

WEEDPATCH

Missoula Garden Club Newsletter

January 2009

Greetings and Salutations to Members & Friends of the Garden Club

Our next meeting will be a luncheon in the Banquet Room of the North Reserve St. Montana Club on January 20th at 1:00. You may order off the menu.

A FEW NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT, LINDA

"We have two projects coming up this Spring. One is the Western District Meeting, and the other is the club elections. I have reserved our Church, The First Christian Church on Russell Street for the April 16th District Meeting. We need a volunteer to help with the food end of the meeting, perhaps just finding a caterer, setting up tables, getting volunteers to assist. I also need someone to find a program to be presented on gardening. Please let me know if you can help in any way with the District Meeting, as I need to present all information by the end of February. Everything needs to be prepaid.

The second project is that it is time to be thinking of new officers. If the nominating committee calls you to serve, think **Yes**, I will. If everyone takes a turn and does a small part, we can continue to be successful. We all have talents to contribute. Each of you is important. Happy New Year!"

JANUARY BIRTHDAY BABY

Joann Connelly - January 20th

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOANN!

Just a note, Linda Sadler fell on the ice at the Christmas Eve Service, and dislocated both knees, spending the evening at the Emergency Room. She also broke two ribs. Drop a card to Linda to cheer her up and let her know you are thinking about her.

This last year was a difficult year for many, let's hope and pray that 2009 will be a great one for all of us. Get Well Soon, Linda. We love you.

SOME EVENTS THIS MONTH

Jan. 31, Bozeman, Mt. Senior Olympics. Winter games/Nordic events. Bohart Cross Country Ski Center, 15 miles out of Bozeman on Hgwy. 86, 10:00-2:00, (406)586-5543

Jan 1, Big Fork Annual Flathead Lake Polar Bear Plunge, 2:00, (406) 837-2836

Jan 9-11, Great Falls, Mt. PRCA Pro-Rodeo Circuit Finals - 29th Annual, State Fairgrounds. (406)727-8900

Jan. 30, Helena, Micro Brew Review and Cool Dog Ball, Helena Civic Center Ball Room. 6:00-Midnight, (406) 447-1535

Jan 3, Lincoln, New Year's Poker Run, 10:00-2:00, (406)362-4140

Jan 31, Missoula, Frost Fever/Winterfest, Currents Aquatics Center, Over 10 Events, Hours Vary, (406)721-7275

Jan 23-25, Seeley Lake Winterfest, Annual Event, Parade, Bonfire of old Christmas Trees, Events for the Whole Family. (406) 677-2880

AMARYLLIS

To grow an amaryllis in your home, simply place the bulb in a clay container that is a few inches wider than the bulb. Fill with soil leaving approximately a quarter of the top of the bulb exposed. Water and place in a sunny location.

After about 6 weeks a long stalk will emerge from the bulb, and shortly there after a beautiful flower will bloom. It's important to have plenty of stakes on hand to give the flower stalk a little support because the blooms can become so large that they are top heavy and will topple and break.

Now once your amaryllis finishes flowering, and yours may already have if you planted it before Christmas, just cut off the stalk but leave the foliage. This will help reinvigorate the bulb so you will have plenty of blooms next year.

During the non-blooming part of its life just treat amaryllis like an ordinary houseplant. And then in mid-October cut back the foliage, put it in a dark place and stop watering. About a month later bring it out, begin watering, put it in full sun and presto, you will have a whole new generation of flowers.

Keep Safe: 8 Poisonous Houseplants

Houseplants help keep your spirits up during the winter months. But if you have children or [pets](#), take note of these common houseplants that are considered poisonous:

1. **Aloe vera** (*Aloe barbadensis*): Ingestion can irritate your large intestine.
2. **Angel's trumpet** (*Datura innoxia*): Contains toxic alkaloids that have caused poisoning and death in humans and animals.
3. **Croton** (*Codiaeum variegatum*): Chewing the bark and roots may cause a burning sensation in your mouth.
4. **Dumb cane** (*Dieffenbachia* spp.): Chewing on leaves can cause painful swelling of your mouth and throat.
5. **English ivy** (*Hedera helix*): Eating the leaves can cause difficulty in breathing, convulsions, vomiting, paralysis, and coma.
6. **Kaffir lily** (*Clivia miniata*): Can cause paralysis, salivation, and vomiting when ingested in large quantities.
7. **Philodendron** (*Philodendron* spp.): When ingested, can cause your skin to redden, become inflamed, and itch.
8. **Swiss-cheese plant** (*Monstera deliciosa*): General symptoms of poisoning are immediate and painful with loss of voice, blistering, hoarseness, and mouth irritation.

Enjoy your houseplants and [keep your family safe!](#)

Recipe from our friend, Jo Daniels

Toasted Almond Crab Spread

- 1 package (8 ounce) cream cheese, softened
- 1 1/2 cup (6 ounces about) shredded Swiss cheese
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1 can (6 ounce) crabmeat, drained & flaked OR
a good handful of imitation crab, chopped

Combine the above, adding about 2 Tablespoons of chopped green onions. (Chop 3 green onions. Add 2 now)

Spread in an **ungreased** 9" pie plate or oven proof pottery. Bake 350° 15 minutes or until heated through. Sprinkle with 1/3 cup of toasted almonds and the other chopped green onion. Serve with crackers. Makes 2 cups.

I think mayonnaise could be used in place of the sour cream.
Shrimp in place of the crab.

In Closing,

"Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up, wrinkles the soul."

Happy New Year!

Gloria