



## President's Message

by Paula Elias



Happy Fall Manteca Garden Club Members,

Isn't it nice to feel the cool morning air? The weather is changing and most of us are looking forward to it.

A big thanks to Hank and our senior center rose garden teams. The rose deadhead time is about done, time for the roses to wind down. Our rose team members kept the rose garden looking beautiful since last April. Hank will continue the job until the rose trimming day in late January or early February. Hoping to have many of you sign up for a rose team for the new rose season in March!

So neat to have over 20 kids from the Boy's and Girl's Club participate in the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. Thanks to Mallorie, from the club, for leading the effort. Participants were recognized with cookies and punch along with the three winners, 1st place and runners up getting an award certificate.

We all are looking forward to our next garden club meeting where member Carol Boné will share Feng Shui in the garden. It's always a treat when members share their knowledge with us!!!!

I hope to see all of you at our meeting! Together we make a fun interesting club!

*Paula*

### Key Dates

#### Meeting

Monday, November 9  
Monday, November 16

Board Meeting, Paula Elias's house 10:30 a.m.  
Manteca Garden Club, Manteca Library  
Refreshments: 12:30pm, Meeting: 1:00pm  
Speaker: Carol Boné

Saturday, November 21

Topic: Feng Shui in the Garden  
San Joaquin Master Gardeners club seminar "Houseplants Made Easy"  
10:30a.m. McFall Room, Manteca Public Library. Classes are over at noon. To guarantee enough materials for the class, please register a week in advance by calling 209-953-6100.

#### Field Trip

Monday, December 7

- 1) **Duarte's Poinsettia Farm**, 1555 Baldwin Rd, Hughson. To carpool meet at Target at 9:30am, depart at 9:40am sharp! Tour starts at 10:30am. Note: **Purchases at Duarte's are cash and check only. No credit cards.**
- 2) The Fruityard, 7948 Yosemite Bl., Modesto, meet at 12:00noon for lunch.
- 3) Sciabica Olive Oil, 2150 Yosemite Bl., Modesto, Meet at 1:30pm for olive oil tasting and gift shop visit.

# Gardening Chores for November

by Sandi Larson, Master Gardener

Aren't you glad that our heat has finally subsided? It was a warmer summer than usual and most of us have plants that have been struggling thanks to our drought conditions/water restrictions.

Speaking of drought, it isn't over yet but predictions of an El Niño are looking better every day. We are hearing that the water in the Pacific is two degrees higher now than the average temperatures for the last 30 years. The warmer water can be a precursor of an El Niño year. El Niño means that from Northern California through much of the southwestern states we will have much more precipitation than average and the Northwest will likely have less precipitation than average. "There is a greater than 90% chance it will last into early Spring 2016," the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration has stated of the El Niño prediction.



There are a few things you can do to prepare your yard for heavy rains. Make sure any leaves in your yard or gutter aren't blocking the sewer entrance. Make sure your gutters and downspouts are clear to avoid water backing up onto your roof. Keep yard debris away from the drainage spots in your yard. Check trees and shrubs to make sure you have no weak branches or branches heavy with leaves overhanging your home. When those branches lose their leaves during the storm, gutter or downspout problems could be created. Store or cover outdoor furniture and umbrellas. Make sure your storage building is waterproof.

If you are interested in ways to save rainwater, the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District, in cooperation with numerous other Bay Area agencies and organizations, has published a guide for steps you can take to help manage storm water. You can find the guide – "Slow it. Spread it. Sink it! A Homeowner's and Landowner's guide to Beneficial Stormwater Management" – at <http://www.ssrcd.org/rainwater.php>. This guide will show you ways to save rainwater rather than flush it down the storm drains as well as many other helpful hints to handle the potential rains.

Consider slowly reducing your irrigation this month. You can do this by either dialing back your percentage of watering, say from 100% to 60% on your irrigation controller, or you can manually go into your controller and dial back the amount of time your sprinklers and drip are watering by at least 30%. We get nice moisture in the air beginning as early as November, thanks to frost and dew. You will still need to remember to water container plants and plants that are under your eaves. Most of our rains come from the west so the west side of your house may do fine but the other three sides of your home may stay dry.

As temperatures drop, you will probably have a lot of debris from trees and shrubs. Keeping the debris on the ground may act as mulch for your plants but it could also be a problem with heavy rains by blocking your French drains. Leaving debris on the ground also leaves areas susceptible to insects and creates places for rodents to hide. Continue to deadhead after flowers have bloomed. Wait to prune plants such as azaleas, camellias, wisteria and lilacs until after they have bloomed. You still may have time to put spring flowering bulbs in the ground.

If you are looking for trees that will provide color in your yard, you can choose from Japanese maples, Chinese Pistache, crepe myrtles, eastern redbud, Hawthorne and Gingko. Remember to water new trees frequently as they are adapting to their new environment.

One very attractive flowering shrub is the camellia sasanqua. They are very tolerant of our weather in the Central Valley and are great performers in the months of October through December when not much else is blooming. Their seedpods are decorative and look great in a bowl of potpourri.

It's been said that planting bedding plants in November will give you a stronger plant than it you wait to plant in the spring. Bedding plants for November would include primrose, cyclamen, coral-bells, snapdragon, dianthus and nemesia.

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## Gardening Chores for November (continued from Page 2)

You can start to shorten the length of your grass mowing now. We normally mow our laws a little higher in the summer so as to slow down the moisture loss but in the winter it's better to mow it a little shorter.

Now is still a good time to plant your winter garden with sweet peas, broccoli, onions, potatoes, cauliflower, radishes, Swiss chard and lettuce. Sweet peas are a great winter vegetable for a trellis.

Your lawn can benefit from a fertilizer feeding this month.

You can still divide your perennials such as daylily and Shasta daisies, primrose and agapanthus.

Do not cut fuchsias back. Allow the seed pods to stay on the plant so it will go into dormancy. Prune after the threat of frost is over.

If you purchase a chrysanthemum at the store, it's probably a hardy chrysanthemum. You may put it in the ground outdoors after the blooms have fallen off as long as it's in well-drained soil and gets at least six hours of sunlight daily. Prune them back a little after the flowers have died and when they start to grow again in the spring, continue pinching the ends of each branch to encourage bushiness and multiple blossoms.

Chrysanthemums are hardy in our area.

Frost is around the corner. After more than eight years of living here, I have decided I don't have the time to baby plants and keep them from frost damage. The best thing you can do for your plants is to water them prior to the frost, put small twinkly lights on plants that are susceptible to frost or spray a frost inhibitor on the plant. If you cover the plant, do not use a piece of plastic that settles on the plant. That will cause the plant to burn where the plastic is resting. There are frost blankets now that can stay on the plant and will actually warm the plant during the day. You will need to trap the heat from the ground as you cover the plant.

You will start finding amaryllis for holiday gift-giving in nurseries this month. I always go to Duarte's nursery in Hughson and purchase a couple of their special colored poinsettias. They offer polka dot, striped, coral, red, rose form, white, peach – the selection is amazing! The best time to go is right before or right after Thanksgiving as most of the local garden clubs descend on the place and the selection of plants narrows drastically after that. They also offer great dish gardens and multi-plant arrangements.

The San Joaquin Master Gardeners club is having a seminar entitled "Houseplants Made Easy", Saturday, November 21, at 10:30 a.m. in the McFall Room of the Manteca Public Library. Classes are over at noon. To guarantee enough materials for the class, please register a week in advance by calling 209-953-6100. Happy Gardening!

## Refreshments

by Laneia Bolle and Gloria Martinez

The following members have volunteered to bring refreshments to the November 16, 2015 Garden Club Meeting:

Refreshments start at 12:30pm.

Gail Hannon

Sandi Larson

Kay Harris

Gail Pace



## November Birthdays

7	Tom Savage	21	Gayle Foster
8	Rescha Bistrong	22	Wil Harmon
10	Alice Machado		
10	Eric Teberg		



# Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Smokey Bear Theme:  
*"Only You can Prevent Forest Fires"*

Woodsy Owl Theme:  
*"Lend a hand, Care for the Land"*

**Open to children in first through fifth grade**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles.

## **Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!**

Smokey Bear is recognized nationally and internationally as the symbol for fire prevention. The original Smokey Bear appeared in 1944. Smokey's message, "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!" encourages personal responsibility for fire prevention. Smokey Bear teaches children and adults to be careful with campfires, barbecues, trash fires, and matches.

## **Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!**

Woodsy Owl is America's icon for the conservation of the environment. Since 1971, Woodsy has helped parents and teachers inspire children to observe, explore, and care for the environment. He challenges children to "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!" and to take an active role in caring for the land through recycling, reusing, and reducing waste, planting and caring for trees, using resources wisely, and not littering



# Plant(s) of the Month for November

By Eric Teberg

## *Rhamnus alaternus* 'John Edwards' Italian Buckthorn

Exposure: Sun or part shade  
Soil Moisture: Moderate, water every 10-12 days  
Height: 15-18'  
Spread: 6-10'



## *Rehmannia elata* Chinese Foxglove

Exposure: Full sun to part shade  
Soil Moisture: Moderate  
Flower Color: Rose-purple  
Blooms: Spring-Fall  
Height: 2-3'  
Characteristics: Attracts butterflies



## *Lamiaeum galeobdolon* 'Variegatum'

Exposure: Part shade  
Soil Moisture: Drought tolerant  
Height: 1-2'  
Blooms: Spring-Summer  
Flower Color: Yellow  
Characteristics: Good ground cover and hanging basket; trailing habit  
With fuzzy and variegated leaves



## *Heuchera Paprika*

Exposure: Full sun to part shade  
Soil: Normal or sandy  
Height: 6-8"  
Spread: 8-10"  
Leaf Color: red

