

OVF NEWS



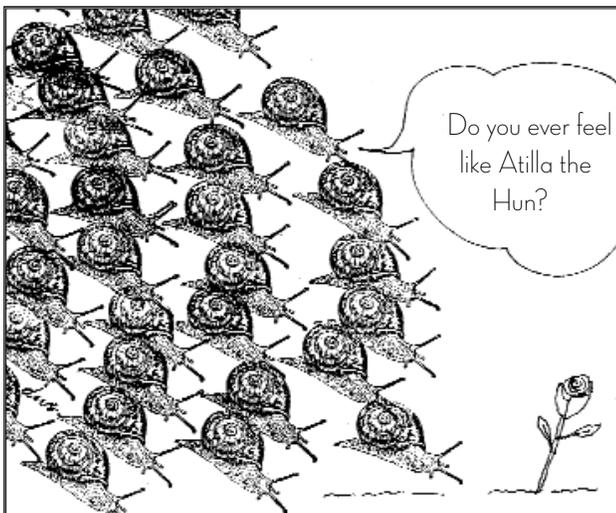
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January-March 2005
Karen Andersen, Editor

OF SLIME AND SLUGS

After my failed attempts last year to elect a new occupant into the White House, I eventually dried my tears of sorrow and gradually retreated from hibernation to discover that the world had indeed not yet ended. My rehabilitation will begin with the resolution to spend more moments in my garden contemplating patches of fluffy clouds, raindrops, the birds and the bees and the pregnant surprises of nature's inevitable gifts. I shall delight myself with fragrant sweet peas, slimy earthworms, and the deliberate path of single-minded snails. Or as Helen Keller, one of my favorite heroines reflected, "Sometimes I rose at dawn and stole into the garden while the heavy dew lay on the grass and flowers. Few know what joy it is to feel the roses pressing softly into the hand, or the beautiful motion of lilies as they sway in the morning breeze. Sometimes I caught an insect in the flower I was plucking, and I felt the faint noise of a pair of wings rubbed together in a sudden terror, as the little creatures became aware of a pressure from without." In this era of increasing noise, televised fear and technology, I refuse to become paralyzed with ineptitude or apathy. If Helen Keller could feel solace in the garden then surely I will find comfort there too.

— Karen Andersen, Editor



Special Rose Pruning Workshop
Hands-on with Expert, Nina Rumley
Sunday, January 9, 1:00 - 2:30
Meet under the Big Pine Tree

THE MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

Application deadline is January 31, 2005. The next training session begins on March 12 and ends on May 28. The class meets on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the fee is \$100. Call Gloria Mitchell at 323-260-3348 or Yvonne Savio at 323-260-3407 for an application or log on to <http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/garden/>

Tomato-bration

Saturday, March 26
10 am - 1 pm

OVF will host a spectacular tomato sale and lecture on Saturday, March 26 with esteemed tomato grower Barbara Spencer owner of Windrose Farms in Paso Robles.
Tomato planting tips and tricks lecture: 10:30 AM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

Community Workday 9:00
Early Spring Potluck 12:00
General Meeting to follow

GardenMaster's Report

STRESS An article in the recent issue of Organic Gardening magazine (Dec 04/Jan 05) referred to gardening as being a "stress buster". Working in a garden relieves stress and anxiety and is good exercise and promotes community spirit. I believe all of those things are true at OVF. The reward of harvesting your own hard work's results are very satisfying.



METAL SALVAGE PIPE OVF always has a need for old metal pipe to repair retaining walls in the garden. If you have any in your garden that you would like to donate, please bring it to the tool shed area and place it under the lumber cage. If anyone knows where a plumber might be re-piping a house, ask if we could have the old pipe and we would be glad to come and pick it up.

TREES A reminder that trees of any variety are not allowed to be grown in the garden plots. Trees in pots are not permitted either. This is a rule that will result in a citation if violated.

PATH CLEARANCE Do not allow your plants to hang over from your plot onto the pathways. This is a safety hazard for members that are trying to maneuver a wheelbarrow along the path.

CATALOG GARDENING Seed companies offer free catalogs which give a wide choice of seeds and very good details on the plants as well as great pictures and tips on how to plant the seeds. Nurseries can offer you only what they select for retail sale plants begun in pots. This is the time of year to order a couple of catalogs and browse for your spring planting which is not very far away. Here are some toll free numbers and websites that you can try:

Seeds of Change - 888 762-7333 - www.seedsofchange.com

Johnny's - 877 564-6697 - www.johnnyseeds.com

Burpee - www.burpee.com

Tomato Growers - www.tomatogrowers.com

Park Seed - www.parkseed.com

Stokes Seed - www.stokeseed.com

OVF is located in Hardiness Zone 10. Seed information in the catalogs will give you the zone rating for the type of plant you are interested in.

BAREROOTS This is the time of year the bareroot plants will be appearing in the stores. Rose bush plants are usually a good buy. Many patented roses are available at a fraction of the cost of a potted rose. Strawberry bareroots are another good buy. Sequoias are my favorite.

I hope everyone enjoyed a pleasant holiday season.



Ed Mosman, GardenMaster

Tales from OVF

by Anne Silver, Ph. 2, Plot B-38

Our garden plots form a colorful patchwork that blankets the hillside. Our history and our stories are also a patchwork, and each of us are the buttons of that quilt. As the editor of a book in progress about the history of OVF, I am inviting all who have a story to share your story...that means You! Most of the gardeners working the land here were not doing so way back at the beginning. And most of us will not be here working this hillside in another thirty years.

If this project interests you, I would like to encourage your participation so I can compile the origins of our garden as well as your thoughts about its evolution, progress or direction. Perhaps you could write a couple of paragraphs (including your name, telephone number or email) about anything you sense would be of interest.

A few ideas to get you started... How long have you had your garden here? If this is your first year gardening, when did you start messing around with dirt? Has anyone at OVF taught or nurtured your gardening skills? Do you recall any interesting stories about how the garden



"Lefty" shows his muscle assisting Ed and Richard set a telephone pole.

changed over the years? Do you enjoy participating in the sense of community we have here with other like minded gardeners, and if not, do you prefer a solitary gardening experience, perhaps due to time constraints? Are there any particular committees (e.g., shredding, composting, mediation, workday etc.) that you have enjoyed working with? Why? Are there any seasons of the year that you enjoy gardening more than others and if so, why? Is there something complimentary you would like to say about someone at the garden because of their kindness, cleverness or other skills that they shared with you? What particular gifts has gardening brought you that have enhanced your lifestyle?

I welcome your comments. Anne Silver, M.S., M.A.
T 310-313 3997, F 310-313-4066. Email: ovfanne@yahoo.com.

CHAIR SHOTS

I would like to start off the New Year by expressing, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, our extreme gratitude to all OVF members for your contributions in helping to make 2004 such an abundant, peaceful and successful year. From the wonderful meals contributed to our bi-monthly potluck lunches and hopefully soon to become annual bar-b-que, to the thousands of sweat-filled community hours performed each year, both from the twice-monthly workdays and so many invaluable workgroups, to the marvelous artistic talents displayed at events such as the tile decorating class and the donations to our Arts & Crafts Fundraiser, the "Community" of Ocean View Farms is truly an awe-inspiring phenomenon that would be absolutely impossible without you.

OVF was a very busy place during the fourth quarter of 2004. Some of the many things that the garden has been working on include:

RALPH M. PARSONS FOUNDATION

OVF finalized the acquisition of its Toro Dingo TX413 compact utility machine, affectionately named "Lefty," through the funding of a grant received from the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation. In addition to the machine itself, grant funds have allowed OVF to acquire two different size buckets, an auger to plant tress or place telephone poles, a scarifying tool to help weed the paths and a means to move the large chipper, greatly assisting in the garden's wood chipping efforts. OVF expects this machine to increase the efficiency in all of its composting programs. Finally, a small amount of grant funds went to construct the addition to the wheelbarrow shed for storage of the new machine.

Many, many thanks go out to those who contributed to this project. First, to a special friend of OVF, Angie Jacobs for donating so many hours in helping to proofread and edit the grant proposal before we ever sent it to Parsons. Second, to Garden Master Ed Mosman and garden members Bob Lloyd, Warren Miyashiro and Richard Nortman for all of their countless hours evaluating the various machines that were considered. Kudos, also, to these same four men for the time they have all spent learning how to operate Lefty. To garden members Dean Cleverdon, Jing Goa, Viktor Sonkin, Bruce Edziak and Santino Barricello, thanks for their able assistance in construction, painting and appointing the new shed.

Finally, I would like to give a special Thank You to Eric Dome from Turf Star, Inc., our local Toro dealer. Eric not only spent time demonstrating four different machines to us on four separate visits, he was also kind enough to seek—on his own initiative—and receive a very generous special discount from the manufacturer because of our community oriented, non-profit activities. Eric also went out of his way to

teach the OVF operators numerous tips and tricks to get the most out of our machine. (More about Eric a little later.)

EXPANSION

OVF is continuing to work towards its goal of adding 56 additional plots at the north end of Phase IV. We have been fortunate to receive the assistance of many wonderful people in this effort. First and foremost on the list are Field Deputies Sandi Sawa and Krista Pleiser from 11th District Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski's office. Equally helpful has been Joan Reitzel from the Department of Recreation and Parks. Joan has been a source of unending knowledge and support during our trials.

Last October we were able to clear the area with the wonderful assistance of Teague Weybright and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, who rototilled the entire field with one of their large machines. We also installed plumbing for the new plots at this time with the help of a large OVF volunteer crew under the direction of master plumber Larry Bolan. Once again, Eric Dome's action from Turf Star was monumentally helpful thanks to his weekend loan of a second Toro Dingo and a trenching attachment for our machine that allowed us to complete the entire piping effort in one day.

OVF has also been fortunate to receive a wonderful donation of 2 x 6 lumber from Anawalt Lumber at the corner of Sepulveda and Pico to be used in the construction of plot boundaries. Our final hurdle is to have some large trees trimmed by a city-recommended arborist. We hope to be able to do this shortly after the New Year.

Here's wishing everyone at OVF and theirs a most pleasant and prosperous 2005.

Frank Harris, President

OVF EXPANDS RECYCLING EFFORT

A great deal of gratitude goes out to garden member Scott Feldman (Phase III, D-52) for his efforts in organizing an aluminum can and plastic bottle redemption program. Scott has offered to take all of the soda cans and water bottles used at the garden down to a recycling center for refunds. The money collected from this project will go to the general garden fund. Started in June of 2004, the garden receives about \$10 - \$15 dollars per month from this effort.

Anyone wishing to help by bringing cans from home may do so by putting them in the blue wooden box next to the wheelbarrow shed labeled for this purpose. Please do not put ANY non-redeemable items (such as plastic milk containers or empty coffee cans) in this box. Those items, as well as all other recyclables (plastic flower pots, paper, cardboard etc.) should go into the city collected plastic bin also located next to the wheelbarrow shed.



A Springtime OVF Special... All About Roses

Roses

that have been especially successful at Ocean View Farms

- Abraham Darby (apr/pink, EN)
 - Altissimo (clear red, CL)
 - Bonica (pink, SH)
 - Evelyn (buff apricot, EN)
 - Fragrant Hour (salmon, HT)
 - French Lace (white, FL)
 - Golden Showers (lemon, CL)
 - Gruss an Aachen (pink, OG)
 - Ingrid Bergman (deep red, HT)
 - Intrigue (plum purple, FL)
 - Just Joey (pale apricot, HT)
 - Lagerfeld (lavender, HT)
 - Margaret Merrill (white, FL)
 - New Zealand (pink, HT)
 - Olympiad (red, HT)
 - Perdita (apricot/pink, EN)
 - Rose de Rescht (fuschia, OG)
 - Royal Sunset (apricot/or, CL)
 - Sally Holmes (white, OG)
 - Sexy Remy (shell pink, FL)
 - Stainless Steel (lavender, HT)
 - Summer's Kiss (amber, HT)
 - Sun Flare (yellow, FL)
 - White Meidiland (SH)
- HT/Hybrid Tea FL/Floribunda
SH/Shrub EN/English CL/Climber
OG/Old Garden

NINA RUMLEY'S FAMOUS ROSE COCKTAIL

Apply this soil conditioner (not a fertilizer) once a year in February. Mix and apply to bush 6-8 inches from crown and water in. If heavy rains follow, you'll need to re-apply.

For one bush:

- 1 cup Gypsum or Gypsite
- 1 tablespoon Soil Sulphur
- 1 tablespoon Chelated Iron (not Ironite)
- 1 tablespoon Epsom Salts (for new canes & color)

To prepare in bulk use 5-gallon bucket:

- 2 quarts Gypsum
- 1 cup Soil Sulphur

Mix these together, then add...

- 2 more quarts Gypsum
- 1 cup Chelated Iron

Mix well and add...

- 2 more quarts Gypsum
- 1 cup Epsom Salts

ORGANIC ROSE SPRAY

Helps to control powdery mildew and rust. Mix thoroughly and spray leaves (top and bottom) and canes every 2 weeks. Take care as it will spot blossoms. Apply spray only on cool mornings (no warmer than 75 degrees), not at night. Roses like dry leaves at bedtime. Remove all infected leaves from plant and surrounding soil.

- 1 tablespoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons Canola Oil
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar
- 1 gallon water

JANUARY- MARCH WORKDAY SCHEDULE

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

- 12 Sat 9-12 Work
- 19 Sat 9:30 Board Mtg.
- 27 Sun 1-4 Work

**GET YOUR HOURS
IN NOW WHEN THE
WEATHER'S COOL**

KNOW YOUR RULES & REGS

A United States serviceable-type mailbox securely mounted within and at the front of the plot is required to receive OVF communications. Your name and plot number(s) must be clearly marked on the mailbox. OVF will install your mailbox for you if you cannot do it yourself. If you would like help, please place the mailbox on the ground where you would like it installed and leave a note in the Garden Master's mailbox in the small shed.

TRADESMAN

350

OVF is always in need of experienced tradesmen, in particular plumbers and carpenters. If you would like to earn your community hours doing what you like, please leave a note the Chair mailbox.

