



I worked with the head custodian and MUSD grounds staff to reroute the main line and cap off the old irrigation system. I was then able to install the timer. However, there was another problem. The irrigation system that had been installed in each of the six raised beds did not evenly distribute water across the bedding areas. Therefore, I offered to redo their irrigation system. GECAC purchased most of the supplies that I installed.

And the winner is ...

We are pleased to announce the winner of our May 13, 2017 Garden Tour MUSD Art Contest is Louisa Hunter, a Senior at Sierra High School. Congratulations!

Special thanks to Mrs. York, teacher at Sierra, for her support. Louisa's work will be on our poster, ticket and will serve as the door prize for people attending the tour! Thank you to the four MUSD high schools for participation: Weston Ranch, Lathrop, Manteca and Sierra. Our club enjoyed viewing the creative art work. We have very talented young people



Refreshments

by Laneia Bolle and Gloria Martinez

The following members have volunteered to bring refreshments to the January 16, 2017 Garden Club Meeting:
Refreshments start at 12:30pm.

Bertie Baumgartner
Gayle Foster
Alene Griffin

Sandie Harris
Suzanne Johnson



January Birthdays

3 Duane Becker
12 Pat Fidler
14 Joan Cannon

