

# THE CENTER POST

The Marin Art & Garden Center Promoting the Arts, Horticulture, History, and Conservation Fall 2008



marin  
art &  
garden  
center

## IN THIS ISSUE

- *President's Message*
- *Garden Education*
- *Garden Society of Marin*
- *Marin Bonsai Club*
- *Marin Orchid Society*
- *Marin Garden Club*
- *Marin Rose Society*
- *Master Gardeners*
- *Marin Society of Artists*
- *Northgate News*
- *Decorations Guild*
- *Moya/Ross Historical Society*
- *Marin Music Chest*
- *Ross Valley Players*
- *Ross Alternative Works*
- *Calendar*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Nancy Vernon*

There's no doubt summer easing into fall will be a busy and exciting time for the Center given we are in the heart of Marin and, more importantly, in the heart of Ross as the Town's Centennial approaches. We applaud Chief Protocol Officer for the Town of Ross, **Molly Gamble**, and the many volunteer committees that are working hard to make this series of events memorable enough to last yet another 100 years! MAGC will participate in the festivities by taking part in the parade on September 20th. We'll also host a Centennial Event and Concert on Sunday, September 7th from 3-6pm entitled "Music through the Decades". We'd love to have you join us for these festive events that will celebrate our community while also building awareness of all we have happening at the Center. Many, if not all, of our support groups will be participating, allowing attendees to see the breadth and depth of resources available.

You will see many new faces at MAGC as we steadily move closer to our goal of a vibrant and sustainable Center. I'm sure you've noticed MAGC's grounds are looking exceptionally lush and green, not to mention neat and tidy, thanks to MAGC's new Landscape Manager **Michael Raymond**. Michael joined the MAGC team in April and has embraced the task of managing our beloved eleven acres. Michael has a very impressive background ranging from owning a landscape business in Hawaii to managing a winery property and rentals here in California. In addition to his landscaping skills, Michael specializes in irrigation and we have yet to find anything that he can't fix or build. Take a peek at the new shed in the Garden Room storage area for a great example of his handiwork. Welcome Michael...we are so happy to have you with us!

In addition to all the skills listed above, Michael is an excellent manager and has put together a dynamic crew that you will see working hard about the grounds. Long-timer **Fernando Rebolorio** has been named head gardener (thanks for all your work over the years Fernando!) and **Pedro Turcios Leiva** and **Edwin Murcia** have joined the team as gardeners. They each have a specific area of the grounds that they oversee and maintain - from weeding to planting to irrigation. Please stop and greet these valuable team members when you see them in the gardens.

We'd also like to welcome our new Education Program Manager, **Janet Stephens**. As you know, MAGC's garden education programs have been very successful, ranging from school field trips to adult education and summer camps. Expanding these wonderful programs, including expansion into our other mission areas (e.g. art classes in the garden) has been an important Center initiative. Janet's role is to keep our core programs running successfully, strategically expand these programs, and manage our collaboration with Ross Recreation. We recently sent out a survey to identify new programs that MAGC and Ross Rec can bring to the community. The survey identified quite a few new programs that we are confident will serve to increase awareness of our Center, providing an important step toward revitalization and sustainability. You have probably seen Janet over the past year (usually surrounded by groups of happy children), as she has been leading our field trips and summer camps. She is a terrific teacher and also a Chapoeira Dance instructor (a type of Brazilian dance). We are thrilled to have her join our team - welcome Janet!

*(continued on page 2)*

(President's Message continued)

Congratulations go to **Charlotte Torgovitsky**, our garden education manager, and the creative mastermind behind our successful Garden Education programs. We have recently redefined Charlotte's job so that she is focused on environmental outreach with key organizations in the community as well as collaborating with Michael and board member Galen Fultz on development of the gardens. Her new job title is Manager of Sustainable Garden Resources and Outreach. Charlotte will also continue to work with Janet in the development of curriculum. We'd also like to announce the "Charlotte T. Spider" Scholarship Program that MAGC is initiating in honor of Charlotte's many contributions to the Center over the years, most importantly the development of the Butterfly garden and MAGC's garden education programs. This annual scholarship program will consist of four individual full scholarships given to needy kids in Marin County to attend a session of summer camp. In this way, we want to continually show our thanks to Charlotte while filling an important need to provide all children the opportunity to learn about our environment in a fun and memorable way.

We will greatly miss **Nancy Austin**, who has been the Center Administrator for three years and a steady and capable presence during a time of change. She has been a tremendous asset to the Center, with some of her key achievements being successfully building a donor database, refining and editing the Center Post and masterminding the evolution of the election process to integrate into the Center Post mailings. Nancy is leaving us to spend more time with her extended family and we're hoping that she will come to visit often. We are pleased to introduce **Jennifer Taibbi** who will be replacing Nancy as well as working in the program administration area with Janet. Jennifer brings a great deal of experience to the Center in terms of supporting the Board of Directors, PR, recruiting and supervising volunteers, and lots more. She has had extensive experience in the non-profit sector and will be a great addition to the team. Jennifer will be working

four days a week, so please stop by and welcome her to MAGC. Welcome Jennifer!

Yet another new face at MAGC – this time, on the Board of Trustees. Please welcome **David Pauli**, our newest member of the Board of Trustees and member of Pixie Park, appointed to fill a vacant spot through the remainder of the year. We have high hopes that David will then join us for a full term! David is filling the all-important finance function on the Board, overseeing our processes and procedures as well as our overall investment strategy. He will be working closely with Treasurer Eva Holm and the rest of the MAGC Board to make sure we position MAGC to move towards financial sustainability. David has an impressive background in the financial securities industry, and is now a registered representative of MetLife in the insurance area. He has been a board member of Pixie Park for several years, leading master plan development on the Pixie Park executive board. David is very enthusiastic and is already making a big difference. Welcome David!

A few other key initiatives from the MAGC Board. We are launching the Founder's Membership Campaign, a fundraising initiative designed to bring in much-needed funds as well as to develop relationships with key donors. A Founder's Membership is characterized by a bronze VIP membership card, giving access to benefits such as preferred seating at MAGC's summertime concerts and other events. We plan to grow this Founder's members group and the list of benefits every year. We hope you will all consider becoming a Founder's member.

MAGC is going to embark on more strategic planning through the summer and fall, led by consultant Ken Johnson. We will be reviewing where we've been, what we've accomplished over the past two years, and further define our direction for the future. In addition, a steering committee is embarking on some visionary planning (you'll be hearing more about "20/20 Vision") and as the initial phase of this vision, continuing to develop the Magnolia Grove and Boardwalk concept. We do have plans

to talk with many of you, getting feedback to help build the vision of what the grove and boardwalk can become as well as how to sustain and grow the entire Center over the next twelve years.

Thanks for your continued support.

## GARDEN EDUCATION

*By Charlotte Torgovitsky*

I've assumed a new role these past few months – that of Barn Owl mother! **Alex Godbe, founder and director of the Hungry Owl Project**, is an old hand at fostering orphaned raptors and the MAGC nest box was her first choice when she had a clutch of seven babies that needed to be 'hacked out'.



*photo by Gary Scales*

Our Barn Owl nest box is all set up with an infrared camera and a monitor screen at the porch of the Butterfly Cottage, which allows us to view their progress. We put together a feeding team: our own **Board President, Nancy Vernon** and her family, **Gary Scales, Sharon 'Heron', Alex**, of course, and yours truly.

Every evening we provided the babies with dead mice. With dedicated attention we were able to successfully fledge seven Barn Owls! One evening when Gary and I were tending to our mothering duties, we looked up and there were four fledglings waiting and watching for their food!

Gary and several other lucky photographers got some absolutely beautiful photos of our baby owls! They were thrilled, as were all the students visiting MAGC on field trips to gain such insight from a close-up view into the lives of these wild and beautiful creatures. Our hopes are with them for a successful life and good hunting!

(article continued from page 2)

Our Habitat Garden Campers '**MAGC Official Worm Watchers**' also learn so much from all the creatures in the gardens and from our wonderful camp leaders. It's always a lively group! **Janet 'Planet'** and **Sharon 'Heron'** keep them occupied with lots of fun and educational activities. We're lucky to have **Amanda Perry** back again this year as a camp assistant, and welcome **Naomi Gibbs** in her first year as an assistant.

Also with us this summer is **Sylvia Linstedt** as my summer intern and all around wonderful garden helper. Sylvia volunteered her time in the gardens with us when she was a student at Marin Academy. Now she has completed her first year at Brown University and was pleased to come back to work in these gardens that she loves!

Young people have really helped us get so much accomplished here at the Center. We've been fortunate to have been able to get all sorts of things built and new areas developed with the help of Eagle Scouts. The scouts have created new pathways and seating areas, built stairs, worm boxes, compost bins, bat roosts, bird feeders and nest boxes; just to mention a few of their projects!

Our latest **Eagle Scout Project** was organized by **Anders Miltner**, from Troop 59. Scouts and parents helped us with a nursery expansion project, clearing and leveling the new fenced yard and then bringing in yards of gravel. Anders also built a shade structure for our big worm bin, allowing us to create a special children's composting and recycling area.

**Janet Stephens**, (aka **Janet 'Planet'**) our very special children's educator, will make good use of this area; teaching students how to care for our earth by recycling resources. Better still, these students always take the message home to their parents and so the message spreads, like the roots of healthy plants in fertile, composted soils!

Our own grounds staff, **Fernando**, **Pedro**, and **Elwin** moved the rest of the gravel into the old yard. Michael has installed new irrigation systems in the nursery, giving us a chance to re-organize and improve on our propagation efforts. Now we can propagate to our heart's content!

Come to visit and see all the great California native and habitat plants available!

We're already growing a beautiful selection of plants, which will be for sale at our up-coming event '**Celebrating California Gardens**' on October 4th.

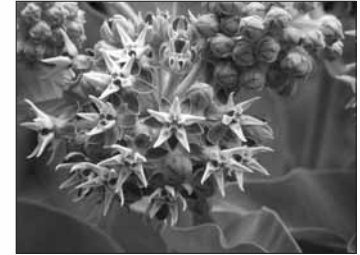
## Celebrating California Gardens

### "Gardening with Our Local Ecology"

Join fellow Marin residents for an exciting all-day event at the Marin Art and Garden Center on Saturday, October 4 devoted to "green" California gardens. Hear lectures, participate in hands-on demonstrations, and talk to local gardening experts.

You'll find out how to:

- Garden in tune with our local ecology
- Integrate edibles into a natural landscape
- Explore alternatives to lawns
- Manage your soil and plantings organically
- "Go Native" for beauty, food, and habitat



Saturday, October 4, 2008  
Marin Art and Garden Center  
\$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under  
9:30-4:30, doors open at 9:00 a.m.

Pre-registration highly recommended. To pre-register, e-mail [education@magc.org](mailto:education@magc.org) or phone 415-455-5263.

#### Confirmed speakers include:

- Wilma Follette, California Native Plant Society  
"Wildflower Season in California"
- Alrie Middlebrook, California Native Garden Foundation  
"Gardening with Our Local Ecology: Five Alternatives to Lawns"
- Kate Frey, award-winning garden designer  
"Creating a Healthy, Life-Filled Garden: Success Is in the Details"

This event has sponsorship support from the Marin Municipal Water District.

## GARDEN SOCIETY OF MARIN

By *Bob Battersby*

All it takes to appreciate where we live is to explore and experience other places. Pat and I just returned from a week in Ireland, two weeks in England, a few days in Orlando and four days on AMTRAK viewing "Middle America."

Ireland - It may come as a surprise to some but the Emerald Isle is not all green. Driving from Dublin to Galway we were treated to sparsely populated barren hills where the main crop seemed to be stone in various shapes and sizes.

England - I can't say anything about England and still maintain a good relationship with kith and kin but even they must admit; it does rain a lot.

Orlando - Orlando is safe where it is and I would have to give serious thought before I would answer a beck-on to return.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

Middle America - Middle America's backyards as seen from a train seemed endless, flat and sleep inducing. It is the corn fed heartland with a slow and steady beat.

Here is where I have matured and here is where I wish to grow older. I am lucky to have been able to settle here when I did. There are endemic qualities here that make this place unique. Not to say that such places cannot exist elsewhere, but beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder and this is it for me.

This feeling is buoyed by being part of a place where I seem to spend more and more of my time. I started out in the Garden Society of Marin a few years back and now I find myself president of that august society and more involved in MAGC.

Both organizations have evolved over the last 60-plus years and both are still partners supporting each other, as they will do as long as the Lord allows. Dang it! Give me space and I ramble.

I am pleased to report that the Spring Sale was again very successful. Special thanks to Susan Wittenmyer for chairing the event and all her willing helpers.

Future Garden Society events include: Early Ross Valley Gardens by Bob Battersby on August 14, and Corolla Ashford of the Garden Conservancy will be our guest on September 11. She will be talking about the Alcatraz Gardens Project.

Our meetings are on the second Thursday in the Livermore Room and start around 7:15 for refreshments then 7:30 for the regular meeting. The meetings are open to all interested in any aspect of gardening.

Three cheers for the Orchid Society. Good work guys! (See their column.)

## MARIN BONSAI SOCIETY

By Candace Key



On Tuesday August 5th Marin Bonsai Club will host their annual fund raising

auction. Reports are that several seasoned members will be selling quality bonsai from their collections. This is sure to be one of our best auctions with bonsai trees, pre-bonsai material, pots and tools on the block. Preview starts at 7:00 pm and the auction promptly at 7:30. Please come early to sign up for a bid number, have some refreshments and check out the treasures.

**For the month of August the workshop date is changed to the third Tuesday of the month.** Members bring their own trees for styling and development advice from sensei Tim Kong and local bonsai expert Jay McDonald. Also in August and again in September the club is offering beginning bonsai workshop seminars. In these classes on the last 2 Thursdays of the months students will learn the basics of bonsai growing, styling and care, as well as pot selection. Students will have at the end of the 2 class series 2 fully styled trees to begin their collections. Please contact the club to sign up for either session.

September through October we are back to our regular schedule as follows:

Workshops are on the first Tuesday of the month, where members bring their own trees for styling and development advice. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Workshops are from 7-9:30 pm. Public is welcome to bring their trees or come and observe.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month.

In September Randall Lee will be discussing hinoki cypress as bonsai. Randall, a well-known Bay Area bonsai instructor and professional aesthetic pruner, is a popular speaker at the club. He will style a hinoki for the raffle at the end of the evening.

In October Valerie Monroe will be our guest speaker discussing the important topic of pot selection for bonsai. So often a beautiful tree cannot be fully appreciated because it is displayed in an inappropriate pot. We have heard good things about this informative and interactive presentation. The public is welcome to this free event, 7:30-9:30 pm.

**Also, mark your calendars for our annual Fall Bonsai Show at MAGC November 14-15. More detail in the next Center Post or at our website, [marinbonsai.org](http://marinbonsai.org).**

## MARIN ORCHID SOCIETY

By Jeff Mulanax

The Marin Orchid Society (MOS) has enjoyed our first 6 months of meeting in the lovely Livermore Room at MAGC...and our members have been busy! Notable orchid growers, entomologists, and orchid judges from the world-wide show circuit have joined us at MAGC and taught us much about our shared passion. In February our society won a 2nd prize ribbon for our Orchids Gone Wild display at the prestigious Pacific Orchid Exposition in San Francisco. We have been working hard to educate and entice others to catch our orchid fever. In March, with the help of MAGC's great staff, between 60 and 70 Cymbidium orchids were gathered from around the property, onto a single bed below Pixie Park. On March 19, MOS hosted a Cymbidium repotting education session at MAGC for the Master Gardeners, who helped us to repot, divide, and tag nearly half of the collection. Then on March 29, MOS volunteers hosted a public Orchid Repotting and Education session, where we invited everyone to bring their overgrown or needy orchids to us for rehab...and at the same time we finished repotting, dividing, and tagging the rest of MAGC's Cymbidium collection. For the first time in recent memory, all of the orchids are being watered and fed weekly. This month we completed The MAGC Cymbidium Log, with a separate sheet for each of the plants in the collection: now 93 strong! MOS will use this Log to track the growth, bloom, and future repotting of each of MAGC's "beauties". By next February, we expect a fabulous outdoor display for all to enjoy.



## MARIN GARDEN CLUB

By Diane Lynch

The Marin Garden Club is pleased to announce the recipients of our annual scholarship awards. These scholarships are awarded to outstanding Marin County graduating high school seniors who have shown a keen interest in pursuing studies or careers in areas relating to landscaping, horticulture, conservation or the environment.

The scholarship fund was initiated in 1994 by Marin Garden Club member Gwen Cooper, and the scholarship was re-named in her memory a few years ago. As of this year we have awarded scholarships to 40 students. We sometimes hear from these idealistic young people and are proud to have played a small part in helping them pursue their dreams, which always include making the world a better place.

This year four outstanding young women will share \$6000. We are pleased to announce the following recipients:

**Morgan Anderson** is a graduate of Novato High School and will attend the University of California Davis to study environmental studies.

**Kaela Colwell** is a graduate of Sir Francis Drake High School who plans to attend the University of California Berkeley where she will study environmental management and policy.

**Michelle Davis** is a graduate of San Rafael High School and will attend the University of California Berkeley to study nutritional science and sustainable agriculture.

**Kelsey Ripp** is a graduate of San Rafael High School who will attend Brown University, where she was admitted to an eight year program that gives her admission to Brown's medical school. She will major in environmental science and biology.



marin  
art &  
garden  
center

### CAPTURE THE MAGiC...

Have your next event at the Marin Art & Garden Center. Exquisite indoor and outdoor facilities for every occasion...*come see!*  
Ph. 415-454-1301 <> [www.magc.org](http://www.magc.org)

## MARIN GARDEN CLUB

By Nancy Kent Danielson

### HISTORY OF EARLY MARIN GARDEN CLUB

A few friends met on September 22, 1931 for the first executive meeting of MGC at the home of Mrs. Millen Griffith in Ross; she was elected the first president. The club has been active in horticulture and conversation for 82 years. We began with 33 members including 3 men and now currently have 65 members, comprising all women.

An early project was being active in founding the Marin Conservation League. In Gerstle Park, San Rafael, members started the first garden center in Marin, now called the Garden Society of Marin. We started a county wide competition of owner cared for gardens. We saved a cypress grove in Bolinas. Many garden shows were arranged for members or for the public, particularly when the Marin County Fair was held for years where MGC now exists. These were outstanding accomplishments, especially since MGC was founded during the Depression.

As bulldozers cut through the upper hills of Sausalito in the mid-thirties for the building of Waldo Approach, MGC members were scrambling about planting wild flowers in every nook and cranny! In 1940 money was raised for British war relief, establishing prolific Victory and Community Vegetable gardens. Also that year we were instrumental in having Camp Samuel Taylor preserved and helped save Azalea Park on Redwood Highway. World War II turned almost the entire membership

into homeland volunteers; delivering flowers to hospitals and making a total of 1,456 bouquets in 3 years. Mrs. Frank Howard Allen made seemingly endless, exquisite, tiny button gardens for soldiers' bedsides.

Members Caroline Livermore, Gladys Smith, Fenn Stratford-Harrington began al fresco lunches to raise money to establish MAGC. Many other such strong willed ladies never gave up. Rose Flack chose "a place of quiet beauty for remembering" and it became our Memory Garden in 1951 with many years of service by Christine Brooke, Barbara Allen and Gwen Cooper. The Moya Library was made by renovating the old well-house by members Helen Moya, Anne T. Kent, and Gladys Smith. It was accomplished with the help of members and others as a tribute to artist Jose Moya del Pino.

The objectives of the founding members have been pursued and through imagination, devotion, and labor of MGC members, the bright threads of the fabric shine for knowledge of horticulture and for dedication to the conservation of nature.

A gracious tour of six Ross members' gardens was planned and mounted for the public, and in only three weeks it raised \$1,350, mostly for the Octagon house to be refurbished into a proper library, the Moya Library at MAGC.

Constant vigilance is always needed in conservation. You're successful in one small area and before you can turn around, someone is after the same land again, only this time it will be far more complex and urgent. In the past our efforts towards roadside beauty, removal of all sign boards, and getting garbage companies to cover their loads has been

*(continued on page 6)*

## MARIN ROSE SOCIETY

By Lenore Ruckman, President

Marin Rose Society is a Chapter of the American Rose Society and a member of the Northern California, Nevada, and Hawaii District (NCNH). Our meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. We feature a rose show from April thru October and our annual Harvest Dinner and awards banquet in November. We maintain the public garden at MAGC on a volunteer basis. Remember to pass bye and smell the roses.

Our Web-site is award winning as is our newsletter. Look at us: [marinrose.org](http://marinrose.org). We publish the newsletter ten times a year with articles about rose care and good rose selections for Marin. We list our monthly speakers and events in our district, as well as results of our rose shows and articles on rose care and diseases.

A Consulting Rosarian is a person qualified by the American Rose Society to consult and advise on growing and caring for roses. We have seven CR's who are available to visit your garden and help with proper pruning and care.

In September our speaker will be Ken and Judy Jones speaking on Rose Diseases, and in October Bill DeVor of Greenhart Farms & Nor'East Roses is speaking on miniature roses, industry trends and new rose production.

Guests are always welcome at our meetings; we have a wonderful raffle and refreshments.



## Come grow with Marin Master Gardeners

### Do you enjoy gardening and working with people?

Volunteer and be trained by the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) to offer information and assistance to home gardeners in Marin County:

- Answer questions on the telephone hotline
- Educate residents at Farmers Markets and fairs
- Assist educators in establishing school gardens
- Be an environmental steward -- work on community service projects and gardens within the county

### Apply to become a Master Gardener!

The Marin Master Gardeners are a group of local volunteers trained to serve as consultants to the home gardeners, teach classes and provide information on plant health and gardening practices including vegetable gardening, trees, soil, lawns, ornamental horticulture, insects, diseases, uses of pesticides and related topics.

Training sessions are held Thursdays beginning in January and continuing through early May 2009.

### Learn more at an information session:

NOVATO - AUGUST 21

Where: UCCE Office,  
1682 Novato Boulevard, Suite 150-B

Time: 2 pm

ROSS - SEPTEMBER 4

Where: Marin Art and Garden Center,  
30 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard

Time: 6 pm

### Applications available online at

[www.MarinMG.org](http://www.MarinMG.org)

or call the Master Gardener Desk

415-499-4204



### Thursday, September 4 – How To Create a Great Vegetable Garden

Tomato tasting at 6:30 p.m.; speaker from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m.

Livermore Room

Marin Art & Garden Center

\$5.00 admission

Jenny Eubanks, a young professional gardener in West Marin, will share her expertise in developing home vegetable gardens. She will discuss environmental and soil conditions for healthy veggie gardens, when to use raised beds and ways to combine veggies and ornamental plants. Jenny was an instructor for the "Growing Gardeners" series in West Marin and developed and teaches the gardening program at West Marin School. She also was seminal in creating many community gardens such as the Pt. Reyes Community Garden.

### Thursday, October 2

### Designing Your Garden with Drought-Tolerant Plants

7 p.m.

Livermore Room

Marin Art & Garden Center

\$5.00 admission

Deborah Whigham, co-owner of Digging Dog Nursery in Albion, CA, will discuss "Designing Your Garden with Drought-Tolerant Plants." Deborah's talk will feature photos of her husband Gary Ratway's distinctive designs, including the lavender gardens at Matanzas Creek Winery. She'll also bring plants for purchase.

*(continued from from 5*

heartwarming. Emme Gilman's reiteration of alternative means of pest control, of poison free gardening to maintain the health and beauty of our gardens without insecticides was studied, long before it was popular.

1972 was known as the year of the big frost and a vintage year for wildflowers. With Roberta Ferguson's chairmanship, the Angel Island Foundation was reactivated and MGC became important in Angel becoming a park.

Pampas Grass was thoroughly researched in the '80s and we accomplished the removal, as money allowed, from Pebble Beach Property Owners to California Transportation plantings. It was an active and lengthy campaign.

A long time member reminisced, "MGC was a tiny garden club with a hand in almost every good thing happening in the county." Much has been accomplished since the 1980s and will be continued in the future with new young members, imagination, and hard work.

## MARIN SOCIETY OF ARTISTS

*By Jo Smith*

Our Annual Open Fine Arts Exhibit is August 17 to September 14; open to all Northern California Artists. It's always a very fascinating Exhibit. It will be juried by noted artists from out of our Jury Pool. It gives our gallery a special look. Reception is Sunday, August 17, 2-4pm.



September 21 thru October 19 the Gallery will show the "Fall Rental Exhibit." It's a good time to see all the new paintings that are for rent in our gallery. MSA has the largest inventory for renting in the country. A reception will be held September 21, 2-4pm. Change your décor – RENT A PAINTING.

Believe it or not the MSA will be celebrating our 81st Annual October 26 thru November 16. We have been on the grounds since 1944. A reception will be held October 26, 2-4 pm. Come see just how gifted our artists are!

## NORTHGATE NEWS

*By Bobbie Minick*

Hello again. Summer is here and we have exciting news. Donna Mani, who comes with extensive experience in antiques, has become our second vice president whose responsibility is Laurel House. She will be a great asset to us. We are also pleased to include two new members to Northgate: Alanna Brady and Mary Sutliff. Our Sunset Party is Friday, September 5th in the Garden Room. All our Northgate members are invited.

## DECORATION GUILD TEA TIME

*By Nadine Hewitt*



Now in its sixty-second year as a support group for the Marin Art & Garden Center, the Decorations Guild has become steeped in tradition. As a member since 1991, the writer cannot vouch for preceding years but the Christmas Tea accompanying the established annual Open House is October 5th, 2008 and definitely a tradition that has been kept through those years. The Tea has always been catered by Guild members and the tea goodies created for the occasion are mouth-wateringly tasty. There is no charge; this has always been a means of thanking our customers for their support during the year and our Open House gives us an opportunity to introduce new holiday merchandise.

## DECORATIONS GUILD "GREENS"

The Decorations Guild is in need of Holly, Magnolia and Hollywood Juniper. We need to start collecting right after Thanksgiving so we are asking that, if possible, you put off pruning until this time of year.



Holly

Our Greens Sale is December 12th and 13th. We are in need of this material for wreath making. Any and all donations would be appreciated. Thanks in advance for your help.

Please advise Kathy Walker at 454-5720 or 662-1052 if you have a source for any of this greenery.



Magnolia



Hollywood Juniper

## MOYA/ROSS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Preston Maginis

At our May First Friday Forenoon Program we had the 1st public release of our new book, **Ross, the People, the Places, the History**, commemorating the town's centennial. The number of people in attendance and the number of book sales far exceeded our expectations. Books may be purchased at our library Tuesday through Friday 11am to 3pm or by calling Charlotte Levin at 461-4816 or in the MAGC main office. A \$40 donation by check or cash per book is required. Don't be a bystander; join the celebration by volunteering to assist us in book sales and administration. Call Charlotte today...we need you!

We are also in dire need of library docents. We know how busy you are but couldn't you spend a few hours one day per month in our library enjoying the center's beauty, surrounded by rare books on gardening, history and art? Call Helene Holl at 453-9615 for details.

Our annual meeting for all Moya/RHS members and guests will be held at 11am, in the Livermore Pavilion on September 19th. There will be a short business meeting followed by our historian Richard Torney's latest presentation entitled "Ross, A Rich History". Untold stories and photos of lesser-known events make for an amusing and entertaining subject. A wine reception and buffet luncheon by the Memorial Pond will follow. Make your luncheon reservation by mailing a donation of \$25 to Moya/RHS by September 15th. For further information call Jane Chamberlain at 456-6683.

Our First Friday Forenoon Program will resume on October 3rd. "Louise Boyd, Marin County's Daughter of Fortune" will be the subject of Marin History Museum curator Dawn Laurent's presentation. She will share photos and stories that describe the life and adventures of Artic Explorer Louise Arner Boyd. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about this local legend.

### CENTENNIAL EVENT & CONCERT

MAGC will hold a Centennial Event/Concert on September 7th from 3-6pm, celebrating the Centennial in conjunction with the Ross Centennial. The event will focus on the history and participation of MAGC's groups, current happenings, a presentation of Centennial Grove/Boardwalk concept, a Jazz Music through the Decades concert (4pm-6pm), and food/socializing.



## MARIN MUSIC CHEST

celebrates 75th Anniversary at Marin Art & Garden Center

SAN RAFAEL, CA – The Marin Music Chest spends much of 2008 celebrating its 75th Anniversary with several events, including a private gala which will be held Aug. 31, 2008 at the Marin Art & Garden Center.

"For the past 75 years the Marin Music Chest has promoted the cause of great music in Marin County," said John Rando of San Rafael, president of the Marin Music Chest Board of Directors. "The Marin Music Chest has awarded more than 500 music scholarships to young, talented musicians in Marin County and we're celebrating that milestone too."

This year the Marin Music Chest also launched a new community outreach program "Marin Music Chest Presents," featuring presentations by its board members paired with live musical performances by recent Marin Music Chest scholarship award winners.

The Music Music Chest was established in 1933 with the mission of bringing the worlds' greatest musical artists to Marin (noted MGM star Nelson Eddy performed in 1934), making it possible for thousands of residents to enjoy outdoor performances at Forest Meadows for an admission fee of a mere 25 cents. Later, the Music Chest established an annual music scholarship program for young, talented Marin County musicians. After more than forty years of presenting concerts, the Marin Music Chest made the scholarship program its primary mission, providing financial support to promising students of classical music; and when possible, to assist other non-profit organizations with similar goals.

"The Marin Music Chest is extremely proud of its large number of scholarship winners who have gone on to make classical music their careers. Many are members of symphony orchestras, ensembles, conductors, com-

posers and members of dance and opera companies locally, nationally and internationally. It's a real testament to the success of this scholarship program," said Rando.

For more information about the Marin Music Chest organization visit the website at [www.marinmusicchest.org](http://www.marinmusicchest.org)



Marin Music Chest celebrates its 75th Anniversary with a private event at the Marin Art & Garden Center in August. The organization's primary mission is to provide financial support through annual scholarships presented to promising students of classical music and dance.

**Pictured are the 2008 Marin Music Chest Scholarship winners:**

**Back Row:** (L to R)

R.J. Pearce of Corte Madera, Zachary Mathe of San Anselmo and Kumi Migimatsu of San Rafael.

**Front Row:** (L to R) Hayaka Komatsu of San Rafael, Olivia Jew of San Rafael, Lia Kohl of San Anselmo, Toki Migimatsu of San Rafael, Rieko Tsuchida of Mill Valley, Caitlin Gowdy of Novato.

**Seated at harp:** (L to R) Elizabeth Zosseder of San Rafael and Katarina Lee of San Rafael.

**Not pictured:** Mariko Wyrick and Mayumi Wyrick of Mill Valley.

## ROSS VALLEY PLAYERS ANNOUNCES 2008- 2009 SEASON

By Kim Taylor

Ron Severdia portrays more than 40 characters in his one-man adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", presented for the holiday season by the Ross Valley Players.



photo by Lisa Keating

The Ross Valley Players has announced its 2008-2009 season line-up, presented at the Ross Valley Players' Barn Theatre, located at the Marin Art & Garden Center in Ross.

Just in time for the 70th Anniversary of the classic film *Gone with the Wind*, The Ross Valley Players kicks off its new season in September with *Moonlight & Magnolias*, by Ron Hutchinson. Directed by Argo Thompson, this hysterical Off-Broadway farce is about the writing team behind the legendary film—and how it was almost never made.

*Sabrina Fair*, by Samuel Taylor opens in October. First performed by Ross Valley Players exactly 50 years ago, this modern version of Cinderella set in 1950's Long Island will be directed by Michael Paul Pulizzano. This witty play was the basis of the 1954 movie *Sabrina*, which starred Humphrey Bogart and Audrey Hepburn. For the holidays, the Ross Valley Players presents *A Christmas Carol: A Solo Performance*, by Charles Dickens. This one-man show, adapted by and starring Ron Severdia, won the 2006 Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Award for Best Solo Performance. Severdia magically transforms from Scrooge to Tiny Tim and over 40 other characters in this story that resonates with the very essence of Christmas spirit.

In January, award-winning director James Dunn returns to RVP to direct David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross*. Winner of the 1984 Pulitzer Prize, this scalding story

follows four small-time real estate salesmen pushing plots of land on reluctant buyers and trying to make a living by any means necessary, from lies and bribery to threats and intimidation. This play contains adult language and is recommended for mature audiences.

A week long series of solo performance pieces will be presented in February. Something new for the Ross Valley Players, *The Solo*

*Players* series provides an opportunity to bring audiences solo performances that are fresh, new, and intriguing. The Ross Valley Players will present five different performers during the five-day series.

Winner of a Tony Award and nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* is a charming, yet bittersweet comedy set in Atlanta on the eve of World War II. Directed by Phoebe Moyer, the comedy by Alfred Uhry will open in March.

Arthur Miller's powerful and profound *A View from the Bridge* opens in May. The story follows Eddie Carbone, a hard-working Italian-American longshoreman. Cris Cassell directs this play about a man who holds family and honor above all else—and yet betrays them both.

In July, it's the West Coast premiere of *Private Fears in Public Places*, by one of RVP's most popular playwrights, Alan Ayckbourn. Jessica Holt directs this cinematic slice of life about six people whose lives intersect in ordinary places: offices, homes, bars, and hotels. A brilliant chamber piece about the way our lives are linked, *Private Fears in Public Places* was named one of New York's Top 10 Theater Events.

Season tickets for the Ross Valley Players' 2008-2009 season are available now. To place an order or for more information, call the box office at 415-456-9555 or visit their website at [www.rossvalleyplayers.com](http://www.rossvalleyplayers.com)

## "Driving Miss Daisy" plays through Aug. 17th at the Ross Valley Players' Barn Theatre

By Kim Taylor



The Ross Valley Players production of "Driving Miss Daisy" continues through Aug. 17. The Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway hit and successful film, "Driving Miss Daisy" spans the 25-year relationship between an austere Southern woman and her soft-spoken African American driver.

Cris Cassell directs. Her past directing credits for the Ross Valley Players' include "Proof", "Over My Dead Body", "Postmortem" and "The Cemetery Club". The cast features Anne Ripley of Tiburon as Daisy, Bertron Bruno of San Francisco as Hoke and Alex Shafer of Richmond as Boolie.



For tickets or more information about the Ross Valley Players call 415-456-9555 or visit the website at [www.rossvalleyplayers.com](http://www.rossvalleyplayers.com)

## RAW (ROSS ALTERNATIVE WORKS)

**RAW (Ross Alternative Works)** is The Ross Valley Players series of staged readings of unpublished, un-produced scripts by Bay Area playwrights. Continuing a long history of promoting creative theater, a reading is held the second Sunday afternoon of the run of each of RVP's major stage productions. Following the opening of *Moonlight* and *Magnolias*, RAW will present *Last Call* by Novato playwright Carol Sheldon on Sat & Sun afternoons, **Sept 13 & 14 at 3:00 in the Barn Theatre.**

The theme of *Last Call* is the right to die—or not. Three family stories are interwoven, presenting different points of view. Family secrets and stressed relationships surface as each character confronts difficult decisions and comes to his edge in this drama on a timely subject. “I chose this topic because it’s dear to my heart,” Carol says. “Yes, you could say it’s political theatre. I think it’s the responsibility and privilege of dramatists to address the current issues of the day. Not with every playtime, of course. I love comedy, too. But even *West Side Story* is a political play on one level. There is humor in *Last Call*, and hopefully generally good theatre. It’s my hope that the play will ignite dialogue, even argument, long after people have left the theatre.”



Carol Sheldon's plays have won awards and have been seen in community and professional productions on both coasts and Michigan. Among others, RVP's RAW has staged her *Lifelines*, *The Celebration* and *Don't Just Lie There*. Three of Carol's works were also produced by Playwrights' Center of San Francisco, and two have toured the retirement homes in Marin. *Don't Just Lie There* was given a reprise

in The Marin Fringe at Dominican College. Carol writes poetry and has written an historical novel. Carol enjoys acting and directing as well. She is a member of Theatre Bay Area, California Writers Club and Marin Poetry Center.

No reservations are required. RVP members and subscribers are free, with a \$7 donation requested from the general public. The reading will be followed by a discussion with the playwright. More information on RAW can be found on the RVP website: [www.rossvalleyplayers.com/raw](http://www.rossvalleyplayers.com/raw).

**plays in the**  
**RAW**  
**Ross Alternative Works**

## The Center Post

The Center Post is a quarterly publication for the members of the Marin Art and Garden Center, a non-profit organization, which houses groups Promoting the Arts, Horticulture, History and Conservation.

### MAGC Board of Trustees 2008

Nancy Vernon, President.....	454-8346
Alex Ross, Vice-President.....	454-4715
Barbara Chase, Secretary.....	454-0225
Eva Holm, Treasurer.....	457-5065
Tom Byrnes .....	457-6715
Liz Dakin.....	461-0877
Marnie Delaney.....	485-0308
Diane Doodha.....	454-6575
Galen Fultz.....	454-0667
Steger Johnson.....	435-1967
Nanette Londeree.....	899-1023
David Pauli.....	385-9395
Mary Poland.....	456-5391

### MAGC Advisory Board

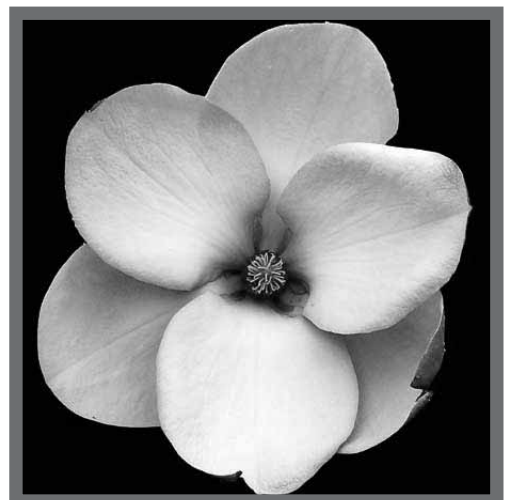
Linda Dougherty  
Peggy Haas  
Brenda MacLean  
Carroll Yandell

### MAGC Staff

Rob Franco ..... Sales & Marketing Manager  
Dana Mills ..... Events & Activities Coordinator  
Michael Raymond..... Landscape Manager  
Janet Stephens..... Education Program Manager  
Jennifer Taibbi..... Post Editor, Center  
Administrative Coordinator  
Charlotte Torgovitsky ..... Manager of Sustainable  
Garden Resources and Outreach

For inquiries or change of address, please contact us at:

The Marin Art & Garden Center  
P.O. Box 437, Ross, CA 94957  
Tel: (415) 455-5260 Fax: (415) 454-0650  
Email: [info@magc.org](mailto:info@magc.org) website: [www.magc.org](http://www.magc.org)



# MAGC PUBLIC CALENDAR

## FALL 2008

### ART

**Marin Society of Artists**  
**“Annual Open Fine Arts Exhibit”**  
 8/17-9/14 AG  
 Opening Reception 8/17@2pm

**“Fall Rental Exhibit”**  
 9/21-10/19 AG  
 Opening Reception 9/21@2pm

**“81st Annual Celebration”**  
 10/26-11/16 AG  
 Opening Reception 10/26@2pm

### EVENTS

**Decorations Guild**  
**“Annual Open House and Christmas Tea”**  
 10/5 12pm-3pm DG  
 Showroom doors open at 11am

**Family Concert Series**  
**“Ron Thompson & the Resistors”**  
 8/19 5:30-7:30pm Gazebo Lawn

**“Centennial Event”**  
 9/7 3:00pm-6:00pm

**“The Stardusters Jazz Orchestra”**  
 9/7 4:00-6:00pm Gazebo Lawn

**Northgate Activities**  
**“Sunset Party”**  
 9/5 6:00pm-10:00pm

**Moya/RHS**  
**1st Friday Forenoon Speaker Series**  
**“Louise Boyd, Marin County’s Daughter of Fortune”**  
 10/3 11:00 am LP

**“Annual Meeting /Luncheon”**  
 9/19 11:00 am LP

### HORTICULTURE

**Garden Education**  
**“Celebrating California Gardens: Lectures, Workshops, Booths, Activities”**  
 10/4 9:30am – 4:30pm

**“Seniors in the Garden: A Four-week Outdoor Series”**  
 9/8-9/29 10:00am – 12:00pm

**“Composting with Worms”**  
 9/20 10:00am-12:00pm

**“Bay-Friendly Gardening Basics: Gardening from the Ground Up”**  
 9/27 10:00am-1:00pm

**“Bay-Friendly Gardening: Go Native, Planting for Pollinators”**  
 10/18 10:00am-1:00pm

**“The Magic of the Monarchs”**  
 10/28 Fall Auction 7:00pm LP

**Garden Society of Marin**  
**“Early Ross Valley Gardens”**  
 8/14 7:15pm LP

**“Alcatraz Gardens Project”**  
 9/11 7:15pm LP

**“What is sustainable gardening and why should I do it?”**  
 10/9 7:15pm LP

**Marin Bonsai Club**  
**Annual Fundraising Auction**  
 8/5 Preview 7:00pm  
 Auction 7:30pm LP

**“Hinoki Cypress as Bonsai”**  
 9/16 7:30pm LP

**“Pot Selection for Bonsai”**  
 10/21 7:30pm LP

### Monthly Workshops

8/19 7:00pm LP  
 9/2 7:00pm LP  
 10/7 7:00pm LP

### Workshops Series

8/21 **“Beginning Bonsai”** 7:00pm LP  
 8/28 **“Beginning Bonsai”** 7:00pm LP  
 9/18 **“Beginning Bonsai”** 7:00pm LP  
 9/25 **“Beginning Bonsai”** 7:00pm LP

### Marin Orchid Society

8/26 Speaker 7:00pm LP  
 9/23 Speaker 7:00pm LP

### Marin Master Gardeners

Tomato Tasting Followed by  
**“How to Create a Vegetable Garden”**  
 9/4 6:30-7:15 LP  
**“Designing with Drought Tolerant Plants”**  
 10/2 7:00 pm LP

### Marin Rose Society

Companion Plants in the Rose Garden  
 8/12 7:30 pm  
**“Roses, Pests and Diseases”**  
 9/9 7:30 pm  
**“Roses in Today’s Agriculture Business”**  
 10/14 7:30 pm

### THEATER

**Ross Valley Players**  
**“Driving Miss Daisy”**  
 7/11-8/17 Barn Theater

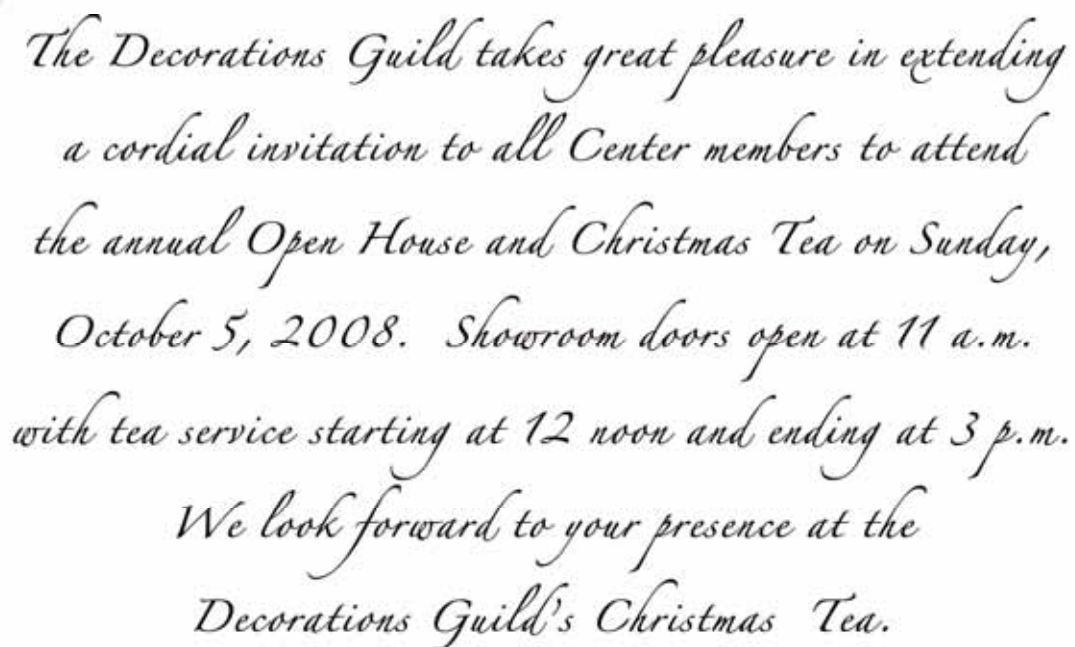
**“Moonlight and Magnolias”**  
 9/5-10/12 Barn Theater

**“Sabrina Fair”**  
 10/31-12/7 Barn Theater

**Ross Alternative Works**  
**“Last Call”**  
 9/13 & 9/14 3pm Barn Theater

### LISTING LOCATIONS

**AG:** Art Gallery  
**DG:** Decorations Guild  
**GR:** Garden Room  
**LH:** Laurel House Patio  
**LP:** Livermore Pavilion



*The Decorations Guild takes great pleasure in extending  
a cordial invitation to all Center members to attend  
the annual Open House and Christmas Tea on Sunday,  
October 5, 2008. Showroom doors open at 11 a.m.  
with tea service starting at 12 noon and ending at 3 p.m.  
We look forward to your presence at the  
Decorations Guild's Christmas Tea.*

MARIN ART &  
GARDEN CENTER  
Supporting the Arts, Horticulture, History and Conservation  
P.O. Box 437  
30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.  
Ross, CA 94957

PRSTD STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
San Anselmo, CA  
Permit No. 26