



▶ NGC CERTIFIED GARDEN STUDY SCHOOL APPROVED FOR EARLY 2020 .....1



▶ 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL DISTRICT WORKSHOP SEPT 10 *SKILLS FOR SUCCESS* FEATURING BARBARA FULTON, FROM PORTLAND, OR ....1



▶ GETTING THE MOST FROM THE DISTRICT – FIND EVENTS IN THE HILLS AND IN THE VALLEY .....2

# THE Valley Lode

Valley Lode District of California Garden Clubs, Inc, Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc, National Garden Clubs, Inc  
HIGHLIGHTING THE ACTIVITIES OF INDIVIDUALS AND CLUBS SO THAT WE "LEARN AND GROW". [THEME]

## Hot Topics Workshop 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual *Skills for Success*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hot Topics Workshop on September 10 at the StanCo Fairgrounds featured seven presenters. Presentation topics included Easy Website, by Tarah Beaven; Efficient Minute Taking, by Barbara Fulton; Tools for Treasurers, by Anne Plummer; Successful Youth Poster Campaign, by Charlotte Tucker; Symbiotic Relationships, by Berni Hendrix; Communication Dealing with Difficult People, by Bob Taylor; and Make A Box craft, by Barbara Hawkins.

Break-out sessions allowed for rotation to the speaker highest on the priority list. 40 passionate leaders from clubs in the VLD took opportunity to learn new methods, gain new

skills and appreciate new techniques.

Easy Website, by Tarah Beaven walked through all the steps resulting in 3 websites being established that day. A social media expert from San Francisco, this was Tarah's 2<sup>nd</sup> follow-up presentation at the VLD Annual "Skills for Success" Seminar.

Efficient Minute Taking by Barbara Fulton was a totally different method that has been tried and found to be true by top level attorneys in the medical field. Director of Medical Staff Affairs for Adventist Health for 46 years, Barbara offered an example of a VLD board meeting official Minute, with an efficient follow-up technique.

Treasurers Tools and other hand-outs by Anne Plummer, a corporate officer retired, provided

dates and deadlines for easy reporting.

With handouts for a Successful Youth Poster Campaign, Charlotte Tucker, CGCI and Pacific Region Chairman, shared her success tips.

Always intriguing, Bob Taylor, retired professional Communications Trainer, shared verbal skills techniques to be used every day.

Craft of assembling to take home and plant a pre-cut succulent box of reclaimed wood, by Barbara Hawkins, stimulated feelings of creativity and relaxation.

Symbiotic Relationships by Berni Hendrix on the importance of beneficial relationships among officers, chairmen, members, and the community, broadened the scope for leaders.

Right: VLD members visit during lunch. Left to right front table: Deb Travaille, Ann Mootz, Carol Mann, Linda Gates, Linda King, Shirley Day.



Left: official Garden Study pin for Certified Consultants in Garden Study.



## Gardening Study School Approved for 2020

The four courses of the NGC Gardening Study School to be sponsored by the Valley Lode District in 2020 was approved by National Garden Clubs, Inc. and presented for approval to the members of the board of the California Garden Clubs, Inc. at the past CGCI Fall Board Meeting held in Redding, Oct 1-3. The Valley Lode District Director, as a member of the CGCI board, was in attendance and reported that many District Directors expressed interest in attending the school. Co-Chair, Bridget Foster, President, Knights Ferry Garden Club, has been diligent and persistent in planning and organizing to gain approval for sponsoring the school and procuring instructors.

To be held in the Floriculture Building, StanCo Fairgrounds, the district will provide snacks, beverage and a lunch daily. The school is planned to be held

on weekends to accommodate most attendees. The school will be open for attendance by the general public. Non-members can join a garden club of choice during the school in order to become certified. Only garden club members are eligible for NGC Certification.

Dates for the Gardening Study School are:

February 15, 16 - Course 3;      March 7, 8 - Course 1;  
March 28, 29 - Course 2;      April 18, 19 - Course 4.

Instructors are Andrew Gardener, PhD, Botany, CSUS; Dale Pollard, PhD Environmental Horticulture, MJC; in addition to several specialty guest instructors who will present unique topics for study.

Each Course will feature a field trip and/or a unique activity. Tuition is \$75 for each Course which includes the fee for the testing in order to become Certified. Fee does not cover books or required reading. Required reading is 'The National Gardener' Magazine. All school attendees must subscribe online at: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).

# CHAIR REPORT

Valley Lode District Chairmen

by Ted Hawkins,

PHOTOGRAPHY CHAIRMAN



Great photos of flowers take time and thought. An open-face bloom (daisy/sunflower) is easier to photograph than a closed-face bloom (tulip, daffodil, orchid, iris) which looks best as a silhouette. Multiple petal flowers (rose/dahlia) are a challenge because the petals will shadow each other if the light is not just right.

Think about the lighting. If too bright it can wash out the color of the bloom. Morning light can be harsh, but later may cast shade from other plants or trees and will need a camera flash. Move the bloom if possible, for best light, or wait to find the best angle of the sun. Overcast will cause the flower to look flat.

A tripod or mono pod is a good aid. Hand holding a camera in low light may result in a low-quality image. A reflector or flashlight to direct light will benefit the result.

Decide on the flower, best light, time of day, and location to take that wonderful photograph, then practice, practice, practice!

# District Calendar

LEARNING opportunities GROW friendships

Getting the most from the District

SEPT 30-OCT 3 CGCI Fall Board Meeting, Redding, CA

OCTOBER 1 DEADLINE  
CGCI Membership dues, and ROCT annual raffle report

OCTOBER 8 VLD General Meeting at Seasons Event Center, McHenry Ave, Modesto, the Modesto Garden Club hosts. Guest speaker is Jacquie Courtright, tv gardening show host and owner of Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore. Fee: \$35 Mail to Mary McNicholas 2010 O'Farrell Ave, Modesto 95359

OCTOBER 19 Native Plant Sale, Hughson Arboretum 10am – 12 noon. Benefits youth garden by the North San Joaquin Valley California Native Plant Society

NOVEMBER 3 Pumpkin Roll Fund-raiser, Knights Ferry. Family fun. Stock-up on the historically famous Knights Ferry Garden Club Pumpkin SWEET ROLLS

Gardening is for pansies.

Unknown

NOVEMBER 3 Daylight Saving Time Ends

NOVEMBER 9 Garden of Tablescapes Luncheon, Newman GC fundraiser. Viewing starts at 11:00 a.m., Anderson's Pea Soup 209-862-3567 for reservations.

NOVEMBER 12 VL District Board Meeting, starts promptly at 10:00 a.m. Ceres Community Center, upstairs meeting room. Lunch will be provided.

NOVEMBER 15 DEADLINE CA & IRS tax filing, fiscal year end June 30

## LEARN AND GROW NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETINGS

CALAVERAS: Zach Wallace, Business Landscape Award Winner

CERES: Fall Wreath Making, by Fern Berman, Crafter

ESCALON: Gardening as We Age, by Pegi Palms, Mstr Gardener

FOOTHILL: Field Trip to Bushnell Gardens, Granite Bay, Oct 23; Garden Winterizing, November 20

LODI: Bill the Bulb Baron, by Wm Welch, flowering bulbs

MODESTO: Practical Floral Designing, by Susie Gillum

OAKDALE: Dahlia Growing, by Maria Lopez

PATTERSON: Containers - Spillers, Fillers and Thrillers, by Tracy Amador

SIERRA MADRE: Celebrating 100 birthday & Pumpkin Carving

TUOLUMNE: Favorite garden tool & charity food drive, by members

TURLOCK: Fall Container Design, K Keller, Greenery, Oct 14

VALLEY FLORAL: no meeting in November

## SMARTER GARDENING



Above: 'transcendentia' Spider Wort  
Photo by Berni Hendrix

### Monthly Garden Checklist UC Master Gardener

- feed hydrangeas with acidifier for blue blooms; feed with agricultural lime for pink blooms
- plant bulbs now for spring bloom
- fall is the time to plant California natives – plant sale Oct 19 @ Hughson Arboretum
- garlic, shallots and onion starts are ready to get planted for a summer harvest
- prepare for winter-clear out weeds; add soil amendments to replace nitrogen in the soil
- treat for slugs/snails
- plant shrubs, trees and perennials before rains arrive

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