



# Sacramento Perennial Plant Club Newsletter

JAN/FEB 2014

WWW.SACRAMENTOPERENNIALPLANTCLUB.ORG

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### JANUARY PROGRAM SPEAKER

**Taylor Lewis**  
**Cornflower Farms**

### *Removing Your Lawn and Designing a Garden*

THURSDAY—JANUARY 23, 2014\* • 7:00 P.M.  
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

Taylor Lewis graduated from UC Davis with a degree in Environmental Horticulture and Urban Forestry. He joined Cornflower Farms in 2010. Taylor spoke to the club at last June's meeting and gave us an overview of the many native plants that are specific to Sacramento. Taylor is back this year to talk about turf removal, site preparation including soil amendments and plant selection. Information that may help you convert an area of your garden into a more water-efficient landscape using native plants that are not only beautiful but are easy to care for and attract hummingbirds, butterflies and other beneficial insects.

### FEBRUARY PROGRAM SPEAKER

**Gail Pothour**  
**Sacramento County Master Gardener**

### *Edible Landscaping: Vegetable, Herbs and Edible Flowers*

THURSDAY—FEBRUARY 27, 2014 • 7:00 P.M.  
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

Gail Pothour has been a Sacramento County Master Gardener since 2002 and is part of the edible landscaping and vegetable garden team at the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center in Fair Oaks. Gail lives and gardens in Orangevale. Gail says about vegetable gardening, "It's always a popular topic, but now it's *very* popular. It could be an economic thing: people save money, or they may be more concerned about what they're eating." Gail will talk about edible landscaping, the practice of including vegetable, herbs and edible flowers among your ornamentals. She will give us tips on preparing the soil, cultivating and harvesting. There are many vegetables and flowers that we can enjoy eating and will add beauty to our gardens.

\*Remember there are five Thursdays in January; we meet on the fourth Thursday.

## Calendar

### January 15

SPPC Board Meeting  
**Carol Meining** (916-967-1018)  
As always, board meetings are open to all members. Meetings begin at 5 p.m. and start with a potluck dinner—informative and delicious.

### January 18

Pruning Workshop  
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center  
11549 Fair Oaks Blvd,  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628  
(916-875-6913)  
9 a.m. – Noon

### January 23

January SPPC Meeting  
*Removing Your Lawn  
and Designing a Garden*  
Shepard Garden and Arts Center  
7 p.m.

### January 25

*Turn, Turn, Turn: Advanced  
Backyard Composting Workshop*  
UC Cooperative Extension  
4145 Branch Center Rd,  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
(916-875-6913)  
8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### February 1

*The Wonders of Working Worms:  
From Bin to Harvest*  
UC Cooperative Extension  
4145 Branch Center Rd,  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
(916-875-6913)  
8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### February 22

Open Garden  
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center  
11549 Fair Oaks Blvd,  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628  
(916-875-6913)  
9 a.m. – Noon

### February 27

February SPPC Meeting  
*Edible Landscaping: Vegetable,  
Herbs and Edible Flowers*  
Shepard Garden and Arts Center  
7 p.m.

## President's Message

Saul Wiseman

I am proud to announce this year's guest speaker at our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Vendor Sale on Saturday, March 29, 2014.

Amigo Bob Cantisano is one of the most widely experienced and influential figures in California organic agriculture and internationally recognized pioneer in the modern organic farming revolution. He's been farming organically since 1974 and is a managing partner of Heaven on Earth Farm on the San Juan Ridge of the Sierra foothills. He is president of Organic Ag Advisors, founded in 1988.

He is also the founder of the Felix Gillet Institute, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to identifying, preserving, and propagating the best of the edible and ornamental perennials still thriving in the mining camps, farms, homesteads and towns of the Sierra and elsewhere. Amigo Bob will talk about Felix Gillet, considered by Cantisano as the father of perennial agriculture in California and the Pacific Northwest, and, of course, the Felix Gillet Institute.

Beginning in 1871, Felix Gillet, of Nevada City, California, imported, bred, and introduced most of the plants that comprise the foundation of California and Pacific Northwest perennial fruit, grapes, and nuts.

Many of his introductions are still the leaders of their industry, while others, then widely planted, provided the genetics for further breeding that led to today's popular varieties.

Amigo Bob Cantisano is one of my horticultural heroes.

### Share Your Garden and Tour Photos

SPPC webmaster Alice Bowles, would like to upload photos of member's gardens and garden tours. She needs up to eight photos of which she could pick five or six. For garden tour photos, include the name of the garden in your e-mail. For member's gardens, please include, if possible, a small photo of the owner to accompany the garden photos. Photos should have captions and if a particular plant is featured, include the common name, and/or the genus if it is known.

Because of size restrictions with Alice's e-mail, please send one or two photos at a time to [chefambatt.net@att.net](mailto:chefambatt.net@att.net) with "SPPC" in the subject line. The ideal pixel size of each photo is 800 x 600.

If you have questions, contact Alice at 916-212-3878; or at the e-mail address shown above.



An online version of this newsletter with color photographs can be viewed at [www.sacramento-perennial-plant-club.org](http://www.sacramento-perennial-plant-club.org)

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# Sacramento Perennial Plant Club Calendar—2014

## January

**January 23**, Thursday, 7 pm, SG&AC (remember January has five Thursdays, we meet on the fourth)  
Taylor Lewis, Cornflower Farms  
*Removing Your Lawn and Designing a Garden*

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## January or February

Propagation Workshops (weather permitting; dates and places to be announced)

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## February

**February 27**, Thursday, 7 pm, SG&AC  
Gail Pothour, Sacramento County UC Master Gardener  
*Edible Landscaping: Vegetables, Herbs and Edible Flowers*

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## March

No meeting

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**March 19**, Wednesday, bus leaves SG&AC at 7:30 am  
Bus Trip to San Francisco Flower and Garden Show  
(open to nonmembers)

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**March 22–23**, Saturday and Sunday, SG&AC  
Annual Spring Plant Sale (set-up on Friday, March 21)

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**March 29**, Saturday, 9 am to 3 pm, SG&AC  
13<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant & Garden Vendor Sale  
Speaker: Amigo Bob Cantisano, Organic Farm Advisor  
*Felix Gillet: The Father of California Perennial Agriculture*

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## April

**April 12**, Saturday, Broadway Cemetery, 9:30 am – 2 pm  
Spring Garden Tour of Sacramento Historic City Cemetery—  
Hamilton Square, Heritage Rose Gardens, Native Plant  
Gardens

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**April 24**, Thursday, 7 pm, SG&AC  
Kevin Marini, Placer County UC Master Gardener  
*Compost Tea: How to Make It and Use It*

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**April or May**, Saturday (details to be announced)  
Garden Tour: Land Park Gardens

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## May

**May 3**, Saturday (details to be announced)  
Garden Tour: Folsom and Orangevale Gardens

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**Mid- to Late-May** (weekday date and time to be announced)  
Nursery Tour: Dragonfly Peony Farm, Wilseyville

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**May 22**, Thursday, 7 pm, SG&AC (remember May has five  
Thursdays, we meet on the fourth)  
Jan Hedman: Photographer  
*Photographing Your Flowers and Garden*

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## June

**June 26**, Thursday, 7 pm, SG&AC  
Carolyn Singer—Author, Garden Designer and Horticulturist  
(topic to be announced)

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## June

Garden or nursery tour (details to be announced)

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## July

No meeting

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**July 26**, Saturday (details to be announced)  
Garden Tour: Lake of the Sky Garden Club—North Lake Tahoe  
(<http://lakesky.homestead.com/>)

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## August

No meeting

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## September

**September 25**, Thursday, 7 pm, SG&AC  
Derick Pitman: “Mr. Impatiens”  
*Tender Plants Can Survive Outdoors*

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Late September—Early October  
Potluck Picnic (details to be announced)

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## October

**October 4–5**, Saturday and Sunday, SG&AC  
Annual Fall Plant Sale Benefit for the Shepard Garden  
and Art Center

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**October 23**, Thursday, 7 pm, SG&AC (remember October  
has five Thursdays, we meet on the fourth)  
Linda Knoles  
*Gardens of France*

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## November

No meeting—Happy Thanksgiving

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## December

No meeting—Merry Christmas

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**December** (date to be announced), 7 pm, SG&AC  
Holiday Potluck Dinner

**Additional garden tour and workshop  
information will be included on our web site  
[www.sacramento perennial plant club.org](http://www.sacramento perennial plant club.org)  
and in future newsletters.**

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The Sacramento Perennial Plant Club meets the fourth Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. (off Business 80/Capitol Freeway/northeast corner of McKinley Park). Non-members are welcome to attend our evening lecture meetings; however, garden tours are open only to SPPC members. SPPC Web site and bi-monthly newsletters will provide details regarding lectures and direction to tours.

# Our World of Wine and Roses

by Barbara Lane-Piert

WHY DO FLOWERS, ESPECIALLY ROSES, seem to often share the same verbal space as wine? Maybe we gardeners are the lucky ones who appreciate the finer things in life, and yes, they are almost free. Wine has fragrance, substance and beauty just like the bloom of the rose. It loves to be contained appropriately. An expensive wine in a plastic glass is not savored, but the reasonable wine, bought on sale, if placed in an exquisite glass pleases all our senses. A fruity and superb merlot poured in a large bowl on a long, long stem, or a sweet, full-bodied dessert wine in a small bowl on a long, long stem or a crisp, fresh, white wine in grandmother's etched crystal.....mmm so good. The rose can easily be compared, since it, like our wine loves the right container.

Roses, like wine in plastic, can be planted in the middle of the lawn (my first mistake), in hard clay, Rancho Cordova hardpan, watered infrequently, never fertilized and they will still live and still give us some joy. The rose, like the wine in crystal, if placed appropriately in the garden, in the right container, or the right space, will reward you endlessly. To be forever happy with your roses, first must come the right selection. That beautiful apricot or pink rose bought at a local store may not be disease resistant but if you take your time, investigate; call consulting rosarians (a list is on the Sac Rose Society: <http://www.sactorose.org/sacramentorosesociety/>), study the catalogues and choose wisely, your rose will be the envy of all.

Long ago, and far away, I sprayed every 10 days for disease, insects, etc... Now only dormant spray for overwintering fungal disease and my roses make me happy. Remember if you spray for insects all those beneficials go, along with the aphids, etc. No more praying mantis and ladybugs. We are all far too busy to have additional stresses in our lives so simplify your gardening chores... no spraying, or very little.

Sun is essential for the rose, select only a sunny site. At least, the very least, six hours of sun a day...the more the better. Roses love to drink, not wine like us, but

Article reprinted from the January/February 2009 SPPC Newsletter.

*Barbara Lane-Piert has belonged to the SPPC for many years; served as secretary for 6+ years and is now on the speakers and tours committee. She has also been a member of the Sacramento Rose Society for over 25 years and is a consulting rosarian and a rose show judge.*



water and more water. Just as red wine, or any wine for that matter, in moderation, is

good for our bodies and our souls so fertilizer will keep our roses in top form.

If you do not have a rose garden but long for one I will make it easy for you. Select that sunny spot in the garden, cover the area of grass with newspaper (in the fall preferably) surround with rocks or bricks. Square or oblong space is easier but round works equally as well, cover the space with gypsum, amendments (well composted manure, good topsoil, some alfalfa) and let it all overwinter. When spring arrives the grass will have died then you can rent or borrow a tiller, or hire or borrow a strong-armed person with a shovel and turn it all over. You now have the ideal rose bed and it can grow the roses. You have chosen wisely, your roses are disease resistant and now all they need is occasional fertilizer, lots of water and sun and many of your smiles.

Many of you have little space and your roses will need to be in a bought container. No worries, your life will be very easy. Buy good soil, make sure the size of the container is appropriate for the size of the rose (consulting rosarians can help here) and in she goes. Your rose will need watering daily and twice daily when 100 plus while in a container. Fertilizer needs to be added a little more often than roses in the ground but buy extended release fertilizer and the next three months are covered. A little extra doesn't hurt when and if you have the time. If your space is just a sunny balcony the rose can still be your joy. The miniature and miniflora roses are just as gorgeous as their larger sisters; they can be placed in a smaller container, and will bloom as often, if not more often.

Perhaps you have a garden full of sun loving perennials but would like to try a rose or roses. There are so many choices that mix well...the heritage roses, the Austin roses, any rose with few petals (single) that grow like shrubs will give sparkle to your flower beds. Hopefully, some of us can have open gardens this coming year and we can see the results of our endeavors and share advice on all our blooms as well as roses...Cheers to all your rosey days.....Barbara

SACRAMENTO PERENNIAL PLANT CLUB'S 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
SPONSORED BUS TRIP TO THE

# San Francisco Flower and Garden Show

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014

BUS LEAVES AT 7:30 AM • LEAVES SHOW AT 4 PM

COST: \$50.00 PER PERSON

Thousands of flowers and plants, inspiring gardens, free seminars for all gardening levels, shopping from greenhouses to garden tools, bulbs to botanical arts, outdoor living, Bonsai, orchids, Ikebana displays and much more

Bus will depart from the Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento (REAR ENTRANCE)

Snack will be served. We should arrive with plenty of time to browse before the first seminar starts. Show opens at 10 a.m. You can pack a lunch or buy it there.

The \$50.00 fee includes the ticket to the show, a few snacks, and the bus ride that delivers you right to the entrance. THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM FOR PURCHASES TO BE CARRIED HOME.

This bus tour is open to everyone, so tell your friends and invite them along! Friends and relaxed conversation on the bus, no driving or parking concerns, and **ample room to bring home garden goodies!**

FOR SHOW INFORMATION, INCLUDING SEMINARS & EXHIBITORS, VISIT THEIR WEB SITE  
<http://www.sfgardenshow.com>

CUT ALONG LINE AND SEND WITH **CHECK MADE OUT TO: PERENNIAL PLANT CLUB**

Mail to: Linda Hax, 4413 The Court, Sacramento, CA 95821 • Phone: 916-481-9707



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014

SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW, SAN MATEO CONVENTION CENTER

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_



## Resolutions 2014

My gardening resolution is to monitor the temperature of my compost piles more closely, and turn accordingly. Another resolution is to replace thirsty plants with ones needing less water.

*Roberta Hopkins*

My resolution is to get at least **One!**—garden art project done with the club this year.

*Beverly Shilling*

Resolution: To enjoy gardening and my garden this year.

*Janice Sutherland*

I have resolved ... to do a better job of keeping up with the weekly clean up in the yard. Just a little attention goes a long way, and keeps the mess from getting way out of hand. And when working in the yard, to stop gardening BEFORE it starts to hurt.

*Jane Thompson*

I'd never, ever plant *Gaura* 'Siskiyou Pink' again. It was the weediest thing and reseeded freely!

*Alice Volkoff*

When to prune hydrangeas is mostly a matter of convenience. We at *Hydrangeas Plus* have pruned both in the fall and early spring and had good results either way. It does seem that the later and the more harshly you prune that fewer flower blooms can be expected the next season. This is because most hydrangeas bloom on "old" wood. With young plants, be sure to prune enough growth to form them into a good "shape" and no more. This is generally 10 to 20 percent of the growth.

Unlike many of your other flowering bushes (roses and buddleia), hydrangeas should not be harshly pruned in the spring. Most hydrangea varieties bloom on old wood and if you cut too much, you won't get any blooms. We recommend fall pruning after blooming is done. This allows for some active growth before the plant goes dormant.

If you miss fall pruning, you can still prune in the spring. Once your plant starts to leaf out and your last hard frost is about two weeks past, you can see the leaf nodes beginning to form. Count back from the end of the plant such that you have at least three fat and healthy leaf nodes forming. Prune right above the third one. You may want to wait until leaves are starting to show before you prune your macrophyllas so you don't prune too much.

The *Paniculata* and *Arborescens* varieties bloom on new wood so you may cut them for size every year, spring or fall, whatever is most convenient for you.

### More Pruning Tips

Newly planted hydrangeas need not be pruned except to shape into a shrub. Once established, hydrangeas can be pruned more severely to maintain height as described below.

You may prune in the fall after blooming or in the spring after the hard frosts are over. Remember, the later you prune and the more drastically you prune, the fewer blooms you'll have. Prune to the first leaf node of this year's growth as shown in Figure 1.

Cut 1/2" to 1" above a budding node at a 45 degree angle as shown in Figure 2. These buds will be the new leaves and blooms of your hydrangea. If you live in an area that is prone to spring frost, protect these buds with bed sheets or frost cloth (a light felt) on nights that frost is expected.

Established hydrangeas tend to have branches that die back every year. These are completely woody branches inside the hydrangea. Cut up to a dozen of these branches down to the ground as shown in Figure 3 to spur new growth at the base.

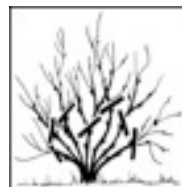


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Help Needed for Vendor Sale

This event will be held at the SG&AC on March 29, 2014. Helpers are needed for various jobs. To help set up on Friday, March 28, call **Bobby Frieze** (383-8054). Also on that Friday, we'll set up our display of "What's Blooming in Our Gardens." To help, call **Daisy Mah** (446-1768). To help with publicity or refreshments for the vendors, call **Noelle Anderson** (731-4648).

### Used Garden Odds and Ends Needed for Fall Plant Sale

Before you toss that old garden tool, you can choose to recycle it instead! Our Fall Plant Sale will include used gardening items, tools, and décor. If you have any items to donate, contact:

**Beverly Shilling**,  
[b\\_shilling@sbcglobal.net](mailto:b_shilling@sbcglobal.net) or

**Jane Thompson**,  
[artjane7850@sbcglobal.net](mailto:artjane7850@sbcglobal.net)

Article and illustrations courtesy of "Hydrangeas Plus" <http://hydrangeasplus.com/>

# Sacramento Perennial Plant Club Membership–2014

**Carol Meininger, Membership Chair**

**ALL MEMBERS—PLEASE FILL OUT THE ADDRESS FORM COMPLETELY**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY

STATE

ZIP

- You will be included in our yearly roster unless you notify us otherwise. YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_
- Indicate how you would like the club newsletter sent to you: E-MAIL\_\_\_ MAIL\_\_\_

**Yearly Dues** \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 Individual Membership  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Joint Membership

Cash\_\_\_\_\_ Check\_\_\_\_\_ Make checks out to PERENNIAL PLANT CLUB.

Send to: Perennial Plant Club, 4928 Forrestal Street, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Phone (916) 967-1018, E-mail: [sacppc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sacppc@sbcglobal.net)

**Dear SPPC member,**

Please consider involving yourself more this coming year to make sure all of the interesting and fun tours, talks, and activities continue. Many of these tasks can be shared—the more the merrier and less time consuming for all. Please take the time to add any suggestions you have for your club.

**Indicate your interest in helping in one or two of the following ways:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Hospitality                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Work with the Vendor Sale planning group   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden and Arts Center plant sales           | <input type="checkbox"/> Bring in monthly meeting goodies           |
| Spring ___ Fall___  | (Madeleine Mullins – 455-7815)                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer skills (specify)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at Hamilton Square Garden        |
| _____   | (Sharon Patrician – 455-8166)                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write articles for the newsletter            | <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in making garden projects       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work with garden tour planning group         | <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in learning to propagate plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work with bus trips                          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work with speaker and program planning group | Other skills or interests: _____                                    |
|   | _____   |

**Club activities I most enjoy:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Suggestions for speakers, tours, gardens to visit, etc.** \_\_\_\_\_



**SPPC Newsletter**  
Cheryl McDonald  
2743 San Luis Court  
Sacramento, CA 95818

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*Blooming hellebore in the WPA Rock Garden*