

May 2009

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

# Desert Trumpet

Newsletter for  
Desert Planters of  
Ridgecrest,  
PO Box 841  
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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

My goodness, this year has gone by so fast. Our club garden year that is.

I don't know about you folks but I have really enjoyed the programs that LaVerne has worked so hard to get for us. I know she will do just as good if not better next year. If you have any ideas for a program I know LaVerne would appreciate it if you called her with the information. This is not an easy job.

I wish to THANK RENEE AND CRYSTAL for getting up so early and starting out both days at the March " Home Show " booth. Plus thanks girls for all the plants, and for informing people who stopped by the booth and asked questions about the plants. You two are marvelous.

Lets not forget Marianne Kistler and Dorothy Roton who donated plants that were delivered by Renee. Let me also pass love pats to Wanda Church, Penny LePome, LaVerne Harms and Gerry Wisdom. Guess who stayed all day Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.?  
Lucille Nielson, of course !!

Kristy who works at the Daily Independent office was there to support us. Kristy's 17 year old son Jake came at closing on Sunday, to help us carry out the equipment to our cars. THANK YOU JAKE (he and his Mom are also new members )

The members who missed the "No Dig Gardening " program, missed a very interesting gentleman and his lecture on the subject. If enough are interested, maybe we can have Pat back again. Talk to LaVerne.

Please come to the last garden club meeting of the year. It will be May 9th at "Charlies " at the Carriage Inn. We will order from the the menu . Please try to come

as close to 11 a.m. as possible, in order to get seated and decide what you want to order.

THE MEETING WILL START RIGHT AT 11:30 a.m. The restaurant asked that we be finished by 2:30 p.m. There will be some business discussed while we eat. Thank you and my best to all of you, Shirley

P.S. Thanks to all who have paid their dues, we are growing with new members.

Mrs. S. B. Craver, Sr.

## BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- It was moved, seconded, and approved that the club sell our *Month by Month Garden Books* to the Driveway Plant Sale people for \$10.00 per book.
- It was moved, seconded, and approved that the club increase the cost from \$10.00 to \$12.00 dollars per book, which was the former price of the books.

## DOOR PRIZES:

Thanks to Shirley Craver for donating the door prizes for the April meetings.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

**Don & Helen Ashby**  
**Jeannette Bournival**  
**Karla & Erica Christiansen**  
**Alfred & Pat Claves**  
**Kristy Emmert**  
**James & Lorna McGuire Family**  
**Candace Pierce**  
**Victoria Schroeder**  
**George Sieg**

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

## NO DIG GARDENING?

By LaVerne Harms

Editor Desert Trumpet, Desert Planters of Ridgecrest Vice-President and member of Golden Gardens Staff

The April 11th program “No Dig Gardening” by Pat Marfisi was very interesting, - we did not want the meeting to end. Marfisi and friend Ellen Silverman put together a well received Power Point Program that showed us how to layer newspaper, straw, hay, manure and other additives to make a garden plot without digging up the soil. There is a movement towards no till farming across the country. This type of no till farming is used on the Nebraska corn and soy bean farms. To garden the “no dig gardening” method follow this process.

1. Start out by making a 4 x 8 redwood box.
2. Layer 10 to 20 sheets of newspaper approximately one quarter of an inch thick on the ground in the bottom of your box.
3. One bale of straw. Lay out the loose straw over the newspaper approximately 8 inches deep.
4. One bale of hay. Lay out each flake of hay over the straw in a style like you would make lasagna. Marfisi recommends Lucerne hay as it is high in minerals and grows deep in the ground that brings up precious minerals. Or use any other type of hay that is available in your area, hay is high in nitrogen.
5. Finish up with 4 inches of compost. Use natural decomposed compost that you have made yourself if possible. Marfisi says compost that you buy is mostly fine wood chips these days.
6. Soak well with water between each layer. Add composted horse, or chicken manure between each layer. Also dust between each layer with blood meal, fish meal or fish emulsion. This is good for root vegetables.
7. PLANT— You can plant vegetables immediately after this process as long as you use well composted manure. Your bed will be approximately 16 inches high after you pile on all the above products.

Between each crop of vegetables or flowers rejuvenate your garden with 3 to 4 inches of more compost. After about 6 months the level of composted material in the garden will be about 6 inches high. Add 2 to 3 inches of straw to the blackened soil mixture in the original bed that you first made. Add more compost, manure, blood meal and fish emulsion, then replant.

**Note:** When Pat brings home any horse manure, he puts it onto his compost pile and lets it set for several weeks before using it in his garden. If your manure is not composted well it will burn your plants.

This type of gardening will reduce your water consumption about 10 to 50 percent. Pat uses rocks to form his garden.

When your plants reach 4 to 5 inches in height apply several inches of mulch around each plant.

Mr. Marfisi is sending me a copy of his power point program and I hope to have an update in the next newsletter. I heard through the grapevine several members have already tried this “No Dig Gardening” method. This may work well in our desert soil, particularly those of us that have cliché in our gardens.

Pat Marfisi recommends reading books by Esther Dean who lives in Australia, *No-Dig Gardening*, and Fukuoka, author of *The One-straw Revolution* and do nothing farming, and works of Bill Mollison and A Sampson-Kelly in *Permaculture*.

By LaVerne Harms

### CLUB NEWS:

We will vote on the 2009-2010 proposed budget at the May 9, 2009 luncheon meeting. You can purchase the *Month by Month Garden Book* at the meeting if you don't already have one. Taryn Tree says she refers to her copy often.

### CGCI SPONSORED SCHOOLS:

#### Flower Show School Symposium July 24-26

Doubletree Hotel, Bakersfield

#### Gardening Study School, Series 20, Course IV July 31- August 1, 2009

Soka University of America

1 University Drive, Aliso Viejo.

Sponsor: Orange County District

Chairman: Betty Jackson, [betty@andersonjacksongroup.com](mailto:betty@andersonjacksongroup.com)  
949-589-9077

Registrar: Launa Gould, [launag@cox.net](mailto:launag@cox.net)

#### Landscape Design Study Program, Course 4, Series 23, August 12-13, Temecula

Sponsor: Palomar District

Registrar: Joan Patten, [JoanPatten@vcweb.org](mailto:JoanPatten@vcweb.org), 760-749-3766, P.O. Box 1630, Valley Center, CA 92082.

#### Flower Show School, Course 3 August 20-22—Encinitas, CA

Sponsor: Palomar District. Chairman: Laura Crenshaw

- 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

- May 2**      **2009 Spring Xeriscape Workshop.** Presented by IWV Water District. Assisted by Desert Planters of Ridgecrest & Desert Artists' League. Host: Sheri Quist. If you would like to be a host or help in other ways please contact President Shirley Craver. We will meet at 8 A.M. at the Quists. Desert Planters is donating plants and baskets for door prizes. Guest Speaker: Taryn Tree, Treehouse Landscape Design and member. The topic is "Beyond Bermuda: Grass for the 21 Century."
- May 9**      **Anniversary Meeting**—Installation of officers, Awards and Life Member presentation. Meeting to be held at Charlie's Restaurant, next door to Potpourri—Carriage Inn, China Lake Blvd. We are delighted to have Janet Eyre as Installing Officer.
- ◆      Please Note: There will not be a meeting at Immanuel Ministry Center after lunch.
  - ◆      Door Prizes awarded, come and be the lucky winner.
  - ◆      Bylaw: Dues shall be payable in March, due in April and delinquent on June 1. Dues \$25 for A single membership and \$35 for a family.
  - ◆      Telephone Committee: Penelope LePome and Gerry Wisdom.
- May 11**      Desert Empire District Meeting. 9:30 AM coffee, 10:00 meeting. Hosts: Desert Rose Garden Club and Boron Garden Club. Meeting at the Community Center, 10400 Heather Street, California City. Please make a reservation with President Shirley Craver, 377-4629. Lunch is \$5, please support Ways & Means.
- May 12**      Chamber of Commerce Membership Luncheon, 12:00 noon at Victoria's at the Heritage (in courtyard at Heritage Inn). RSVP 375-8331
- May 26**      **Board Meeting**, 1 PM, Lucille Nielson's home, 502 N. Randall, Ridgecrest. Serving Pizza for lunch. All members welcome.
- Note Bylaw: Article VII Meetings Section 2. No business meeting in June or July. Special meetings may be called by the president, or at the request of five (5) members.
- June 4-9**      CGCI 78th Annual Convention, San Mateo. Host Bay Ocean and Santa Clara Valley Districts. See the website for more information. [www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org](http://www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org).
- June 15**      DED Post-Convention Meeting. 9:30 AM coffee, meeting 10:00. Host Oasis Garden Club of IWV.
- Note:** The April 28 Descanso Garden Tour—with Desert Rose Garden Club of California City was cancelled due to lack of interest.
- CGCI Wildflower Conference** at the Carriage Inn, Ridgecrest was a great experience and we learned more about the wild flowers here in our area. See the article that CGCI President Robin Pokorski wrote in the district newsletter that was emailed to the members that have an internet address and a hard copy was attached to this newsletter to other members. Robin says "a wonderful resource for California natives is the California Native Plant Link Exchange [www.cnplx.info](http://www.cnplx.info)."

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