



*From our house to yours, have a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS***

### ***LOGC Holiday Party***

The December meeting is our Holiday party! This year it will be at the Flame Restaurant, Rosedale Center on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm. Each member pays for their own meal.

An email evite has been sent out, you can RSVP by clicking on the yes, maybe or no in the evite. If that doesn't work for you, you can email Pat Costello [cospat17@gmail.com](mailto:cospat17@gmail.com) Hope you can make it, the more the merrier!

Donations for Second Harvest Heartland can be made at the Christmas Party. For every \$5 donated, Second Harvest Heartland will be able to provide 18 meals to those in our community who need them most. And here's a link in case people want to donate but won't be at the dinner.

[http://www.2harvest.org/site/PageServer?pagename=howhelp\\_donate](http://www.2harvest.org/site/PageServer?pagename=howhelp_donate)

## ***Lake Owasso Garden Club***

### ***DECEMBER***

## *Presidents Message*

Dear Gardening Friends,

I usually love to wander Linder's looking for the spruce tops plus a variety of boughs to create winter displays in a big front door planter plus a window box. With an uninspiring selection at the big box store, I opted for an inexpensive 5 foot fir tree. Trimming off the bottom 18 inches of branches, I inserted the tree trunk into the big pot, cut up the trimmed boughs for the window box and placed the remaining branches in the big pot to fill the bottom empty space of the tree. I then decorated with the holiday sprigs of snow covered leaves and red berries I purchased at Linder's *final* fall sale. Linder's is still in my pots and my heart.

I am so looking forward to our upcoming holiday dinner at the Flame! Wonderful time to talk, laugh and share food together, cementing old friendships and developing stronger new friendships. We've had a compressed garden season, but wonderful garden tours and programs.

Next year it is time to design a logo for Lake Owasso Garden Club. See the Logo Contest article.

With warmth in my heart for you and our club,

Wendy Lucas,  
President of LOGC



## **LOGO CONTEST!**

Most groups have a logo and it's time for us to develop our own. It will catch eyes on the Cross Pollination web page and become an identifier in our handouts for plant sales, parades and flower shows. Sharpen your pencils and sketch our new logo. You know our club, think about a logo that displays our focus and mission. Don't worry about not being an artist; the sketch does not have to be perfect. Dick Flipp has a friend with the skill to create the final rendition of our logo. We need your ideas.

Submissions will be collected at our January and February meetings. You can submit one or more ideas. With each sketch submission enclose a paragraph explaining how the logo identifies our club. If you will be out of town, mail it to me or any friend in the club. (Wendy Lucas, 69 Jessica Ct., Little Canada 55117)

Who will be the judge? I'll be looking for a committee of people to narrow down the entries to the top three or four. The plan is to scan those images and explanatory paragraphs in the March newsletter so we can study them before we vote at the March meeting.

Besides bragging rights, a gardening prize will be awarded for the winning entry. We have a club of creative people who are amazing. I'm excited to have us create our own logo!

Wendy Lucas,  
President of LOGC



## *Secretary Report*

Minutes of Meeting November 11th, 2013

25 members present

Wendy Lucas brought the meeting to order @8:20.

The slate of officers was presented. Rose Diestler made a motion to accept the officers, Beth Oelke seconded the motion.

Officers for 2014

President-Wendy Lucas

Vice-President-Rebecca Patent/Angie Hoffman-Walter / Vatsala Menon and Irene Brink

Secretary- Lois Witzel

Treasurer- Evie Larson

Mark your calendars for the Christmas Party Dec. 9th, @ the Flame.

Kirsten Engelbrecht passed out sheets with the approved and actual budget for 2013 and the 2014 budget. Our yearbook cost considerably more than what was budgeted. Discussion ensued as to whether we should have it on line. A show of hands indicated a majority of the members would like to continue to have a yearbook in hand for reference, more on this to come at the Jan. meeting.

Also, our \$100.00 donation to the Muriel Sahlin Arboretum will be given in memory of Lorraine Schauer who for many years was a driving force in the LOGC.

Patsy Costello made a motion to accept the 2014 budget and Rebecca Patent seconded the motion.

It was announced that after several years Lois Paulat will no longer be decorating the tree @ the arboretum. Lois and her crew did some beautiful wonders with the tree in the entryway. Bev Montain has taken over and is looking for volunteers.

Also, positions in leadership still to be filled: Publicity, Sunshine and a Chair person for the Flower Show. If you are on the fence about volunteering, now is the time to step forward and get your feet wet. Meet not so old and new members.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Lois Witzel, Secretary



# *Plant "Imagination"*



***The Christmas Cactus*** (*Schlumbergera bridisii*),  
(A group of epiphytic cacti native to the South American Jungles)

While the poinsettia remains the most popular of the holiday plants, a healthy Christmas cactus in full bloom is a great gift idea for that special gardener. They are easy to care for and can be grown indoors throughout the year. The flowers range in color from yellow, salmon, pink, fuchsia and white or combinations of those colors.

## **How to get your Christmas Cactus to flower**

These plants are easy to grow but are sometimes difficult to get to bloom. A medium light intensity and a soil high in organic matter are recommended. Do not allow the plant to dry out, water when the soil surface begins to feel dry. The plant may be kept drier in fall. Any fertilizer may be used according to label directions. Cool temperatures or long nights are required to induce blooming. The plants bloom when given night temperatures near 55 degrees and day temperatures below 65 degrees.

Flowering is related to day length and night time temperatures. The temperature range for flower bud development is between 55 and 60 degrees for a period of six weeks. As long as the temperatures remain in this range they will develop buds regardless of day length. If the temperatures in your home get above that required range, the plant will need 13 hours of uninterrupted darkness each night. One can do this by placing them in a completely dark room, or by covering them for the recommended time, or longer, each night with a dark piece of cloth. Or just keep the plants in total darkness like a closet till buds develop. For holiday blooms this usually means in late September to mid October.

During flower bud formation, stop fertilizing and only water enough to keep the leaves from becoming shriveled. Once buds do form then you can keep the plant in normal light and temperatures. Keep it evenly moist and fertilize every other week with a mild fertilizer solution.



# *Taste That!*



## **Caramel Truffles Recipe**

TOTAL TIME: Prep: 1 hour + chilling

MAKES: 15 servings

### **Ingredients**

- 26 caramels
- 1 cup **Nestle Milk Chocolate Chips**
- 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1-1/3 cups **Nestle Semisweet Chocolate Chips**
- 1 tablespoon shortening

### **Directions**

1. Line an 8-in. square dish with plastic wrap; set aside. In a microwave-safe bowl, combine the caramels, milk chocolate chips and cream. Microwave, uncovered, on high for 1 minute; stir. Microwave 1 minute longer, stirring every 15 seconds or until caramels are melted and mixture is smooth. Spread into prepared dish; refrigerate for 1 hour or until firm.
  2. Using plastic wrap, lift candy out of pan. Cut into 30 pieces; roll each piece into a 1-in. ball. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour or until firm.
  3. In a microwave-safe bowl, melt semi-sweet chips and shortening; stir until smooth. Dip caramels in chocolate; allow excess to drip off. Place on waxed paper; let stand until set. Refrigerate until firm.
- Yield: 2-1/2 dozen.



The **new** website is up and running – please check it out!!

<http://www.crosspollination.weebly.com> Once there, There you will find a link to:

The **new** Lake Owasso Garden Club website: <http://www.lakeowassogc.weebly.com>

On our LOGC website you can link to our **Facebook** site

Or, you can start out at the new LOGC website and go to crosspollination! It's so easy.

### Our Google Doc

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AvDTcsB\\_CgstdE81dUVQNEFrBINUSDBWd250QlpGYWc](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AvDTcsB_CgstdE81dUVQNEFrBINUSDBWd250QlpGYWc)

### Address and directions for our meetings--

Affinity Plus,  
2750 Snelling Ave N,  
Roseville, MN, 55117

It is just north of County Rd C. on the frontage Rd. next to the old Fuddruckers restaurant on the east side of Snelling. Park in back and go up to the second floor. (Stairs or elevator) The room is to your left.

### Newsletter submissions

We welcome pictures (please title, include latin names of plants), news items, and commentary, preferably via email to [raflipp@comcast.net](mailto:raflipp@comcast.net) **Deadline** is by the **25th of each month**. I will try to get the newsletter out on the first of the month.

Also, remember our club's **Facebook** page. It is a great place to post pictures and share what's in bloom.

President,	Wendy Lucas	<a href="mailto:wendyalucas@comcast.net">wendyalucas@comcast.net</a> ,	Phone 651-482-8592
V. President,	Ron Kvass	<a href="mailto:rgkvaas@msn.com">rgkvaas@msn.com</a> ,	Phone 651-734-8480
Secretary,	Lois Witzel	<a href="mailto:jolowitzel@gmail.com">jolowitzel@gmail.com</a> ,	Phone 651-484-1885
Treasurer,	Kirsten Engelbrecht	<a href="mailto:kirstenenge@gmail.com">kirstenenge@gmail.com</a> ,	Phone 651-487-7552
Editor,	Dick Flipp	<a href="mailto:raflipp@comcast.net">raflipp@comcast.net</a> ,	Phone 651-484-4123