

January 2009

Member of:
Desert Empire District,
California Garden Clubs,
Inc., Pacific Region,
And National Garden
Clubs, Inc.

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Desert Trumpet

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The President's Corner

By Shirley Craver

THEME: *Gardeners We Are, We Plant Our Gardens With Beauty*

January, 2009
Hello Members and Friends,

We are into a new year of hope and strength. We have six months to do many things in the Desert Planters of Ridgecrest gardening group, both locally, district and state wide.

Please remember to offer to help at the state winter board meeting. Our district, Desert Empire, is sponsoring this in January. The chairmen can be called if you wish to offer help. You can call me at 760 377-4629 or other officers of our club for information on this or any other inquiry.

In February, we are sponsoring the District board meeting, so we need to put our heads together and plan any additional ideas to be covered now. For the lunch we are ordering sandwiches, but we need members to bring two salads, a fruit plate and desserts. In the morning we are serving breakfast rolls, fruit, juice and coffee, if you would rather bring one of those items. So, I hope as many as possible will attend the General meeting on Jan. 10, 2009 and also the business meeting on January 27. The program at the Jan. 10 meeting is about *California Native Plants*, by Donna Thomas, CGCI Wildflower chairman.

My family and I hope everyone has a wonderful New Year which is rich for you and yours and most of all stay safe and warm.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Shirley, Desert Planters President

Thank You Lucille

A special thanks to Lucille Nielson and her son David for hosting the Christmas Party again this year for our members and families. Their home was decorated so beautifully for the Christmas season and it was easy to get into a festive mood. Everyone enjoyed the good company and delicious selection of food.

BARE ROOT TIME AGAIN!

By Wanda Church

It's time to look for bare root plants such as roses, grapes, artichokes, horseradish, rhubarb, lilacs, berries, and fruit trees. Make sure that a particular plant is right for this climate and your needs. Here are some things to check for:

1. Number of hours of chilling required for fruit production
2. Frost tolerance
3. The season of fruit maturity (early, mid, or late)
4. Whether or not a plant is self-pollinating
5. Light requirements
6. The plant's ultimate size.

Plant new bare root plants as soon as possible or keep them moist constantly until you can plant. If you have a sunny location protected from the wind you might want to try a clematis vine. "Jackmanii" is one that seems more adaptable to our climate, which blooms from June to September and has gorgeous foliage and beautiful purple flowers. I tried this one year and was delighted with it. In my ignorance I mistook it for being dead and dug it up in the spring after it had died down for the winter. Beware, this is what happens when you do not know the characteristics of your plants.

Wanda Church

**Charter Motto:
"Make Ridgecrest Clean and Green"**

2009 CALENDAR

- Jan 5** Take down Christmas decorations at Ridgecrest Library at 9—11 AM, 131 E. Las Flores Avenue. All members.
- Jan 10** Desert Planters Meeting, 1:00 PM, Immanuel Ministry Center, 1201 N. China Lake Blvd. Program: California Native Plants, Speaker: Donna Thomas, CGCI California Native Plants Chairman, Oasis Garden Club President, DED Treasurer, former DED Director and member of the Water Board.
- Horticulture Chairman: Taryn Tree, landscape designer and member — Bring plant specimens from your garden for *Show and Tell*.
- Refreshments: Renee Oliver and Crystal Tripp - Call LaVerne 375-9505 to volunteer for refreshments.
- Jan 22 to 25** DED hosts CGCI Winter Board Meeting at the Carriage Inn, 901 North China Lake Blvd. We are a small district, and the hosts, if you can help out, even for several hours these four days please contact Shirley Craver 760 377-4629. Two people are required to sit at the Opportunity Table, or to sell chances at the table for the Basket Drawing, there are numerous other possibilities to give service. To help with the table decorations for one of the dinners contact, Renee Oliver solardancing@yahoo.com or sign up at the next meeting. This is also a great time to see how California Garden Clubs Inc. function and to meet fellow garden club members from all over our beautiful state.
- Jan 27** DPR Board Meeting, 1 PM, Immanuel Ministry Center, 1201 N. China Lake. All members welcome.
- Feb 9** DPR hosts the Desert Empire District Board meeting 9 AM, at Crossroads Church, China Lake Blvd. Please call President Shirley to make a lunch reservation or to volunteer, cost of lunch is \$4.
- Feb 14** Desert Planters Meeting, 1 PM, Immanuel Ministry Center, 1201 N. China Lake Blvd. Valentines Day. Refreshments—Judy and Art Spiegel.
- March 14** Ten Essentials of Good Landscape Design. Speaker: Taryn Tree, landscape designer and member.
- April 8 to 10** CGCI Wild Flower Conference at the Carriage Inn. For registration form contact Merrilee Ray at 760 377-5230 or CGCI Web-site.
- April 11** DPR meeting *No Dig Gardening*. Speaker is Pat Marfisi, who joined World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms, an international cultural exchange program. www.woof.org.

No BOARD

RECOMMENDATIONS

Business meeting was not held in December.

Plant Exchange and Sale at Monthly Meetings

Remember: to bring plants to the January 10th meeting for the *Plant Exchange*. To become involved bring a plant to the meeting to exchange or you can purchase one from another member.

Desert Planters of Ridgecrest,
P. O. Box 841, Ridgecrest CA 93556-0841

- Desert Empire District (DED). To download the *Desert Trumpet*—www.DesertEmpireDistrict.org.
USDA Zone 8/9; Sunset Zone 10/11

Library Christmas Decorations

A big thanks to the members Art Spiegel, Shirley Craver, Wanda Church, Gerry Wisdom, Joann Lemberger, LaVerne Harms and prospective member Brittany who helped take down the Christmas decorations at the Library. Librarian Marsha Lloyd had cocoa, coffee and tea on hand and Wanda Church brought us her delicious brownies.

WINTER VEGETABLE GARDENING

Our vegetable garden is producing five types of the European blend of lettuce or mesclun, spinach and baby boc choy. The kohlrabies and the ruby Swiss chard are still small they should have been planted earlier than October. I think September or the end of August would have been a better time. We like the boc choy in a stir fry or soup, the Arugula is good in soup or in our salads.

LaVerne Harms