



THE REAL DIRT

Vol. 4, Issue 10

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB

April, 2008

President's Message

April is finally here and it is going to be a very busy and exciting month. Our very first Garden Tour and Plant Sale is scheduled for April 26. Many members have been working very hard for several months to help make this a successful event. There is still lots of work to be done and tickets to sell. If you would like to join in the fun please contact Patricia Frederick at 518-8890. Mark your calendar for this very exciting day!

Our club was started five years ago this month and we plan to celebrate our birthday at the general meeting on April 9 with special guests, great raffle items and of course CAKE! Don't miss this very special meeting.

Our next board meeting is April 23rd at 12 o'clock. All members are invited to attend and help us plan for future club events.

The Palomar District Spring Meeting will be April 28 at the Lomas Santa Fe Country Club in Solana Beach at 11 am. The program will be speaker Dr. Tim Barnett, Research Marine Geophysicist in the Climate Research Division of Scripps Institute of Oceanography. He will be speaking about Global Warming. There will also be a Mad Hatters Tea Party. Tickets are \$25 payable to Marci Shirley by April 11. Carpooling will be arranged.

We will also celebrate National Arbor Day on April 30th by planting a tree in our water wise garden at Collier Park. Contact Debbie Gomez at 788-6709 if you plan to attend.

Voting for new Board Members will be held in May. If you would like to run or nominate someone for President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary, contact Barbara Janson a 788-0131.

April Meeting

Ever wonder what kind of rare fruit grows in Ramona? Wonder no more!

Jim Bathgate of the California Rare Fruit Growers will share his wisdom with all those in attendance at the next meeting of the Ramona Garden Club, which takes place on Wednesday April 9th, noon at the Ramona Woman's Club located at 524 Main Street.

Jim is a Director on the California State Board of Rare Fruit Growers. He has many years of experience growing, in an area with similar microclimates to our Ramona.

Jim has raised 150 types of fruit for both culinary and ornamental applications. He and his wife are very active in the Dos Valles Garden Club and received state recognition for starting a propagation program at their club.

Come share, learn and enjoy with fellow gardeners.

The Ramona Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of each month, excluding July, August, and December, and features a garden related program, refreshments, opportunity drawings and door prizes. Call 789-8774 or visit the website at www.RamonaGardenClub.com for additional information.

WANTED

The use of a digital projector for our May 14th general meeting. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Contact Ramona at 604-1852 or ramonaflor@aol.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Teri Schmidt <i>President</i>	789-8774
Sherry Wilson <i>Vice President & Fund Raiser</i>	787-1563
Debbie Gomez <i>Secretary</i>	788-6709
Marci Shirley <i>Treasurer</i>	789-8880
Cindy Simon <i>Membership</i>	788-1973
Wilma Parker <i>Parliamentarian</i>	619-884-0694
Barbara Janson <i>Photographer</i>	788-0131
Nancy Pate <i>Garden Arts & Sales Table Co-chairman</i>	787-9657
Kathy Rice <i>Garden Arts & Sales Table Co-chairman</i>	789-2616
Debbie Novak <i>Publicity & Programs Co-chairman</i>	789-2510
Ramona Valencia <i>Publicity & Programs Co-chairman</i>	789-8430
Maddie Volper <i>Newsletter</i>	788-7971
Pam Marler <i>Hospitality Chairman</i>	787-0087
Gail Morris <i>Librarian</i>	788-1583
Ann Mundt <i>Penny Pines Chairman</i>	789-9395
Pat Frederick <i>Garden Tour Chairman</i>	788-9177

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Anne Hazard	4-5
Suzanne Choate	4-8
Sandy Bedard	4-12
Maddie Volper	4-14
Kris Munson	4-29

WATER CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE WORKSHOPS

One-day landscape classes are offered at the Ramona Community Center, 434 Aqua Lane, Ramona.

One Day Mini-residential Class

March 29, 2008.... 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

- Landscape Design Basics
- California Friendly & Native Plants
- Landscape Sprinkler Systems
- Soils, Watering & Fertilizers

Landscape Design Basics

April 12, 2008.... 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

- Develop a Landscape Plan
- Hardscape, Patios, etc.
- Landscape as part of your living space

California Friendly & Native Plants

April 26, 20089:00 am to 12:30 pm

- Benefits of California Friendly & Native Plants
- Plant Selection Tips
- Planting Guidelines

Sign up for each class separately. To reserve your space, contact Patty Bevers at 789-1330.

Garden Tip

Two of my favorite plants that do well through the cold weather & look good most of the year are Nemesia and Salvia microphylla. They both reseed, but not too prolifically. The Salvia is similar to, but not the same as Salvia greggii (Red Sage) which gets woody and doesn't flower as often as the microphylla. This isn't a plug, but I bought mine at E & K Nursery. *Debbie Gomez*

LIBRARY

Check out some good gardening books at the Library table! Four new books were donated recently. They are Desert Tree Finder, San Diego County Native Plants, Magic and Medicine of Plants and Know Your Poisonous Plants. Our library is growing and growing. Don't forget to donate books that you no longer want.

Gail Morris

Garden Tour

Come one come all to the Ramona Garden Club ***Garden Tour*** on Saturday, April 26, 2008, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm! The Garden Tour Committee has met several times to plan the success of our very first Tour. Our hosts will be Ms. Jansen, the Dunigans, the Farguars, the Marlins, the Guglielmettis, the Campbells, and the Mahans of E & K Nursery. The club's booth at 13th and Main Streets will feature plants, seeds, cuttings, flowers, bulbs, and various garden related products for sale. We will encourage community members to join the Ramona Garden Club and also feature photographs of our community involvement projects from our Chandler Herb Garden at the Wild Animal Park to our Water Wise Garden at Collier Park.

We are asking every member of the garden club to join in the fun by participating in many different ways. A ticket sale contest is being held with a \$50 gift to be given to the person who sells the most tickets! Call or email Wilma for tickets.

Mrs. Joann Cruz, a Ramona resident, has made a HUGE donation of plants to guarantee the success of our plant sale the same day as the tour. She has donated trees, palms, succulent cuttings, cacti, sago palms, and flower cuttings. We also welcome the donations from club members of the above, plus annuals, perennials, seeds, tags, garden-related cards, pots, bulbs, and more.

Please think about how *you* can contribute. We could use the loan of plant stands, tables, chairs, and bags. Kathy Rice will be providing an EZ-up tent to provide shade. Debbie Gomez will be in charge of the plant sale. We need strong people to help move the trees from the holding areas to the booth on the morning of April 26. Who would like to make some fabulous cookies? How about a few hours helping at the booth, or working at the garden sites to mark tickets and acting as a docent to help the host? There are so many ways you can participate to help make this a GREAT event for the club! Please call Pat Frederick at 518-8890 and let her know that you want to help.

Seven beautiful gardens will be on tour with the following special features: natural streams, orchards, drought tolerant plants, natives, hummingbird gardens, a white garden, arbors, gazebos, an olive tree grove, fantastic views, scented gardens, herbs, perennials, whimsical garden accents, roses, using organic materials and the miraculous beautiful rebirth of a garden that had previously been destroyed by the Cedar fire! Lemonade, water and cookies will be provided.

Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased at our garden booth located at 13th and Main Streets on the day of the tour, or at any time at E & K Nursery located at 1317 Washington Street off Highway 78 and Weekend Villa Road, 760-789-0924; Ramona Interiors, 707 Main Street, 760-789-6025; and via our website at www.Ramonagardenclub.com. Children 12 years or older are welcome on the tour (same price). Flat-heeled shoes are suggested.

Some gardens are unreachable by wheelchair. Call Pat at 518-8890 or Barbara K. at 789-1413 to learn more details. Buy a ticket for yourself, family and friends, enjoy a day in the country, see some fantastic gardens, and bring a camera to capture some great ideas!

Garden Dictionary

Thanks to columnist Logan Jenkins of the Union Tribune, we may need a ***garden dictionary***. He reported a news release from the California Department of Forestry Fire Protection, commonly called Cal Fire that announced its dedication to reduce the effects of global warming through 'terrestrial carbon sequestration.' TCS is the process through which carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is absorbed by trees, plants and crops through photosynthesis and stored as carbon in biomass (tree trunks, branches, foliage and roots) and soils. Definition: TCS is ***planting trees***.

Then he was informed that a particular area of a site was to have 'micro-topographic diversification.' Definition: the ***ground needed raking***.

Plant Sale

As most of you already know, our first annual Spring Garden Tour is coming up, in conjunction with a plant sale. We hope to raise enough funds from this event so we won't need to have rummage sales as we have in the past. The money goes towards great speakers at our meetings, the facility rental, insurance, and other club costs.

The plant sale will be on the lot at Main and 13th Street on April 26th from 9am - 3:30pm. It would be great if each garden club member donates at least one plant. We have empty one gallon or five gallon pots if you need them. We ask that you bring the plants by 8am and include a tag with the name of the plant if possible. We also have pieces of vinyl mini blinds for tags.

Invite your friends. It will be a great place for all of us garden enthusiasts to shop and add to our collections!

Call Debbie Gomez, 788-6709 if you have questions or need pots or tags.

Ramona Garden Club
P.O. Box 1412
Ramona, CA 92065

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of you wonderful people who have been so kind and generous to me. Friends, neighbors and even strangers have made my life easier by their understanding and consideration during this "burned out" survival time of my life. There have been so many I cannot list all of these good people

I have moved into an unfurnished apartment in Ramona because this is where I have received so much support - especially from the Ramona Garden Club members. I want to pick up on my life and go ahead from here.

Again, thank you, thank you, thank you
Wilma Parker

RAMONA LIBRARY

Thanks to Pat Frederick, Becky Elliott and Terri Schmidt for their contribution of flowers to the Library. They are greatly appreciated. Contact Wilma Parker for details and help fulfill our commitment of weekly flowers.