

**CLAYTON VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**  
**2014 SPEAKER PROGRAMS:**

**Wednesday, February 12th**

**Speaker: Karen Rezai, MPH, owner of Footbridge Wellness in Pleasant Hill.** Karen is a Flower Essence Practitioner. She discussed and demonstrated how to make flower and herb oil essences from your garden. She explained herbal healing effects such as - reduced stress, reduced worry, or fear, and release of trauma or grief. Karen also had oil essences available for sale. Learn more about Karen and Footbridge Wellness [here](#)

**Wednesday, March 12th**

**Speaker: Matthew Levesque - Making Garden Art using repurposed materials.**

Bio: Matthew is the program manager for San Francisco's Building REsources, and The Red Shovel Glass Company, specializing in reusable building materials, and tumbled glass products. He is an experienced builder and remodeler, as well as an artist and designer. Matthew recently added author and photographer to his list of activities with the publication of **The Revolutionary Yardscape**, Ideas for Repurposing Local Materials to Create Containers, Pathways , Lighting and More, published by Timber press:  
[http://www.timberpress.com/books/revolutionary\\_yardscape/levesque/9780881929973](http://www.timberpress.com/books/revolutionary_yardscape/levesque/9780881929973)  
Matthew lives in Alameda Ca. and Grapeview WA.

**Wednesday, April 9th**

**Speaker Program: "Buzz" Bertolero, the "Dirt Gardener"** - spoke about general garden issues, new plants, PLUS we had an informative gardening Question & Answer session.

**Wednesday, May 14**

**Speaker Program: Shawna Anderson** - spoke about Container Gardening, and showed us how to make stunning containers / pots with "**Spillers, Thrillers and Fillers.**"

**Wednesday, June 11th**

**Speaker: Gary Lawrence**

**Topic: Bees and their many benefits** / Gary Lawrence, member of the Mt Diablo Beekeeping Association will bring a demo hive with live bees, posters, and beekeeping equipment, and will give a presentation on the activities of Mount Diablo Beekeeping Association and beekeepers in the area, and then will answer your questions.

**Wednesday, July 9**

**Speaker: Nicole Hackett, the "Garden Girl"**

**Topic: Drought Tolerant Perennials + Questions & Answers w/ the "Garden Girl"** / Past President of the CVGC, R&M Nursery: <http://www.randmpool.com/> Gardening Expert, and local "Garden Girl" Garden Consultant, spoke on the relevant topic of Drought Tolerant Selections for our gardens, with an informative Question & Answer "Jam Session" which followed.

**Wednesday, August 13**

**Speaker: John Valenzuela**

**Topic: Growing Rare Fruit in our Gardens / John Valenzuela**, President of the Golden Gate Chapter of California Rare Fruit Growers, Horticulturist, Consultant, and Educator - who studied, practiced and taught tropical permaculture in such exotic places, such as Hawaii, Costa Rica, among others. John will educate us on growing rare fruit in our gardens - sharing his knowledge of growing rare fruit plants.

**Wednesday, September 10 / Kathy Echols**

**Topic: Growing Vegetables Year-Round** / Retired Diablo Valley College Horticulture Professor, Kathy Echols spoke to us on how to successfully select and grow edible vegetables for each season of the year.

**Wednesday, October 8 / Kipp McMichael**

**Topic: Transforming A Small Space With Succulents and Creativity/**

Succulent expert and designer, Kipp McMichael taught us many interesting facts about growing succulents in our area, and showed us images from his yard (and others) on how to be creative with succulents in limited spaces.

**Wednesday, November 12 / Club Members**

**Topic: Club Member's Digital Slideshow** / Club member's will share and discuss their best flower, plant, garden and/or wildlife related digital images on our Club's HD video projector.

2014 Program Chairman: Al Malick