



LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE **Newsletter – December 2014/January 2015**

Los Trancos County Water District News

The District is planning in the early New Year a distribution of information about the future of the District. So, please expect a letter and its attachments, a schedule of community meetings and the District survey commissioned by us but operated by the respected public opinion firm, Godbe Research. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at

Have a happy holiday season!

Submitted by Claudia Mazzetti, LTCWD Board President

Gardening with Nature

When I moved into the Woods in 1959, the Vista Verde development had not been planned yet, Ramona Road stopped just beyond Carmel, and El Rey Road did not exist. There were fewer houses in the Woods, most intended for summer cottages, with only a couple more substantial retirement homes. Most of the people who lived here all year were Stanford grad students, for at that time, Los Trancos was the cheapest housing available in the mid-Peninsula area. My then-husband and I bought our house the same day we saw it--Mother's Day, 1959.

At first I tried planting tomatoes and other sun-loving plants, but swiftly learned that our lot was too shady for anything but natives. There were already some ferns growing (both bracken ferns, *Pteridium aquilinum*, and maidenhair, *Adiantum*), and one precious common or giant trillium, *Trillium chloropetalum*, plus a hardy ground-cover plant that bloomed in the summer, and survived everything. When El Rey Road was planned, I spotted several trillium in its path, and moved fast to rescue them. They all survived, and I now have several of the native maroon trillium--including one that I grew from seed (seven years to first bloom). They bloom in February or early March. We also brought in more ferns. I now have a wild rose, *Rosa californica*, which has bloomed for the last two years, plus two colors of wild iris, *Iris douglasiana*, a few globe lilies, *Calochortus albus*, and beautiful fritillary, *Fritillaria*, which bloom later in the spring. One clump of trillium and a blue wild iris are planted on the grave of one of my cats and, naturally, thriving. Behind my house is an enormous clump of dark maroon trillium, sometimes producing 12 or 13 blossoms.

Neighbors are invited to see my yard, any time from now through late spring, to see what's blooming--and to look at my water bill, which will amaze you by its low amount. Please call first so I can tell you whether it's a good time to see flowers: 851-1847.

Submitted by Autumn Stanley

Editor's Note: Give your household a holiday gift that keeps on giving for years to come: Native Plants. Now is the perfect time to buy and plant natives. They are an excellent answer to our California drought conditions which promise to continue and probably worsen in the coming years. Some local nurseries carry native plants and drought tolerant plants. Make sure they are not a fire hazard and are not invasive. Here is a list: Yerba Buena Nursery (all natives with great selection), 12511 San Mateo Rd., Half Noon Bay, 851-1668, yerbabueananursery.com; Wegman's Nursery, 492 Woodside Rd., Redwood City, 368-5908, wegmansnursery.com (best selection will be in Jan.); SummerWinds Nursery, 725 San Antonio Rd., Palo Alto, 493-5136, and watch for the plant sales by Santa Clara Valley Calif. Native Plant Society, Acterra, SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge and others. What a great way to avoid the crowds and enjoy your shopping experience!

Tricksters Came Out of the Night

It was a dark night when the tricksters descended upon my doorstep. They came in all sizes and all manner of dress, but they were all very well mannered. See some of their manner of dress at the end of the Newsletter. There was definitely a “critical mass” of about 60 tricksters. BIG thank yous go out to the Gebharts, Smernoff/Russell, and all those who helped plan the critical mass gathering.

Boo-o-o-o-...from the Neighborhood Tricksters!

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale

Ode to Dake’s Driveway

Oh, how I remember those delightful community picnics where people were drawn in to the half-circle driveway at Joan and Nelson Dake’s house to take up a glass of wine or beer or just to chat and sit a spell. The eyes could always feast on the scrumptious array of potluck dishes. The Mediterranean theme was a real hit one year. We would pack everyone into that driveway, sometimes exceeding 75 people. You could not help but bump into all your neighbors, or meet new ones, and share a delightful time. Nelson passed away a number of years ago, and Joan has now moved south a little. We are grateful for the many years that the Dake’s driveway, and the Dakes, welcomed us all!

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale

Neighborhood Notes

- A few **reminders for winter**:

- 1) Clean out those drains and gutters, especially those in the roads,
- 2) Cut the ivy from your trees to avoid rot,
- 3) Check wiring on any holiday decorations,
- 4) Trim dead limbs and trees before they fall on houses or roads,
- 5) Have a backup plan for power outages – check batteries on emergency lights and radios.

- As we gear up for the holiday visitors, be sure everyone knows **NOT** to put any glass in the **garbage**. GreenWaste takes our garbage to a composting facility and glass is a serious contaminant. Put all glass and ceramics in the recycle bin.

- **Glorious rainfall data** as reported by Gene Hunner to a very excited community: October - .6”, November – 3.5”, and season-to-date – 4.8” (and even more as I send out this Newsletter!)

Community Associations’ Web Sites

The web site addresses are:
<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>
<http://www.vistaverdepv.org>

The group e-mail list is:
VistaVerdeLTW@yahoogroups.com
VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Thank you, Jerry Jensen & Rob Kalman for maintaining web sites



