

# Clear Lake Trowel & Trellis Garden Club



Clear Lake Trowel & Trellis Garden Club (CLTTGC) is a member of Mendo-Lake District Garden Clubs, California Garden Clubs Inc. (CGCI) and the National Garden Clubs Inc. (NGCI). We were founded on September 21, 1955, by five women who wished to create and promote interest in amateur gardening in Lake County.

January, 2017  
Issue 5



## 2016-17 Officers:

### President:

**Dana Benjamin**

### Vice President:

**Debra Watson**

### **Maureen Braiser**

### Treasurer:

**Nora Gerrard**

### Secretary:

**Kathy Steinberg**

### Parliamentarian:

**Nancy Benkelman**



See us on Facebook



Safari West! Home to more than 700 exotic animals, the open-air wildlife preserve offers the experience of an African safari without leaving California.

## THYME WITH PRESIDENT DANA

### "Stroll" through the history of the evolution of our gardens!

January is already here as we welcome in the New Year! I hope all your holiday activities were the best in 2016! Our gardens are sleeping, but we can do some early planning for the coming year. The theme, Landscape Design, has many different components, but all are worthy of thought as we put together or re-design our gardens. One topic of great interest is the history or development of Landscape, Gardens, and Design. The development of Landscape Design from ancient cultures to the start of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was primarily for the enjoyment of the wealthy and nobility of the times.

Two specific components influenced the evolution of Landscape Design. *Environmental factors* such as climate, geography, topography, geology, soils, animal habitat's, moisture, and availability of water played a major part in the development of Landscape Design. Secondly, *social influences* contributed to the evolution of Landscape Design which included political, economic, religious, philosophical, mythological, scientific, plant exploration, and cultural interaction.

### Ancient Cultures:

**Egypt:** The earliest gardens recorded or known were from Egypt. Egyptians were the first to dig canals and ditches for irrigation. They also had a very highly organized religion that was an important societal influence in shaping the landscape. Imenhotep was the first Architect and founder of the first school of Architecture. Egyptians were the first society that demonstrated sensitivity to the placement of major structures and their relationship to the surrounding environment and nature, such as stars and the moon.

**Assyria:** Assyrians valued trees for their agricultural and utilitarian uses. Their rulers were the first to develop large wooded royal hunting parks with collections of exotic trees. Pavilions were built for leisure and temples for meditation on top of hills that appear to have been man made.

**Babylon:** Babylon, with one of the most famous ancient gardens, The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world and was built in 605 BC by Nebuchadnezzar for his Persian wife who missed her homeland. The city of Babylon had broad processional roadways connecting their temples to the "Ziggurat" and to the city gates. The earliest planning was evidenced in Babylon.



( "STROLL" Continued on page 2).

Dana DiRicco-Benjamin

## SUNSHINE REPORT

by Ann Blue

Nancy Benkelman  
Michelle Wisler  
Jo Shaul (broken hip)



### HOSTESS FOR JANUARY:

Nancy Benkelman  
Linda Waterstraat  
Helaine Christensen  
Betty Atwood

Soup, Salad, and Seeds at Debra O'Dell's home.

Thursday, January 26th, at noon.

Bring unwanted seeds you have saved, or whole /  
partial packets to exchange over lunch.

### "STROLL" (continued)

#### Gardens of the Conquerors:

**Persia:** In Persia walled, "Paradise Gardens", were developed as an idealization of the world with water as the key element. Their water came from the melting snow in nearby mountains where tunnels were dug at their base to channel the water for moisture & irrigation. Their gardens were extensive and included hunting parks, tented pavilions, and zoological collections. Images of these gardens were in miniature and woven into carpets and rugs. Interestingly, Tulips came from Persia.

**Muslim Influences:** Heaven or Paradise was a garden with shade trees, cooled by flowing springs and gurgling fountains. Water was an essential component of Muslim gardens. Water was also cleverly used for its acoustical properties in diminishing sounds and providing privacy.

**Spain:** The Moors conquered Spain in 711. The forgotten skill of irrigation was re-introduced to the country and gardens flourished. Gardens were walled, tree shaded, and laid out in geometric patterns. Walls had colored tiles that often repeated the colors of the sky and garden.







## Green Thumbs Up



Thank You to **Betty Atwood** for setting up the lovely Christmas Luncheon. Also, Thank you to **Claire Grieve** for the pictures. Don't you think both turned out really nice?

## Green Thumbs Up



Thank You **Michelle Wisler** for bringing smiles and 'Garden Therapy' to the men and women at the First Lutheran Church in Lucerne.

### LAKE KABATIN REDBUD ARRANGERS:

January 10th, 1:30pm, St John's Episcopal Church  
1190 N Forbes St, Lakeport

#### 'ABSTRACT DESIGN'

Abstract Creative designs have complete freedom to use plant material and other components in a non-realistic manner. See your manual for definitions and ways of achieving abstraction.

They are designs with a **dominance** of abstraction. Abstraction in floral design is the act of separating the inherent physical qualities of plant material and other components from the associated or naturalistic concept of them. All Abstract Creative Designs are creative, but not all Creative Designs are Abstract.



#### "STROLL" (continued)

##### Oriental Gardens:

**India:** Gardens had indigenous trees from the forests and riverbanks at the sites of temples and pilgrim shrines. The Taj Mahal was completed in 1648 at the height of Indian architecture and was built as a tomb for Mumtaz Mahal, wife of Shah Jahan.

**China:** The earliest Chinese gardens were hunting parks for the emperors. Emperor Wu-Ti of the Han dynasty built an extensive garden in Shang Lin. This garden included hills and ponds and was a miniature version of the empire with exotic plants and animals. Taoism, a principal philosophy and religion of China influenced the art of garden design.

**Japan:** Much of Japanese garden design was copied and redeveloped from concepts imported from India and China. Japanese gardens are more austere settings for the tea ceremony. "Stroll Gardens", often contained literal attempts to reproduce famous scenery. Many of the gardens had hills, valleys, ponds with an island, groupings of stones, and simple bridges as focal points. All Japanese gardens use natural materials, unpainted structures, a few cut stones, and plant material trained and pruned to show the essence of its form.

Next Newsletter will cover Western Civilization! I hope you enjoy this "Stroll" through the history of the evolution of our gardens!

## Clear Lake Trowel & Trellis Garden Club

www.clttgc.org

Return mail: President Dana DiRicco-Benjamin  
10940 Elk Mt Road, Upper Lake, CA 95485



The club meets at 12:00 pm  
on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.  
Scott's Valley Women's Club House  
2298 Hendricks Road in Lakeport

### Garden Club Affiliates

- **National Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
([www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org))
- **Pacific Region**  
([www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org](http://www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org))
- **California Garden Club, Inc.**  
([www.californiagardenclubs.org](http://www.californiagardenclubs.org))
- **Mendo-Lake District Garden Club**  
([www.mendolakedistrict.org](http://www.mendolakedistrict.org))  
District Director: Gary Bodensteiner  
Assistant Director: Rhea Pitchard



## Forget-me-nots



JANUARY 2017

- 10 **LKRA "Abstract Design"**  
(Tues) 1:30pm, St Johns Episcopal Church  
1190 N Forbes St, Lakeport
- 17 **Regular Club Meeting: Noon**  
12:00 noon Social Time / Refreshments  
12:30pm Speaker: Dr Susan Cannon  
"Bonsai Demonstration"  
1-1:30pm Flower Roll Call  
1:30 pm Business Meeting
- 26 **SEED SWAP/Lunch: Noon**  
Soup, Salad, & Seeds Swap  
Debra's O'Dell's home.

### REMINDER:

February 7th, Tuesday, at 10am  
Valentine Workshop  
at Claire's home.

Many members like to make their own cards, so now is  
a good time to get started.



Deadline for newsletter is the fourth Tuesday of the  
month (Tuesday following meeting date).