



## WE'RE SORRY TO SAY...

With a wee bit of gloom and a certain sense of nostalgia, we are announcing that this will be your last edition of the printed version of the **Orchard Nursery Home & Garden News**.

As you know, we've always been "green", we're just going a little greener! We invite you to stay in touch with us via our electronic version of the Orchard Nursery News. All you have to do is go to our website, [www.orchardnursery.com](http://www.orchardnursery.com) and click on "Newsletter" and you can sign up right there!

We'd like to thank all the people who have contributed to the newsletter over the last 40 years and a sincere thanks to our Editor in Chief, Vern Sanders, for putting up with all of us missing deadlines and still producing what we hope you, our audience, thought was a lovely and informational newsletter. See you on-line!

**Orchard Nursery, Florist  
& Lazy K Gift House  
Home & Garden News  
January 2011**

## A look back at the Newsletter

*The history of the Orchard Newsletter goes back to the mid 1970's...*



My esteemed predecessor and dear friend, Tom Giantvalley, acquired a Gestetner mimeograph machine which allowed cheap and reasonably readable copies to be made and distributed. The mimeograph was a large, heavy, solid metal machine. Before a copy could be run off, a stencil needed to be made. Most stencils were usually typewritten on, and then strapped to the machine drum. A hand turned crank (later replaced by an electric motor) put pressure between sheets of paper and a cylinder as ink was forced through openings cut into the stencil. The entire process often went smoothly, but many times it turned into a messy business with torn stencils, ruined ink-stained clothes and smearing ink on the pages. This did not deter "Tomkat" Giantvalley. Issue after issue he hand-lettered and drew on the delicate stencil tissue bringing forth savvy plant wisdom

and tips. News about the Flower Shop, Lazy K House and Dry Goods department. Good natured humor moved the stories along interspersed with inspiring quotes gathered from his vast collection of botanical literature. It is hard for us in the digital age, when nearly everyone can produce a pretty acceptable printed page, to really appreciate the amount of dedication and love that went into producing those early newsletters.



Our next chapter starts some time later with the advent of "Desktop Publishing." Brought forth through a combination of technologies from companies such as Apple Computer, Aldus (later to become Adobe Software) and MicroSoft the next version of the newsletter featured a wide use of fonts and "clipart", and took on a more formal look. These newsletters were produced by our friends Dave and Karen Hill at DK Graphics up until the end of 2001.

*continued on the back page*

*From the Flower Shop*

*Tickle her fancy ...  
with feathers and roses.*



*This Valentine's Day discover  
the secrets of romance!*

*Don't forget:  
"Bonus Bucks" start  
March 1st!*

## FEATURED IN THE GARDEN SHOP

When it comes to maintaining beautiful lawns, nothing is more aggravating than crabgrass! Of all the turf problems that we get presented to us here at the nursery, crabgrass has to be number one (not to mention the one that is accompanied by the most frustration!). The good news is that there is a way to help prevent the germination of new crabgrass before it starts. Crabgrass primarily reproduces itself by way of seeds, but it requires several consecutive days of soil temperatures above 55 to 60 degrees for germination to occur. This makes spring in California an ideal time for crabgrass to infiltrate your lawn! However, if you act now and apply a pre-emergent in early spring, you can beat those nasty weeds to the punch.

That is why we at Orchard Nursery recommend applying Easy Livin' Pre-Emergent

**Weed Control  
& Lawn Food**

once in January and once again in February. Master Nursery Easy Livin' both prevents new weeds from germinating and feeds your lawn with enough nitrogen to green it up in time to enjoy your yard

in spring. Maintaining a gorgeous lawn is all about timing and consistency, and Master Nursery Easy Livin' is a great way to start your lawn right this year and avoid those headaches later in the season!



For more answers to your questions about lawns, weeds, diseases, etc., ask for Scott Lillich in the Garden Shop.



## McEvoy Ranch's Celebration of the Harvest

Anne Mercer, Lazy K Buyer

Hidden deep in the beautiful rolling hills outside Petaluma, lies the 40 Acres that is known as McEvoy Ranch. As you drive by the unassuming sign you would hardly know what beauty lies within those 40 Acres. Olive trees are the backbone of this ranch which is owned by the McEvoy family, old time San Franciscans of the Chronicle and DeYoung lineage. The Lazy K House has proudly sold McEvoy Ranch's products for the last year and a half. This includes their Extra Virgin Olive Oil,

Olives, Meyer Lemon Marmalade as well as their exceptional Body Care line.

My 30 years as buyer at the Lazy K House have taken me to many places. This year I was lucky enough to be invited to the "Celebration of the Harvest" at McEvoy Ranch. On two days each year the family brings friends and colleagues together to enjoy the fruit of the earth and the continued success of the Ranch. I began with a delicious glass of wine and a visit to their oil tasting room. I was able to watch the olives being crushed by a giant old stone wheel brought over from Italy to continue the Old World tradition of making fresh olive oil. There I tasted the Olio Nuovo their Extra Virgin Olive Oil, actually pressed that day, as well as their traditional Olive Oil. Both have won acclaim in the culinary world and have a truly unique exciting flavor.

*The Lazy K*  
*Always Your "Source for the Exceptional"*

After enjoying good wine, pizza hot from the outdoor ovens and delights from an Oyster Bar as long as the Lazy K House, we were then taken on a horse drawn carriage ride through the Ranch to a magical Dinner. Imagine one long elegant table, set for 200 guests, running down the middle of the olive orchard. The dinner, so fresh and seasonal began with local cheeses, olives of course, bread baked on site and McEvoy's own Olio Nuovo for dipping. This special style of Olive Oil is very green in color and is meant to be used quickly to capture its fresh tangy flavor. Garden greens with just the right amount of bite led way to a lamb stew which melted in your mouth, filled with unusual root vegetables. The meal was enhanced by a great diverse group of tablemates and rousing conversation.



After dinner we all walked back down to the main tents that had been set up for music and dancing, hot drinks and a dessert bar to rival none.

It was an amazing day and I felt very lucky to have been able to represent Orchard Nursery and be a part of the McEvoy celebration.

The Lazy K has received it's first batch of Olio Nuovo Extra Virgin Olive Oil and is now waiting for the 2011 Olive Oil to be released. It is due any day. Be sure to stop by and ask for a taste.



# Orchard's Annual Pruning Workshop

Presented by our own...

## Bonnie Brusseau

Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional  
and Rosarian

Workshops run from  
10 am 'til 12 Noon on:



- **Tues. Jan. 11th**
- **Thurs. Jan. 13th**
- **Sat. Jan. 15th**

**\$10.00 per person gets you lots of great information and an Orchard Coupon valued at \$10.00!**

Whether you are a novice or a well-seasoned gardener, this class will teach you how to prune your roses, fruit trees and deciduous shrubs like an expert. Many people attend year after year, either to sharpen their pruning skills or to simply garner more information on the subject.



**Pre-paid reservations required  
—seating is limited!**

**Please call in advance to reserve your seat  
No tickets will be sold at the door  
Call 925-284-4474**

# Orchard's Garden Calendar

## Garden Tasks and Tips for Late Winter

### Bareroot Season heralds the coming Spring...

• Bareroot roses and fruit trees are available for the next month or so, as weather allows. If you're just getting started in the garden, it's the perfect time to select and plant a rose garden or start a backyard orchard. With so many varieties to choose from, you're sure to find the one that's just right for your garden.

### Mid to Late January

• Prune roses, fruit trees, berries, shade trees and grapes. Do not prune spring flowering shrubs or trees, fuchsias or other frost tender plants. Make your second application of dormant spray on the roses, and deciduous fruit trees.

• Mulch helps keep soil temperature even and suppresses weed growth, so apply 1-2 inches evenly around shrubs and trees and in your perennial borders.

• Don't forget, even if plants aren't actively growing, plants still need to be watered if there's been no rain.

• Apply Iron to azaleas, citrus and gardenias to help keep them green this spring.

• Summer-blooming bulbs will be arriving in our Garden Shop. It's the perfect time to pick out the best varieties of gladiolus, dahlias, Asiatic lilies, canna lilies, tuberous begonias and many more.

### Mid-February

• Watch for "pink bud" stage on peach and nectarines, apply the last dormant spray for best control of Peach-leaf Curl.

### Get the jump on Spring Bugs

Spring brings showers, flowers and bugs. The best way to handle all this early insect activity is to nip it in the bud, so to speak. The early bud not only catches the worm, but also the moth, aphid and caterpillar before much damage is done.

Aphids love the soft tip growth just appearing on plums and roses, etc., causing distorted leaves as they open up. Apples, pears and crab apples should be sprayed with **Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew** (with Spinosad) when the blooms begin to show color to control Codling Moth (aka: wormy apples -YUK!) and repeat the application in 5-7 days. Spinosad also controls worms (caterpillars), thrips and katydids, borers on peaches, grapes, citrus, and many other edibles. Spinosad is ORMRI (Organic Materials Research Institute) listed and is very earth friendly.

### Wasps and Ants

Wasp traps set out in early spring can catch the queens before they even establish nests. Ant stakes or baits protect the back yard picnics and keep ants from spreading the aphids around your yard. A shot of **Green Light BT Worm Killer** (with Bacillus thuringiensis) will get rid of the caterpillars while protecting the honeybees.

*Have a question about your garden, home decorating or houseplants?*

**Ask the experts at Orchard. We're here to help!**

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My turn at the helm began with the January-February issue of 2002. Tom Courtright and the managers of Orchard had decided it was time to bring the newsletter into the modern age with full four-color printing. So, armed with Adobe Pagemaker and Photoshop and guided by the expertise of Pete Smyth, John Streeter and the staff of Allegro Copy and Print, we redesigned the layout, added color photography and began bringing you the Orchard Home & Garden News. Shortly thereafter we began making an electronic version of the newsletter, in Adobe PDF format, available on our website. Archived versions of some past issues are available there and more will be added as time allows.

Over the past eight years I have had the pleasure of bringing you stories and articles written by the folks right here at Orchard Nursery. When you read about Rhododendrons or Roses, or Dahlias, you were reading the passion and enthusiasm of the person here who also helped you when you visited the nursery. And, responses to occasional features like "What the Heck is That" brought wonderful enthusiasm from readers like yourself.

I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed bringing you this newsletter, but looking back on its rich heritage, I can say that I am very proud to have been a part of it. Thanks to Tom "TomKat" Giantvalley, thanks to Tom Courtright and the staff of Orchard Nursery & Florist, and most of all, thanks to you!

Vern Sanders  
Alder Grove Studios

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