

NEWS LEAF

Club de Jardinería de San Miguel de Allende

January 2010

RINGING IN THE NEW...



l. to r. longtime retiring Membership Chair Jean Depperschmidt, helps incoming new Chair, Leslie von Jaeger, welcome members and Provisionals to the January Meeting at Los Senderos. Gay Mayfield, 2009 Program Committee, assists with collecting the "lunch money".

January's Garden Club meeting was a sun-filled day that featured our traditional "changing of the guard" ceremonies at the lovely Los Senderos gardens and bistro. Before handing over the gavel to new President, Frannie Benner, outgoing President

Ann Mauzé thanked the membership and her 2009 board and committee chairs for their enthusiasm and hard work in making this past year so extremely successful. With praise and laughter, Ann recalled highlights of some of this past year's more memorable events, taking us on a retrospective journey that covered our trips to Chiapas and Mexico, the Herb Luncheon, the Christmas Party, the past year's meetings at so many of our members' beautiful homes and gardens, and other outstanding venues.

Ann called for reports from various officers and committee chairs: Treasurer Jeanne Humphrey reported the Club had generated an income of \$193,889 pesos this year from Ways and Means Committee's numerous projects including the Calendar sales. Expenses were \$182,887 leaving a profit of \$11,002 p.

Kay Beekman, Hospitality, was thanked for her organization and recruitment of member-provided refreshments for our monthly meetings; Program Committee co-chairs Chris Kocourcek and Linda Walcovich were thanked for their creativity in planning interesting programs at exciting venues; Frannie Benner and her Ways and Means committee were cited for a blue ribbon job throughout the





year; Jean Depperschmidt was lauded for her Membership Committee efforts, keeping track of members and provisionals and the all-important “who was where when” duties; Susan Mulligan was thanked for the hospitality, leadership and assistance to new members she showed as Chair of the Provisional Committee. Special thanks were given to Mallory Nelson and Linda Whynman for the inauguration of our brand new series of Master Classes for Household Gardeners in Spanish. Mallory reported that “35 gardeners attended the last meeting and the only problem is they want to have an instructional clinic every week, not just 4 times a year!!” Linda Whynman and Leigh Gersnoviez were singled out for their outstanding website and

editorial work on the monthly NEWS LEAF and for the creation of the Garden Club’s website, our “window to the world”.

Other highlights of the meeting included the Garden Club’s award, in memory of the late Sue Reid, to the MVP of the year—JANE SALLIS, as our most valuable contributor, helping in myriad ways “above and beyond” the call of duty—

Frannie Benner’s first duty as President was to thank Ann for her outstanding year and present her with a gift from the membership – a lovely necklace which just happened to match the Chinese green outfit she was wearing! Frannie then introduced the officers of the new Board: Barbara Flynn, Vice President, Carolyn Grant, Recording Secretary, Faye Guidry, Corresponding Secretary, Jeanne Humphrey, Treasurer, with Ann Mauzé serving as Immediate Past President. Committee chairs were introduced and the 2010 Membership Directory distributed, with the advisory to each member to please check the information to make sure it is correct.

President Benner asked the new Provisionals to come forward and make a brief statement about themselves and their interest in gardening. l. to r. Suzanne Mir, Elaine Weisman, Carolyn Palmer, Diana Heydlauff, Carolyn Gratton, and Ricky Arce. Provisionals not pictured here include Bar-





bara Eckrote, Alice Edwards, Barbara Hardin, Lea Rege-Romo, Paulette Quann, Sandra Schrager.

Frannie then introduced our hostess for the day, Francesca Fisher, owner of Los Senderos. Francesca explained the philosophy of Los Senderos, which she and her husband have developed as a residential,

commercial and recreational property to provide an environment of beauty and tranquility in the heart of San Miguel. The development includes a vineyard, winery and

a restaurant which features its own home-grown organic garden produce. Guests were invited to stroll through the gardens, reached by a path adjacent to Le Bistro. Francesca then introduced David Scott, the self-proclaimed “garden cook” who talked about the difference between pure organic farming and natural farming, a philosophy he espouses.



Finally, Carol Lundmark, chairman of the 2010 Garden Club Flower Show explained the importance of this bi-annual event for both the Garden Club and the community. She announced that the Mayor has granted permission for this year’s Show, themed “Vive Mexico 2010” to be held in the former Presidencia, opposite El Jardin, on March 20 and 21. All members and provisionals are expected to enter arrangements and participate. On Saturday evening there will be a party for GC members and guests along with members of the Ajijic Guild, then on Sunday the exhibit in the Presidencia will be open to the public free of charge.



Carol distributed handouts containing historical and background information about the Flower Show.

Following the meeting, a delicious luncheon, featuring a lush salad from the Los Senderos gardens, was held in a tented area of Le Bistro.



READY, SET, ALMOST UP TO GO!!

The date is set – March 20 and 21st, the place is reserved, El Presidencia on San Francisco #8 (next to the San Francisco Hotel) and just across from El Jardin—and we’re all rarin’ to go to the Flower Show, “Vive Mexico 2010”, presented by our very own the Garden Club of San Miguel de Allende . The festivities will be kicked off with a gala cocktail party the evening of March 20 when members and guests will be wined, dined and wowed – and can vote for their favorites among the flower arrangements and horticultural exhibits. Next day, March 21, the Show opens to the public, and visitors will participate in a popular vote – winners of the various themed categories will be announced at the March meeting. Lots and lots of organizing and arranging, measuring and planning need to be accomplished first, of course, and that’s why members of the Show’s steering committee, gathered at the Presidencia the other day, tape measures at the ready.

Please check your new Membership Directory and report corrections to Jeanne Schnakenberg at equussanmiguel@gmail.com or Linda Whynman, vellum1@mac.com

Changes noted at the time of News Leaf publication are: Carolyn Palmer, carolynpalmer10@gmail.com
Carolyn Gratton, carolyn.gratton@yahoo.com



Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 16, 11 a.m.

Location: The lobby area of the Hotel Real de Minas.

Next General Meeting

Tuesday, February 23, 11 a.m.

Location: Jackie's Restaurant, Cjn San Antonio on the square, just across from the San Antonio Church . There is an elevator to the third floor, where the restaurant is located, and valet parking at the entrance.

Our guest speaker will be Wendy Sievert. Her presentation is entitled " Basic Floral Design and Flower Care." Wendy studied Floral Design and Ichibana under Soho Saki at San Francisco State University. She has professionally designed arrangements for many events in San Francisco. As a former member of our Garden Club, she has won Best in Show twice in previous Garden Club of San Miguel Flower Shows. We welcome her back with much applause – she's just in time to spark our own creative juices in preparation for our upcoming Flower Show in March.

Following the program, members and guests can stay for lunch which will be served on Jackie's terrace overlooking San Antonio square. Details of the menu, cost and reservation information will be provided in the meeting reminder sent out prior to our February 23 meeting.



THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR:

February 9, 2010 , 10 a.m. Brunch meeting for Provisionals and Committee Chairs at the home of Susan Mulligan, 2009 Provisional Chair. New Provisional Co-Chair Barbara Flynn will explain Garden Club activities and opportunities for Provisional participation.



THE GARDEN NUT

Winter Doldrums

By The Garden Nut

January was cold and rainy, February is already one of the wettest ever, and there is no assurance of the rest of February behaving much better. The damp vendors at Candelaria sit under their plastic tarps, glumly evaluating the few visitors. Under these circumstances, what's a gardener to do? Back in the USA or Canada, we could always sit by a crackling fire and dream our way through seed catalogs and view the latest offerings from our favorite mail order nurseries.

What a fabulous catalog Wayside Gardens has! We could place orders for coveted plant varieties that would arrive at our door perfectly packaged and at just the right time for planting in our own time zone. But here, it is very different. Importation laws keep us reluctantly loyal to our local viveros and their repetitive plant selections. Wouldn't it be great just to be able to try large flowered clematis? Sodden soil and news of more rain to come keeps us from doing much planting right now. But there are some alternatives:

Spend some quiet time by the fire, trying not to think of that little racing dial on your propane tank, reading one of the books by the famous garden writer Henry Mitchell, who is regarded by many as the best English language garden writer of all time. Henry wrote a garden column for the Washington Post for many years. He died in 1993, and his books are considered garden classics, unsurpassed in knowledge and wit. You can get his books from Amazon. His best book is The Essential Earthman, although One Man's Garden is also a must-read for anyone who wants to enjoy more Henry. While reading his books you will come to know Henry and grow to love him. You will learn a lot about gardening, written in his inimitable voice. "Your garden will reveal yourself. Do not be terrified of that." He also said that "When the gardener dies, so does the garden." That's not a bad thing, really, because your garden is you, and when the next gardener comes along, the garden takes on that person's vision. Isn't that what is so ultimately fascinating about the garden, the continual cycle of growth and renewal? You may be completely smit-

ten with roses, while your successor in the garden may rip them out to satisfy her or his passion for orange geraniums, all the while being reminded of you daily as your roses continue to rise unbidden from the soil, like Athena from the head of Zeus. You will love reading Henry Mitchell, and you will probably read his books again and again.

When the winter sun shines and beckons the gardener outdoors, do some weeding and garden clean-up that you put off earlier. The experts say that removing fallen leaves and other garden debris destroys the hiding places of harmful insects and will result in a lower bad insect population. The question

arises: but where are the beneficial insects hanging out? Nevertheless, raking and hoeing is invigorating, and getting down on our knees pulling weeds while the earth is soft, for those of us who can manage that, is not a bad thing. Just remember to stay off wet soil, as walking on it causes soil compaction, which is not a good thing.

Plan where new plants will go, and be ruthless in getting rid of plants that have not performed well enough to deserve a place in your garden. Part of the joy of spring is planting new specimens and watching them grow. When in doubt, tear it out, throw it away, and start over with something new.

Buy the fertilizers you will need, and be ready to jump into action! My oft-mentioned gardening pal, a San Miguel garden nut of many years, says that if you do not fertilize in February, your plants will get the jump on you. Try to incorporate organic fertilizers into your garden regimen, especially to supply micronutrients. You have already learned that a healthy plant will resist insect predation and disease, all on its own. A new garden shop is supposed to open in the middle of February, across from The Dragon restaurant on Salida a Celaya, so we should give that a look for the promised organic gardening goods.

Lastly, you can choose to do nothing at all. Spring will be here before you know it, the gorgeous weather will return and our gardens will absolutely clamor for our attention then. The Nut wishes you "Happy Gardening!"



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All submissions are welcome and subject to editing.

All Leaf submissions should be mailed to Judy no later than the third of each month. Please direct all photos to Linda Whynman and copy to Judy McKay

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