

A New Leaf

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It is two days before winter, and all through the foothills
Homes glitter with candles, lights and holiday thrills.
As I ponder the memories of this past year,
Those of my garden are the ones I hold most dear.

Hours spent there with my children, of course, top the list
For time passes quickly, and these moments ought not to be missed.
And those minutes spent alone, those are treasured as well
They were offerings of peace, a chance to sit and rest for a spell.

Many lessons were learned through perspiration and toil
As I labored to produce vegetative wonders from the soil.
The importance of planning and timing shone through,
Especially when available hours were few.

Be sure to find enjoyment in your gardening pursuits
Whether animal, vegetable, flowers, herbs or fruits,
And perseverance in the face of obstacles and doubt;
Well is that not what life is all about?

And the importance of hope, and joy of wondering what is to come,
Should not be overshadowed by worry or the naysay of some.
“Keep your face to the sun and you will never see the shadows,”*
I daresay you will see naught but butterflies and meadows.

In awaiting the harvest, patience is indeed a virtue, or so it is said.
And in fact every day I hope that by example I have led,
So that my children will one day be able to employ
Such forbearance that will bring them happiness and joy.

If you devote some hours to finding peace, by trowel or by spade,
There is plenty to be learned and countless memories to be made.
But the most gratifying fulfillment we, as Master Gardeners, have found,
Is that in teaching others our pleasures abound!

So as you think upon what for you (and your garden) lies ahead,
Whether you have plot or pot or field or bed,
Make sure you know where to find your local Master Gardener
For I am sure you will find us a wonderful resource and partner.

We are happy to be of service and very willing to share
Our knowledge and expertise to suit your every care.

So forge ahead ye merry gardener, or resolve to turn over a new leaf,
I think you will be pleasantly surprised by what you find underneath.

*quote from Helen Keller

The free Master Gardener Saturday classes begin again on January 5th, 2013. Learn all about the art and science of shaping and training fruit trees when Master Gardeners present “Pruning Fruit Trees”. The class starts at 9:00 a.m. and is held in the Veterans Memorial Building, 130 Placerville Dr. in Placerville. Also watch for an article in early January on classes and activities planned for you by the Master Gardeners.

On January 26, 2013, Master Gardeners offer a full-day workshop on Edible Landscaping, which will cover the history behind this approach to gardening, planning and designing, and planting and maintenance. The workshop will also cover harvesting, food storage and food safety. A fee of \$15.00 covers lunch and refreshments. Go to <http://ucanr.edu/edmg-reg> to register online or stop by Delfino-Bethell Agricultural Building at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to sign up.

Master Gardeners are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, by calling [\(530\) 621-5512](tel:5306215512). Walk-ins are welcome. The office is located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. For more information about our public education classes and activities, go to our Master Gardener website at http://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners/. Sign up to receive our online notices and e-newsletter at <http://ucanr.edu/mgenews/>. You can also find us on Facebook.

Do you have plant containers to recycle? Master Gardeners will gladly take them at the Master Gardener Office. Call before dropping them off and thank you for the donation.