

2013 Clayton Valley Garden Club - SPEAKER PROGRAMS:

Wednesday, November 13th

Damon Collingsworth, General Manager and Propagator at **California Carnivores:**

<http://www.californiacarnivores.com/>

Damon taught us everything we ever wanted to know about **Carnivorous (insect eating) Plants.**



Damon Collingsworth is California Carnivores' general manager and propagator. He also maintains their webpage and takes all of their photographs. He purchased his first carnivorous plant, a cape sundew, from Peter in 1988 at a local flea market and he has collected them ever since. Later, he became one of California Carnivores' first full-time employees. A couple years after that, he got the opportunity to live in Borneo and manage the nursery at Malesiana Tropicals with Ch'ien C. Lee; from 2001-02. Damon has twenty years of experience growing carnivorous plants.

Wednesday, October 9th

Rodney & Janis Bergquist – from The Walnut Creek Photography Club demonstrated how to do **Basic Flower Photography.**

Wednesday, September 11th

Dennis Olivas, Orchid Expert - spoke to us about **Orchids**, and demonstrated how to care for orchids, and how to get them to re-bloom. He brought plants for sale at great prices!

Wednesday, August 14th

Bethallyn Black, Diablo Valley College Horticulture Professor & Landscape Designer - spoke about **Lawn Alternatives for our Gardens**

Wednesday, July 10th

Daniel Arcos, from the San Francisco Bromeliad Society, spoke about **'Using Bromeliads in our local landscape'**

Wednesday, June 12th

Sal Levinson & Andy Liu - From UC Berkeley - Spoke about **Butterflies In our Gardens**
They even brought live butterflies for their talk!

Wednesday, May 12th

Rose Loveall, of Morning Sun Herb Farm - spoke about unique herbs for the garden and kitchen.

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Wednesday, April 8th

Natalie & Michael Elola - the owners of **The Lucky Garden in Dublin**. Michael and Mitch taught us about hydroponic cultivation. The program included a demonstration of cloning and other techniques of hydroponic cultivation. Hydroculture is aquatic horticulture, where roots grow in water or an inert medium; in hydroponics, water and nutrients are pumped through the growing medium. The Lucky Garden has everything you need including genuinely helpful advice. The earliest mention of hydroponics, growing plants in a soil-less medium, was by Sir Francis Bacon in 1627. You too can do this, and they will show and tell you how.

Wednesday, March 13th

Fred Hempel & Jill Shepard— the owners of **Baia Nicchia** farm located in Sunol, California. Baia Nicchia breeds gourmet vegetables (primarily tomatoes), and grows a variety of crops. The focus was on tomatoes, peppers, squash and herbs and edible flowers. More information on the farm can be found on their blog: www.baianicchia.blogspot.com

1. Our Herbs and Teas: They discussed how they got into herb growing. Methods for growing at home and using herbs to make herb teas. They brought samples of our teas for everyone to try, and brought a white borage seeds for everyone (complimentary). They also brought tins of tea for sale. This is our tea website: www.greydogtea.com

2. Our Tomatoes: We breed new tomato varieties, particularly cherry tomatoes. We will discuss how to grow tomatoes at home, and in containers

Wednesday, February 13th

"A Garden of Mushrooms" by **Debbie Viess**. A lighthearted, informative, and beautifully illustrated talk about the fungi that live in our gardens and local woods, and their ecological as well as human interest roles.

Debbie Viess, aka "Amanitarita" is a biologist, naturalist, writer and artist, obsessed with mushrooms in general and amanitas in particular for close to twenty years. In 2006 she co-founded the Bay Area Mycological Society (BAMS!), a science-centric mushroom club, with her husband David Rust. She created the Pt. Reyes National Seashore Fungus Fairs, now in their eighth year, and has been a prominent field collector and organizer for the Pt. Reyes Myco-Blitzes and the ongoing Yosemite Fungal Survey.

In 2007 she gave an extensive, illustrated presentation on California Amanitas for the U.C. Berkeley Natural History Museum "Science Cafe," a national and local forum about science, geared to the general public. Debbie has taught mushroom field classes for the California Academy of Sciences, the Audubon Society, Albany Adult School and Pt. Reyes Field Seminars, and has lectured about mushrooms to audiences around the country.

She has written articles for "Bay Nature" magazine, was a contributing editor to "FUNGI" magazine and also writes for "Mushroom, the Journal of Wild Mushrooming." In 2009, she published an extensive, illustrated article on Amanitas of the East Bay in the Bay Area botanical journal, "The Manzanita."

Debbie is a frequent mushroom spokesperson for radio and television and has been interviewed by and written for newspapers around the Bay, and also consults on Bay Area mushroom poisoning cases, for doctors, patients and veterinarians. She is a frequent contributor to the popular [Mushroom Observer website](http://www.mushroomobserver.com), and has written for many online mushroom forums.

Debbie loves making mycology accessible and fun for everyone, and uses humor and great visuals to sweeten her science.