

**March 2009**

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

Desert Planters of  
Ridgecrest,  
PO Box 841  
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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*

Hello Garden Club Members

Here we are into March already. Better get your St. Patrick's day colors out, or you will be asking to be pinched if you don't have the colors on March 17!!!

Don't forget to SET your clocks a head one hour on Sunday morning the 8th of March. The time changes around 2 AM, yes it is DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME AGAIN. We don't want you to be late for the general meeting on Saturday, the 14th, at 1 p.m. We have much going on that Saturday.

1. Nominating Committee report.
2. Arbor Day committee.
3. Home Show

Desert Planters is setting up a Plant, Food and craft booth at the "Home Show" March 28 and 29 at the fairgrounds. You can bring your plants or food items to the fair grounds Friday after 12 noon March 27th. Saturday open at 8 AM to 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM to 3 PM. and take down after 3 PM Sunday.

We need all the plants you can donate. The bake goods must be wrapped and taped shut, plus label the product (sugar cookies) etc. Make candy, cakes, pies, jams, jelly, and so on. ALSO, bring your craft work, but put them in baggies with a label, name and price.

Lori of the Daily Independent says attendees and vendors get hungry and like to buy food at these events. We need to raise money since our bank accounts are low.

Call me Friday by 11 AM, if you need transportation to get your donation of food or plants etc., to the fair grounds.

I can answer your questions at the March 14th meeting. Also, if you can help in the booth for several hours, let me know, 760 377-4629.

We have been asked to take part in the *Daily Independent* "GOING GREEN," May 1, 2009. This is another opportunity to sell our plants, books and other garden related items and to promote Desert Planters.

I hope this note finds every one well and happy. Or on the road to recovery. Several members have been ill, Rozella Eyre, Lucille Nielson and Wanda Church.

GOD BLESS EVERY ONE, Shirley

## BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

February 24, 2009 Board Meeting.  
Moved and seconded, that Desert Planters participates in the up coming Home Show in Ridgecrest March 27 and 28th 2009. That includes items to sell; plants, garden book, baked goods and or crafts.

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

IRS Non-Profit Group Exemption Number: 5358

USDA Zone 8/9; Sunset Zone 10/11

## **WHY A SOIL TEST?**

By Wanda Church

### **WHY A SOIL TEST?**

After last month's soil test presentation, there were several requests for a copy of the information. Below is a brief summary.

A soil test is made

1. To establish the pH factor in your soil, which is the alkaline/acidity level. 7.0 is considered neutral and good for most plants – but not all.

2. To find out if the soil has the necessary nutrients for your plants' growth and production.

### **BACKGROUND**

**Plants must have soil containing three essential nutrients in order to live and grow. From the Periodic Table these are NPK. (NITROGEN, PHOSPHORUS, AND POTASSIUM).**

**Nitrogen** is necessary for strong leaves & limbs

**Phosphorus** is for healthy roots and flowers

**Potassium** promotes general health of the plant

All plant fertilizers are required to display the percentages of these three nutrients IN THAT ORDER on the bag, bottle, or box.

Examples are: 17-17-17 5-10-5 14-12-12. The remaining percentage is made up of trace minerals such as zinc and other elements and that will probably be listed also.

### **AFTER THE TEST – HOW DO YOU CORRECT?**

For pH – If soil is high alkaline – add sulphur. (Garden sulphur or flowers of sulphur). If high in Acid – Add lime.

To correct for NPK, there are two ways – either with commercial fertilizer or with organic fertilizer.

**Commercial fertilizer – choose the fertilizer to match your plants needs and your soil's test results. It gives quick results, but no long term benefit to the soil. Directions for use should be on the bag.**

### **Organic fertilizer–**

**Nitrogen** - is very important. Add horse manure, compost, kitchen scraps, etc. It takes a lot and a long time.

**Phosphorus** – A difficult nutrient. Very slow to break down and plants can only “get at” a small amount of it from any source. Bone meal has been used but not very effectively. Some phosphorus comes from the organic material. The best source is the liquid plant starters.

**Potassium** – Home compost or “garden teas” are very good sources.

### **BOTTOM LINE: KNOW YOUR PLANTS AND KNOW YOUR SOIL.**

By Wanda Church

## **CGCI SPONSORED SCHOOLS**

### **Gardening Study School**

**Series 20, Course III**

**March 27-28, 2009**

Soka University of America

1 University Drive, Aliso Viejo.

Sponsor: Orange County District

Chairman: Betty Jackson. Phone: 949-589-9077

betty@andersonjacksongroup.com

Registrar: Launa Gould launag@cox.net

### **Flower Show Schools**

**Course 4**

**April 14-16, 2009**

**Modesto.**

Sponsor: Modesto Garden Club

Chairman: Judi Picinini

Contact information: Jpicinini@aol.com or 209-599-6821

### **Landscape Design Studies Program--Course 4, Series 22, San Andreas, CA**

**May 2-3, 2009**

Sponsor: Calaveras County Garden Club

Chairman: Marian Coahran, 209-754-1573 or

mcoahran@goldrush.com

For a brochure of these schools see the website:

[www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org](http://www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org)

- CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC. (CGCI) State Garden Club information [www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org](http://www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org).
- PACIFIC REGION [www.PacificRegionGardenClubs.org](http://www.PacificRegionGardenClubs.org)
- NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. for National Garden Club information—[www.GardenClub.org](http://www.GardenClub.org).
- Desert Empire District (DED). To download the *Desert Trumpet*—[www.DesertEmpireDistrict.org](http://www.DesertEmpireDistrict.org).

## 2009 CALENDAR

- March 8 Daylight Saving Time begins, set your clock one hour ahead.
- March 10 Chamber of Commerce Membership Luncheon, 12:00 noon at Victoria's at the Heritage (in courtyard at Heritage Inn).
- March 14 Desert Planters General Meeting, 1 PM, Immanuel Ministry Center, 1201 N. China Lake Blvd.  
 ♦ Speaker: Taryn Tree, landscape designer and member will talk about the "Ten Essentials of Good Landscape Design."  
 ♦ Horticulture Chairman for this meeting is Taryn Tree. Bring plant specimens from your garden for Show and Tell. Come and win the door prize.  
 ♦ Arbor Day Committee: Gerry Wisdom and LaVerne Harms  
 ♦ Nominating Committee: Art Spiegel, Lucille Nielson and Gerry Wisdom.  
 ♦ Telephone Committee: Penelope LePome and Gerry Wisdom.  
 ♦ Life Member Committee: Art Spiegel, Shirley Craver and LaVerne Harms  
 ♦ Note Bylaw: Dues shall be payable in March, due in April and delinquent on June 1. Dues \$25  
 ♦ Hosts and refreshments—Penelope LePome and Shirley Craver.
- March 24 Board Meeting, 1 PM, Immanuel Ministry Center, 1201 N. China Lake Blvd. All members welcome.
- March 28-29 *Home Show*, Desert Empire Fair Grounds. Saturday 8AM to 6PM, Sunday 10 AM to 3PM. Set up Friday at 12 noon and take down after 3PM Sunday. If you would like to volunteer to help at the booth, call Shirley Craver 377-4629 or LaVerne 375-9505.
- March 31 Arbor Day Celebration—Mesquite High School, 140 Drummond. Tuesday, at 9:15 AM. Please bring your cookie donations to the school or call Gerry Wisdom 499-6403, email gwhiz@iwvisp.com or LaVerne Harms, 375-9505 harmsl@verizon.net. At the celebration last year the students loved all the cookies we brought, cracker snacks disappeared quickly also.
- April 8 to 10 *CGCI Wildflower Conference* at the Carriage Inn, Ridgecrest. Registration due March 25. For a registration form, contact Merrilee Ray at 760 377-5230 or Website [www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org](http://www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org).
- April 11 *Annual Meeting*. Election of Officers.  
 Program: *No Dig Gardening*. Speaker is Pat Marfisi, a world traveler who joined World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms, an international cultural exchange program. [www.woof.org](http://www.woof.org).  
 Hosts — If you would like to volunteer to bring refreshments call LaVerne Harms 760 375-9505.
- May 1 *Daily Independent "GOING GREEN"* Mesquite Hall, Desert Empire Fair—More information later.
- May 9 *Anniversary Meeting*—Installation of officers.  
 Bylaw: An Audit Committee comprised of the treasurer and two volunteers will do an audit of the club books two weeks prior to the May officer installation meeting.

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