



# The Redbud

January 2010

Volume 40

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## President's Message

As promised at our Christmas Luncheon, here is the amended version of my December 2009 message. Also inserted here and there are messages for January 2010.

Greetings from the Frozen North! I hope the snow we had wasn't a surprise to our club members. I heard about the forecast from a friend so I watered all of my potted plants by flashlight. What a task! It takes me over an hour to water by daylight, so imagine how long it took by flashlight. Guess I need to watch the weather reports more often. After watering them, I covered my citrus with sheets and moved the more delicate plants into the garage (cymbidium orchid and asparagus fern), and I covered all of my wood piles (about three). I was very fortunate: about two years ago, Fred and Andrea Jensen gave me their wood stove insert (they upgraded), and I was able to keep warm because I had no power for about 20 hours. I know many other people who had no power for days, and I hope by now, or by summer they will be getting wood stoves or inserts.

Here's a little suggestion that I learned 20 years ago when I worked at Eisley Nursery. Picture this: winter, cold and rainy. All of the retail staff was trying to stay warm and we were trying to stay busy inside the store (1/3 the size it is today). A customer, new to Auburn, asked if they should feed the hummingbirds. I said, "no, you want to try to get them to migrate south". Another customer overheard my suggestion, and **YIKES!**, jumped down my throat, informing me that the native hummingbirds stay in the area throughout winter. Ever since then, I feed the hummingbirds year around. Of course, when we get temperatures below 50 degrees, I always bring the feeders inside the house at night. First thing in the morning, I hang them back outside, because, as my dad used to say, "the early bird gets the worm". I have no doubt that the birds are up before I am.

I can hardly wait to see all of you again this month, January 25th, and to hear of your adventures from the 'Frozen North'. I look forward to hearing our speaker, Jeannie Hanson, of Geno's Garden in Sacramento, when she gives us ideas for our small garden spaces and succulents. I wonder how many of us lost our succulents in the snow. My hens & chicks look verrrry sad.

It's time for me to head up to Gold Run to a client whom I've had for four years. I prune her pears, apples, and peaches each year. Fireblight started there two years ago and this past year got into the pears, and I am trying to eradicate it. Be aware, fireblight is highly contagious and your pruners must be disinfected between each cut with rubbing alcohol, or bleach (which will rust the metal).

I hope you all had happy Holly Days!

- Claire M. Gumz

## New Members

Please welcome three new members and take a minute to say hello if you see them at the next meeting: Linda Sramek, Anne Tricomo, and Bob Snyder (returning member), all from Auburn.

## Flower Show

If you are interested in attending the San Francisco Flower Show on March 24, 2010, there is still room on the bus! The cost for the round trip is \$50.00, and you may bring your lunch or buy it there. There are LOTS of vendors, and you should carry a portable cart to bring home your purchases. For details and reservations, please call Rena Webb at 530-885-8230.

## Member News

In addition to our friend Marti Magenheimer, I have recently heard that another of our members, and friend, Joanne Falconer has been having some health issues. I don't know details, but if you would like to wish her well, I'm sure she would appreciate cards sent to her home.

## Auburn Garden Club Minutes

November 23, 2009

President Claire Gumz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. In addition to Claire, other officers present were Barbara Ogden, Candace Embrey and Carol Lee Murray.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer Carol Lee Murray gave her report with a checkbook ending balance of \$8,975.07.

### **Committee reports:**

Garth Chamblin, Plant Sale chair, announced that 2700 various bulbs were donated to the club and delivered to Garth's by a non-member. Members were encouraged to buy a bag of bulbs, 13 for \$2. The money will go to plant sale revenue. Rick Krach spoke of the urgency of planting the bulbs as soon as possible. Members, please tell Garth if you discover other plant bargains.

Saul encouraged members to come to his home on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of December and learn about hard woodcuttings. Please bring your pruners.

### **Horticultural Sharing:**

Rick Krach reminded members that the plants on the front table could be bought with raffle tickets as a fundraiser for club necessities. One plant will be donated as a door prize. There were no flowers brought to the meeting, perhaps due to the 30-degree temps. Yellow Cauliflower was highly recommended for our fall gardens.

### **Old Business: None**

### **New Business:**

Elly was absent so the field trip discussion will be postponed.

Chris Hansel reminded everyone about the Christmas luncheon on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40. The speaker, Julie Edmonds, spoke of the importance of plant natives to attract wildlife.

Candace Embrey

## January/February Calendar

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| Jan. 25 | Club meeting, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1279 High Street, Auburn. 9:00 a.m. |
| Feb. 11 | Plant propagation, 10:00 a.m. Contact Saul Wiseman.                          |