

# NEWS LEAF

Club de Jardinería de San Miguel de Allende

September 2010

## August Meeting Review



### “THE HERB LUNCHEON”

Our annual Herb Luncheon and August meeting was held at the beautiful home of Lisa and Peter Thomas. A tented pavilion on the large terrace provided extraordinary views of the presa and the faraway hills. Perfect weather, perfect location and sumptuous herbed food provided by Garden Club members made it a perfect day.



A brief business meeting was chaired by President Frannie Benner. Our new Garden Club calendars for 2011 were the main topic of the meeting. Members collected their packets of 5 calendars which feature stunning photographs of San Miguel. Winning calendar photographers who were able to attend the luncheon were introduced and took bows to great applause. The complete list of calendar photography winners includes: Gale Beery (cover photo), Bob Graham, Susan Neulist, Peter Hollingsworth, Lulu Torbet, Kristine Scherber, Rebecca Gersnoviez Clifton, our own Alice Edwards, Ivan McCartney (two photos), Wayne Scherer, Sam Hillers, Leona Camp, Kathleen Kersch Simandl, Nora Weaver and Deanne Croan. Ways and Means chair Donne Geck and her committee received additional applause for their excellent work producing the 2011 Garden Club calendar, which is our main annual fundraiser for the community projects sponsored by the Club.



President Frannie then asked for a report on the Tree Fund Committee and called on chair Jeannie Schnakenberg who spoke about the progress of our planned project, a garden at the new Community Center in the colonia of Francisco Villa which is located next to San Luis Rey and Monte de Loreto. A major portion of the funds for this community project came from Joseph Kent in memory of his mother, and the garden will reflect a memorial to her. Landscape architects Linda Speer Luck and Markus Luck are donating their services for this important project which will include many beautiful native trees, landscaping and a fountain.

The President adjourned the meeting with thanks to Herb Luncheon chair, Lisa Thomas, food coordinator Ricky Arce, and all who participated, prepared and brought such delicious and creative dishes. Lisa led in a round of enthusiastic applause for Sally Richman's outstanding centerpieces on the tables which were composed of fresh vegetables and herbs – each one an individual triumph of color and delight. As attentive waiters passed more wine, guests gave themselves up to the complete enjoyment of another outstanding Herb Luncheon.



## NEXT BOARD MEETING

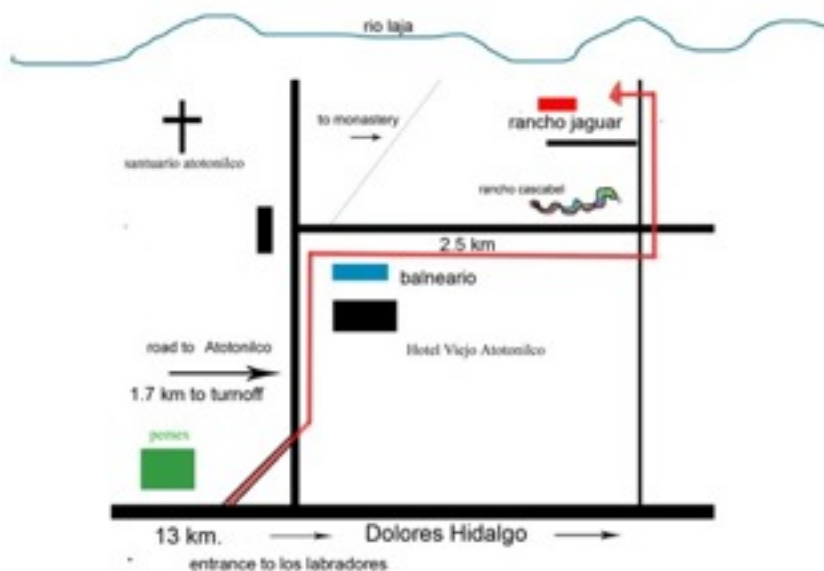
Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 11 a.m. Hotel Real de Minas

## NEXT GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 11 a.m.**

Home of Bob and Jennifer Haas, (map and directions) Bob will walk us through the gardens and talk about the various plants. Following his garden tour, Jennifer will show us through the Folk Art Museum.

Refreshments brought by members will be set up on the patio of the house after the tours. Please be sure to let Leslie von Jaeger and Mallory know if you will be attending and/or bringing a guest so that sufficient chairs and supplies are arranged.



TAKE ROAD TO DOLORES HIDALGO FOR APPROXIMATELY 13 KM.  
GO PAST PEMEX STATION AND TURN LEFT ONTO ROAD TO  
SANTUARIO ATOTONILCO. YOU WILL PASS THE HOTEL VIEJO ATOTONILCO  
AND A BALNEARIO. (1.7 KM.) TURN RIGHT ONTO GRAVEL ROAD .(THERE  
WILL BE A SMALL SIGN READING "RANCHO JAGUAR" )  
GO STRAIGHT FOR 2.5 KM. ON THE LEFT YOU WILL SEE AN UNUSUAL  
COLORFUL HOUSE. THIS IS RANCHO CASCABEL. TURN LEFT AND RANCHO  
JAGUAR IS THE SECOND ENTRANCE. IF NO ONE APPEARS, RING BELL.

## The Garden Nut *By Carol Lundmark-Hendricks* “Pets in the Garden”

Although insect pests receive most of the focus in the gardener's on-going battle to save the greenery, nothing can truly be more destructive in the garden, (barring hurricanes, hard freezes and other acts of God), than our dogs and cats. When my husband and I discovered a miserable, starving mite last year, we naively brought her home as a new addition to our human and animal family. Almost one year later, the green lawn of which my husband was so proud is gone, destroyed by doggie digging, and now replaced with stones. The wooden garden bench has ragged chewed arms. A new fence segregates the more delicate flower garden from the rest of the yard, and we can no longer enjoy the roses from our outdoor cantina. All the lower shrubbery in the rest of the yard has been replaced because our dogs used the border as a racecourse. A friend who kindly adopted three abandoned puppies has had to watch all her young trees stripped of bark by said canines. In short, dogs show no respect or appreciation for the beauties of a garden, except perhaps to see a prized patch of posies as an excellent soft spot in which to recline. Little dogs are not much better, gleefully ripping leaves and blooms from stems and digging their own holes as master puts new plants into the ground. Cats leave their deposits in any loose soil and persist in killing the helpless mantis in the most torturous of ways, proudly leaving the dismembered carcasses inside the house to be admired.



What's a gardener/animal lover to do? Well, there are a few defensive moves that can be made. “Maya,” the heavy wire mesh used in construction here to reinforce concrete, can be laid over the plants to create a continuous grid, held an inch or two above the ground with bamboo twigs. Dogs will not walk through this barrier and the plants will eventually grow through the barrier and render the metal invisible. An additional benefit of the maya is that it will provide support for small plants that need staking. The maya can be set even higher among taller plants such as mid-size dahlias to provide a uniform support as well as a dog deterrent. Even smaller metal grids, such as chicken wire, will deter cats if left on the ground or buried just slightly below; it can also be added to large pots that kitties love to frequent. Maya is incredibly useful in the garden for many purposes, as it rusts to a pleasant, low visibility color and can be used to support and protect a large variety of plants. The long 4” square “towers” made from this material are great for trellis and rose arches, especially where the climber will soon cover the support.

For gardeners who are not willing to give up their lawn, an item that can be ordered online: “Snappee Trainer,” can be set and placed on the spots that receive your pets unwanted attention. This device is simply a mouse trap with a large red plastic flap attached that makes a scary sound when it is disturbed by your pet. It is also perfect for keeping pets off the furniture. A Snappee Trainer keeps the dogs from pulling plants from their pots although our dogs have behaved much better in this regard after their exercise program was stepped up. You can only imagine the effect on an unsuspecting cat. If your lawn has suffered from yellow spots resulting from female dog urine, watering the lawn daily, even lightly, will dilute the urine sufficiently to prevent lawn yellowing. In hot weather, the lawn may need another shot. My husband's father was a rabid lawn enthusiast who owned a much-loved female dog. He ran outside every time the dog went out, brandishing his hose, and hosed down the spot recently anointed. His lawn stayed green. There is also a product sold which, if administered to the female dog regularly, will counteract the effects of her urine on grass. It is easily found online, although there is always some discussion about whether or not the product causes any adverse reaction in the pet. An avid dog nut friend says the stuff is harmless, but you must judge that for yourself. My lawn is little missed. Money has been saved on water and upkeep and anguish has been avoided by humans and animals alike. The stone, set in a grid pattern with grass between the stones, is simple to care for and surprisingly attractive. To all who love animals as well as gardens, The Nut wishes you “Happy Gardening”!

## *Gardens from Around the World*

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens  
Boothbay Harbor Maine  
<http://www.maine gardens.org/>



## REMINDERS RE MEMBERSHIP

1) Garden Club members must attend 5 meetings per year to retain active membership status. (Provisional members must attend a minimum of 6 meetings.) Some members have not yet attended the requisite number of meetings. Please be sure to pick up your name sticker when you come to a meeting, as that is how the Membership committee keeps track of your attendance.

2) Members are required to bring hospitality material (food, drink, etc.) two times during each year. Provisionals are required to bring hospitality three times during their first year. Please check with Mallory Nelson-Carrasco if you are in any doubt as to your status regarding hospitality contributions

### SPONSORING NEW PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Garden Club members are encouraged to sponsor new members each year by the month of October, so that our Club continues to grow and be a source of beautification for our community in general.

Requirements for nominating candidates for membership :

- 1) Candidates must attend two general meetings of the Club as a member's guest in the year prior to their October nomination.
- 2) A sponsor and co-sponsor for each prospective member should submit letters or emails on behalf of the candidate for membership to the Admissions Committee chair, Leslie von Jaeger, no later than October 26, 2010.
- 3) The applicant for membership must submit a letter (this can be an email) stating interest in becoming a Garden Club member and including details as follows:
  1. full name and name of spouse/partner
  2. address, telephone and email address
  3. mail service used, if any
  4. VOIP number, if any
  5. residency year in San Miguel (fulltime or part time)
- 4) Sponsor letters should mention background as to why the candidate should be a Garden Club member and can mention candidate's voluntary service in other civic organizations, if any. The 2010 Admissions Committee consists of Membership Chairperson, Leslie von Jaeger, serving as the Chairwoman, VP Barbara Flynn, Newsleaf editor Judy McKay and past Membership Chair, Jean Depperschmidt, serving in an advisory capacity. The committee will review the letters for candidates and make recommendations to the Board. Candidate selection, will be announced at the November general meeting. New members will serve one year as Provisional members, then become Active Members at the conclusion of that year's service.





## CLASSES IN SPANISH FOR GARDENERS

Our August Gardeners class at Hacienda de Las Flores was enthusiastically attended by 35 gardeners. Topics discussed included insects and solutions, proper cutting of roses, watering: amount and when to water various plants; and kinds of fertilizer needed for various plants. Announcement of future classes for San Miguel *jardineros* will be made in upcoming editions of News Leaf.



## CONTACTS

### OFFICERS:

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### STANDING COMMITTEES

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### BULLETIN BOARD

Calendars are currently on sale now for 120 pesos at the following locations: La Conexion, Solutions, Border Crossings, Pak-Mail, the Biblioteca Tienda, Garison and Garrison Book Store, Casa de Papel, La Divina Book Store, La Victoriana, Casa Katalina, Via Organica, Natura, La Gundi, and Maison la Bosque. As we add more locations for calendar purchase we will let you know their whereabouts.

The editorial staff is responsible for all content and any questions or comments should be addressed them.

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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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