

# GARDEN ACCENTS

## Clippings

SUMMER 2011

## CALENDAR

### APRIL

#### "How To" Garden Fair

Saturday, April 16th

Noon to 4 pm

Everything from lawn care to using worm castings in your garden!

### MAY

#### Gardening with Cactus and Succulents

Saturday, May 21st 10am to 1 pm

Learn to garden with cactus and succulents from the Monterey Cactus and Succulent Society.

### JUNE

#### Using Containers in Tropical Gardens

Saturday, June 4th 10:30 to 11:30 am

Join us while Astrid Gaiser, landscape designer, shows us how to use containers in a Tropical Garden setting.

#### Floral Arrangements

Sunday, June 5th 11 am to 12 Noon

Learn how to make floral arrangements from your own garden with Roland Moreno.

## Oh No! My Pots Don't Match!!

By JoAnn Lubick

Do all of the pots in my yard have to be the same? That is one of the most commonly asked questions at Garden Accents. We try to explain to our customers that the answer depends almost totally on individual taste. The only hard and fast rule is when pots are flanking fence columns, or lining a drive or walkway, they should be the same.

I try to zero in on any magazine or book that displays pottery in a garden setting. Two themes keep popping up in the many articles I peruse. First, saucers are not the best things for outdoor plantings, and second, variety adds spice to a garden. I like to focus on a color, red for instance (my favorite), and use a variety of shapes and sizes in that color scheme.

Rules that apply to interior decorating can also apply to exterior decorating, such as using odd numbers and heights, and angles rather than straight lines.

If I am the one answering your question, I would say "No, use a variety of sizes and shapes". To me, Pots are works of art. They are hand formed and hand painted, as well as subjected to the whims of the kiln as they are fired. Just as we would not hang three duplicate pieces of art in our home, so too, we could consider not using three duplicate pots in our yard.



Don't miss the new pottery container arriving next week!

## GARTENZWERG

By Robert Vasquez

### Come visit our new arrivals of Gnomes

It's very common to spot Gartenzwerge (Gnomes) around Garden Accents. We have large gnomes, we've got small gnomes, we have Christmas ornament gnomes, and we've even got a gnome chess set. Traditionally gnomes are made of ceramic and sometimes plastic. Here at Garden Accents most of our gnomes are made of cast concrete. So, with most everyone catching the gnome fever lately I became very curious about the history of how they came about. Back in the mid- 18<sup>th</sup> century in the small town of Thuringia, Germany, the first Gnomes were created by Philip Griebel and were based on the local myths about how they would come to life at night to work in the garden. Later Gnomes became popular throughout Europe and around the world.

Recently gnomes have become a bit of a rage here in the US too. The Travelocity Gnome is a popular character on Television and at the theaters "Gnomeo and Juliet" has been a big hit. While most folks use gnomes to accent their gardens there are others who like to play pranks with them. In France the "Front de Liberation des Nains den Jardins" and Italy's "MALAG" the garden gnome liberation front. These guys take gnomes and set them free in the wild or sometimes switch gnomes into other people's gardens (funny huh). I wonder if Philip had any idea his little creations would have made such an impact on the world. Well, if you happen to be Gnome less or you're looking to add to your current Gnome Family, come on by Garden Accents as we welcome new Gnomes by Florence New Italian Art Co. Oh, and the word Gartenzwerg means garden dwarf.



# Sheri's Garden

by Sheri Sinni

**Hi fellow gardeners.** I have been overwhelmed by weeds. I try to keep my sense of humor but some days it's just too much. I use to weed first and then do my fun garden things, but now I have reversed it. I do the fun things first thing while I'm fresh and leave the weeds till the end of the day when I'm tired and cranky.

I'm very excited about our succulent garden here at Garden Accents. I've been growing succulents at home for a couple of years now and they are very rewarding. What I love about them is that some bloom in the winter, during dreary months. I read that hummingbirds visit the flowers, which I haven't seen yet, but I'm hoping. I have them on a front porch, which is protected from the cold and wind. I also have put some in the ground which have survived the winter here in San Martin.

Last year I had the opportunity to visit a shop in Palo Alto called Common Ground. Their web site is [www.commongroundinpaloalto.com](http://www.commongroundinpaloalto.com). I haven't had the opportunity to take any of their classes but they seem reasonable and interesting.

My husband and I took a winter vegetable class at Apple Farm in February and even though the class was expensive and quite detailed we did learn a lot about bed preparation, fertilizing, amending, pest and disease control. We were able to sow and take home two full flats of winter vegetables.

If you have any apple or pear trees don't forget to hang a codling moth trap to lure and attract Codling Moths. We didn't use them last year and the moths played havoc with our fruit. By using these traps you use fewer pesticides.

In my last article I mentioned a calendar you could purchase to garden by the Moon. Since then I ordered a book, *The North American Biodynamic Sowing and Planting Calendar 2011* by Maria & Matthias Thun. I highly recommend it if you want to give gardening by the Moon a try.

I read a quote the other day by Janet Gillespie, which she said "One of the worst mistakes you can make as a gardener is to think you're in charge." Truer words have never been said.



**CHICKEN UPDATE:** Dagwood is still eating her eggs, have tried everything to make her stop and have given up. If any of you have any advice on how to make Dag stopping eating her eggs please e-mail me at [sinni-gardens@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sinni-gardens@sbcglobal.net) We also enlarged their pen to give them more room to hunt for bugs and we have even let Dag out with Blondie and the Twin to romp together.

Until next time...Happy Gardening!

## Pasta Primavera con Prosciutto From Mara's Cucina

The Italian word, Primavera, means spring, so what better recipe to feature in our spring issue, than a recipe that celebrates spring.

2- Zucchini, medium sliced  
1 TBS Chopped parsley  
One bunch of Chopped asparagus (tender green part)  
One medium sliced onion  
1- pound of bowtie pasta  
One red or green bell pepper, sliced  
1 cup of sugar snap peas  
1 cup of sliced baby Portobello mushrooms  
2- Medium to thick slices of prosciutto-diced

½ cup of heavy whipping cream  
½ cup of grated Parmesan Reggiano,  
plus a handful extra  
3 TBS Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO)  
  
\*\*salt and pepper to taste/remember  
that the prosciutto already has salt



Take a large size pot and fill it ½ way with water and bring the water to boil. While you are waiting for the water to boil, take a nonstick pan, or a wok and add the 3 tablespoons of EVOO and heat the oil. Now, add the prosciutto to the pan and sauté for about 5 minutes or less, be careful not to burn it. Add the vegetables to the prosciutto and constantly stir fry the vegetables. Keep stir frying the veggies and prosciutto for about 5 to 7 minutes, or until the vegetables are cooked but still retain firmness when you bite into them. By this time, your pasta should be cooked Al-Dente. Drain your pasta and add the pasta to the wok, or pan, that you cooked your veggies in. Add the cream and stir well so that everything is well coated. Add the parmesan cheese and again, keep stirring. When you are done stirring everything, sprinkle the chopped parsley for garnish, serve and enjoy. You can substitute scampi or chicken strips for the prosciutto. Wine suggestions; Orvieto, a crisp, usually dry white wine from the Umbria region of central Italy. Buon Appetito and Buona Primavera a tutti.

## Spotlight on a customer



Here at Garden Accents our customers are very creative. For instance, Karen Walker from San Jose likes to find unusual statuary and paint them in vivid colors. Karen says, "After studying each piece carefully a personality is revealed to me." Karen used to work a lot with ceramics and finds that being creative is a stress buster for her.

Thanks Karen for sharing with us. If you would like to share something you've created whether it's a small statue or a whole garden please stop by or send it in.

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come see the  
selection!



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