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January 2019 Newsletter

President	Paula Elias
Vice President	Bertie Baumgartner
Treasurer	Beverly Ensley
Secretary	Lorna Powell
Parliamentarian	Gloria Martinez



President's Message

by Paula Elias



Happy New Year Manteca Garden Club!

We hope you had a nice holiday season. Thanks to the 50 members who attended our luncheon at Chez Shari. It was a yummy, fun time. Thanks to those members who made it happen too! You did great!

We had sad news with the passing of Marion Golisano in December. She was a supportive, involved friend of the club for many years. Marion will be missed for sure.

As we move into 2019 we are looking for members to serve on our board next season. We especially need a couple of members to serve as VPs to set up our speaker list and plan our field trips and luncheons. It would be awesome to have two people help the club! Without speakers, we can't have meetings!!!! When we all help, it's easy for everyone!!

Barbara Stoner has our new website up and running! Thank you Barbara for taking the lead on this vital part of our Manteca Garden Club communications.

We are looking forward to our May 2019 garden tour too. Thanks for marking your calendar now!

Paula

Key Dates

Meeting

Monday, January 21	Manteca Garden Club, Manteca Library 12:30-1:00pm refreshments; 1:00 meeting Speaker: Eric Teberg, Topic: Drip Irrigation and its Application in Landscape Design
Saturday, February 2	Rose Pruning with Hank will be on February 2, beginning at 9:00 am. In the case of rain, pruning will take place on Saturday, February 9

Gardener's Corner for January

by Cate White, Master Gardener

Happy New Year! Now is the time of year when many of us (myself included) want to curl up with a good book, a warm beverage, snuggle under a warm blanket and wait until the weather warms up and the days lengthen. And generally, there are few garden chores at this time of year, with one exception: pruning.

Winter is an ideal time to prune woody plants, since they are mostly dormant. While not all plants require pruning, there are many reasons to prune, including training young plants, grooming for appearance, controlling for shape and size, re-invigorating growth, and removing dead and diseased wood. However, to avoid disfiguring damage, it is important to use proper technique, and prune judiciously. The following basic guidelines are for woody trees and shrubs generally. Fruit trees and roses require more specialized techniques. For large mature trees, hiring a certified arborist is recommended.

There are two primary types of pruning cuts: heading and thinning. Heading consists of cutting back to a stub, lateral bud, or small upright. Severe heading, including topping of trees, is not recommended since it leads to a flush of vigorous, dense, and often weak new growth. When heading back, cut small stems to about ¼" away from a lateral bud, cutting at a slant. (See figures 1 and 2.) New growth will generally follow the direction the bud or branch is pointing. Thinning is defined as removing a lateral branch at its origin or shortening the branch's length by cutting to a lateral large enough to take the terminal role. (See figure 3.) Woody plants respond to thinning by becoming more open but retaining their natural growth and shape. Pruning shears are best used for small limbs, although saws are necessary for larger ones. Keep your shears clean and sharp.

When pruning broadleaf shrubs, your goal should be goal to keep their natural shapes. Shearing or heading cuts should mostly be avoided, while thinning of older, taller growth is the best practice. Cut off the oldest and largest branches at or near the ground, leaving shorter, younger stems. Newer shoots can be thinned or headed as needed to shape the plant. (See figure 4.) For older, overgrown shrubs, it is best to cut out all old growth over a period of several years to preserve the plant's natural shape and flowering habits.

Coating pruning cuts with materials such asphalt emulsion is not recommended, since the coating can trap moisture, which increases chances of decay and inhibits wound closure. The best practice is to simply leave cuts exposed to dry in the air. (continued on page 3)

January Garden Checklist

- Plant bare root shrubs, trees and roses.
- Apply a second dose of fungicide spray to peaches and nectarines to control leaf curl. (The first dose should be around Christmas or New Years day.)
- Prune deciduous trees and shrubs (such as apple, pear, crepe myrtle, roses and stone fruits), encouraging good form and structure. Remove dead, diseased and borer infested wood, then spray with horticultural oil (found in most nurseries) to discourage over wintering pests and diseases.
- Continue monitoring and baiting for snails and slugs and ants.
- Adjust watering schedules according to weather. Remember not to water within 48 hours of measurable rain. If you have plants growing under eaves and in entry ways where they do not get rain, water occasionally by hand.
- Protect sensitive plants from frost with covers or by bringing under shelter.

Gardener's Corner for January (continued from page 2)



Fig. 1
UCANR flyer on Pruning

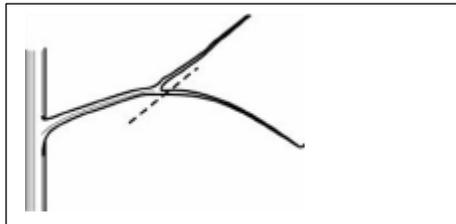


Fig. 2 UCANR flyer on Pruning

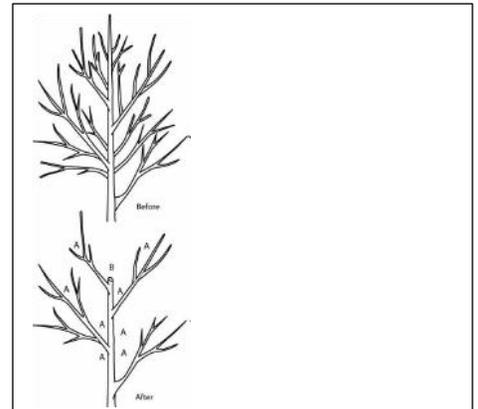


Fig. 3 UCANR flyer on Pruning

Refreshments

If you volunteered to bring refreshments to the January 21, 2019 Garden Club Meeting, please remember that refreshments start at 12:30pm.



January Birthdays

- 3 Duane Becker
- 7 Pat Nelson
- 12 Pat Fidler
- 25 Kim Niemeier

