



Bakersfield Garden Club

August 2013

President's Message

As we struggle with the hot days of summer, my garden looks like a war zone. There are exceptions, of course, like the crepe myrtles, hibiscus, geraniums, dahlias, and most annuals. They just need a little extra TLC. The weeds are flourishing on their own.

I want to remind you about the plant sale we are having on Sept. 28. At our next meeting, I'll be passing out sign-up sheets for working on Saturday and the set-up on Friday. If you are bringing plants to sell, it would be a big help if you could label them with names and price. A good rule in pricing is to ask ½ of what a nursery would ask.

Hope to see you at our next meeting.

Pat



General Meeting: August 24 Note change of date to 4th Saturday of the month. The Church needs to schedule a memorial service on the 17th.

Patrick Odle of Green With Envy Hydroponics will tell us the ins and outs of growing plants without a soil medium. Hydroponics can be done in a variety of locations: indoors, outside on a patio, or other small spaces. How to get started? Patrick will show equipment for sale as well as how to build your own unit. Here's a topic we've not discussed before, so we're sure to have our eyes opened to new possibilities of growing plants.

The horticulture table is scheduled for ½ hour. This is the time, that, in Margaret's words, "If you have a question, about how to grow a particular plant, how to get rid of pests, stubborn weeds – anything of garden interest – this section is for sharing knowledge together with the opportunity to "show off" your plants. Although some members have a lot of knowledge about something horticulture – none know everything. That is one of the fascinations about gardening and a reason many of us join a club. Many members join just because they are "beginners" and want to learn from scratch –this sharing helps us make a club fun and successful." Some good information came out of last month's session: Marlene answered many questions about growing plumerias, and Donna shared her tomato planting method which sure results in beautiful tomatoes, just to name a few.

We need a logo! Start doodling around and see what you come up with. Submit by September. A \$25 gift certificate to nursery is the prize for winning entry.

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July General Meeting

Our general meeting in July proved that beautiful blooms still abound in our gardens in spite of summer heat. Margaret had urged us to bring in any blooms we had, and boy did we ever! To the right is Marlene with her dinner plate hibiscus and plumerias she is so skilled at growing. Below left, Jane, Edith, and Traci share thoughts at the horticulture table; below right, Margaret's miniatures and other colorful arrangements from members.



The horticulture table is really developing thanks to Margaret's encouragement. In her words, *"In thinking about specimens to display, don't ignore the simple, the viola, daisy, and petunia – whether it be an annual, perennial, indoor plant, bush or tree – every plant has a place – especially in Bakersfield where our climate is so challenging for many varieties."*

Some good ideas came out of Hort Hints this month, too. Edith showed two heat-loving blooms, Red Hot Poker and Scabiosa. Artemesia, drought tolerant with gray green foliage, works well also. Four O'Clocks and Hollyhocks thrive in Lynne's summer garden; she shared seeds from her lovely white hollyhock - sow seeds on top of soil, lightly step on seeds to contact with soil.



Scenes from our gardens....

Visiting Janet M.'s backyard is a visual treat. Your eyes are directed to so many focal points she has carefully arranged it is hard to know where to look first. To the left, you see the graceful curves of the beds in her wonderfully shaded yard. On the right is Janet's bottle tree, adorned with bright blue and green bottles. The frame was once a hardy bush, but when it succumbed to natural causes, Janet found a way to "repurpose" it. Below right a delicate water lily fills a little pocket pond.

