

# OVF NEWS



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Karen Andersen, Editor

## Welcome...

I would like to extend a personal welcome to all the new members entering OVF this year. We are fortunate to have this wonderful garden in which to share gardening experiences and labor that will produce the joy of flowers and vegetables, plus the friendships with your neighbors. Many members have made lifetime friends here and even marriages have occurred within the OVF membership. Your Board of Directors work very hard to keep the Garden functioning and your experience here a pleasant one.

Ed Mosman, GardenMaster

### **SATURDAY APRIL 10TH**

Community Workday 9:00 - 12:00

12:00 Potluck

1:00 General Meeting

and

**ANNUAL ELECTION**



# GardenMaster's Report

## BEAUTIFICATION

The next time you drive up the hill entering the garden, look left and you will see the transformation of the Rock Rose flower bed taking place. All the roses have been trimmed of dead branches and all the weeds removed and mulch placed on the entire bed. The next step is to plant a variety of native Southern California plants in the open spaces of the bed. Ned Bader (Phase 1) has drawn up a landscape plan to allow us to complete this project. It is volunteers like Ned who make this Garden one of the most beautiful community gardens in the Metro Farms System.

## NUT GRASS AND FALSE GARLIC

As you know, this is the scourge of OVF garden plots and I want to thank you for being careful not to put those weeds into our shredding pile of material in the compost area. Recently the workday crew found some trash barrels filled with soil and these weeds. The barrels were so heavy that they split apart when handling them. I am requesting that you take this material directly to the dumpsters. We just cannot lift or transport these barrels when they are this heavy.



## TOOLS

Members are always welcome to borrow the tools in the tool shed for use on their plots. Please print your name, phase and plot clearly on the tool log and return it on the same day. Do not keep the tools overnight. Please use the proper tool for the job. Never use a pitchfork to dig in the dirt, instead use a shovel or a spading fork. Pitch fork handles will break and the tines will bend. A pitchfork costs \$28. They should only be used for picking up manure, compost or mulch. Always return wheelbarrows when finished as there are only about 22 of them for approximately 300 members. Never leave them at your plot overnight. Return them to the inside of the shed to be locked up at night by the gate closer.

## FENCES

Please do not attempt to build a cage around your plot by putting wire, pickets or plastic trellis materials along your border walls. It is against OVF rules and you will be required to remove it. If you want a trellis on your plot it must be 2 feet away from any border. Inspections will be made soon and you may receive a citation. If you are not sure if you are in violation, check with your Phase Rep or the GardenMaster.

*Ed Mosman, GardenMaster*



*Boyz and their toyz: Phase Rep I Frank Harris and GardenMaster Ed Mosman inspect the heavy metal at the recent California Landscape Association show in Long Beach.*

## IT'S TOUGH WORK, BUT SOMEONE'S GOTTA DO IT

An enthusiastic crew of faithful OVF volunteers prowled the Landscape Industry Show at the Long Beach Convention Center on February 18 and 19, salivating over the latest tools and technologies presented by over 300 exhibitors. GardenMaster Ed Mosman, Frank Harris, Richard Nortman and Jack Schoenwetter spent a long, hard day kicking the tires and checking out the latest landscaping equipment to determine if and how OVF could use any of these gadgets of mass transformation in our gardens before everything sold out! Their past attendance at this annual industry show resulted in the eventual purchase of our large chipper/shredder machine. A big thank you to the guys for undertaking this assignment on our behalf. We look forward to seeing some big, new, shiny metal at OVF sometime soon.

## ONCE AGAIN WE WRAP IT UP AND TAKE IT HOME

*by Jack Showenwetter, Ph.IV, Plot F14*

On March 3, OVF was awarded its 9th consecutive WRAP award for outstanding waste reduction efforts by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The WRAP award honors those organizations who have obtained outstanding waste reduction achievements through their business practices. The awards ceremony and luncheon were held at the Raytheon Company in El Segundo. Other businesses so honored were the Raytheon Company, Chevron, Albertsons, American Honda, the City of Redondo Beach and 23 other organizations. OVF Phase Rep. Clark Sheridan (a Raytheon employee) provided directions and other pertinent information to enable Frank Harris, Ed Mosman and Jack Shoenwetter to attend the ceremony. All of the WRAP winners were congratulated for their commitment to the Three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

# FENG SHUI YOUR GARDEN

by Janice Norton, Ph IV, plot 63A

**A**nother Spring planting season at OVF. Perhaps an auspicious time to research a little Feng Shui for the garden. The literal translation of these words? "Wind" and "Water."

According to Suzee Miller, professional Feng Shui consultant ([www.fengshuiplaza.com](http://www.fengshuiplaza.com)) that portion of the earth that is ours was shaped by the power of wind and water. Our earth's size, contour, level, and overall appearance is continually changing and being transformed by the natural forces of wind and water. Feng Shui is the art and science of living in harmony with the environment. Suzee is careful to note that Feng Shui is not superstition, philosophy or a religion.

Feng Shui is also known as the "art of placement." The goal of good Feng Shui is to attract peace, prosperity, and good fortune by uniting time, space, people, and the environment as one integral entity.

The first step in learning and applying Feng Shui is to make an eight-sided figure called a *bagua*. Each of the eight sides represents one of the eight points of the compass (north, northwest, west, etc.) To print out a bagua template, go to:

<http://www.fengshuiplaza.com/artscience.php>.

Now, stand in your garden and turn the bagua until the eight compass points of the octagon line up with the actual directions of your garden. By doing this, you can determine what part of your garden governs each of the eight areas displayed on the octagon. For example: the south-east governs wealth and prosperity.

Your next step is to learn about the five elements. Everything in the world, according to the Chinese, belongs to one of the five Feng Shui elements, or energies; those being fire, earth, wood, water and metal. Each element features associated colors and materials to be used in the space you are designing—your garden, home, office, etc. These elements are believed to affect everything we do. According to Feng Shui, for example, the south side of your garden should contain the color red, which represents the element fire. Red flowers, red vegetables, red objects, you name it — the southwest is the corner for red. In fact, the south side of any space will influence your propensity for fame and fortune. The north side, the "career side," should feature blue. Consult the bagua for specifics.

There are multiple "schools" of Feng Shui—approximately eight popular ones are currently in use. The above summary represents a small and extremely simplified first step in exploring Feng Shui. Sources for more detailed information abound. Some books that may inspire:

*The Complete Illustrated Guide to Feng Shui for Gardeners* by Lillian Too.

*Feng Shui in the Garden* by Richard Webster.

*Feng Shui Garden Design* by Antonia Beattie, photographs by Leigh Clapp.

*Feng Shui in the Garden* by Nancilee Wydra.

*The Complete Guide to the Feng Shui Garden* by Gill Hal.

NOTE: Despite Feng Shui advice, no standing water (i.e. ponds, etc.) should be used at OVF because of mosquitoes. But, blue flowers in the north area would be a terrific choice.

## Edible Petals!

by Janice Norton, Ph IV, plot 63A

It's Spring at OVF, time to explore a few easy recipes with "edible petals."

### VIOLET PINEAPPLE SOUP

(serves 6)

4 cups pineapple juice  
3 Tbsp quick-cooking tapioca  
3 tsp sugar  
1/2 tsp grated lemon peel  
2 cups sliced strawberries or raspberries  
1 cup diced orange sections or 1 can mandarins, drained  
2 Tbsp orange liqueur  
1/2 cup fresh violets

Combine pineapple juice and tapioca, bring to a boil. Remove from heat adding sugar and lemon peel. Cool to room temp. Add fruit, liqueur, and violets. Chill. Before serving, add dollop of sour cream to each bowl and garnish with a violet.

### NASTURTIUM SOUP

(serves 4 - 6)

1 quart chicken stock  
8 nasturtium flowers, chopped  
8 nasturtium leaves, chopped  
1/2 cup chopped celery  
1 1/2 Tbsp chopped onion  
1 sprig of parsley  
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Turn down heat and simmer 6-8 minutes. Strain and serve immediately.

## The editor's desk...

**SPRING PLANTING TIME!** For our new gardeners, planting suggestions include green beans, carrots, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, melons, okra, onions, peppers, crookneck and patty-pan squash, and of course beefsteak, cluster, cherry and a vast variety of heirloom tomatoes. And don't forget sweet Italian basil to accompany them.

**YOU CAN GET ELECTED!** At our April 10th potluck meeting the following positions are up for re-election: OVF Treasurer, OVF Chair, Recording Secretary, Education Chair, and Lower Phase Reps. If you wish to run for any of these, please contact Ed Mosman, Jack Shoenwetter, Carrie Manaugh or Karen Andersen. Frank Harris has ordered brand new OVF t-shirts and sweatshirts. OVF fashionistas, place your orders at the Potluck on the 10th to make sure you don't miss out! I look forward to seeing everyone at this important meeting.

Happy Gardening.

*Karen Andersen, Editor*

## Thank You, Tom

*A big, BIG Thank you to Tom Givvens of the Marina del Rey Garden Center (located at 13198 Mindanao Way between the east and west-bound lanes of the 90 Freeway) for the generous contribution of all of the plants to be included in the on-going beautification project along the main driveway in Phase Four. Hopefully, they will all be planted by the time you read this. OVF members are encouraged to thank Tom for his gracious gift on their next trip to the Marina del Rey Garden Center.*

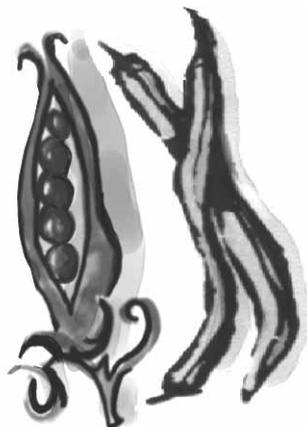
## OVF CLASSIFIEDS Help Wanted

### INDEPENDENT PROJECT MANAGER 800

**LUSTING FOR MORE REAL ESTATE?** OVF has many Independent Projects available. Most likely there's one conveniently located near your plot. If interested in some extra gardening space for the mutual benefit of both you and OVF, leave a note in the Independent Project Monitor mailbox in the small shed.

### NEWS REPORTER 900

**WRITER/PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Fame-seekers! OVF News needs enterprising photo-journalist with nose for news and need for community hours. Turn your hobby into a part-time career. Imagine your own by-line in one of community gardening's most prestigious newsletters. Future paparazzi, drop a note in the Newsletter slot in the small shed today!



## APRIL-JUNE WORKDAY SCHEDULE

### APRIL

10 Sat 9-12 Work  
12 Potluck  
1 Gen. Mtg.  
25 Sun 1-4 Work

### MAY

8 Sat 9-12 Work  
15 Sat 9:30 Brd Mtg.  
30 Sun 1-4 Work

### JUNE

12 Sat 9-12 Work  
12 Potluck  
1 Gen. Mtg.  
27 Sun 1-4 Work

**IT'S NO SWEAT  
TO WORK  
WHEN THE  
WEATHER'S  
COOL.**



*Choose a job  
you love, and you  
will never have  
to work a day  
in your life.*

*Confucius*

