



Sacramento Perennial Plant Club NEWSLETTER

Founded 1988

www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.com

Jan/ Feb 2010

Contents

Upcoming Programs - page 1
Mark your Calendar- page 1
Propagating class - page 2
Vendor Sale - page 2
Note from Program Chair- man - page 2
Fran's Trip to France- page 2
Art in the Garden - page 3
Gardening in January- page 4
Helleborus - page 4
Small Fruits - page 5
Work Day - page 5
Madeleine Mullins - page 5
Flower Show - page 6
Membership form - page 7
Presidents Message - page 8

JANUARY PROGRAM SPEAKER Creating Lush Gardens Using Minimal Water Roberta Walker Shepard Garden & Arts Center Thursday, January 28, 2010, 7:00 PM

Roberta Walker is a landscape designer working in the Sacramento area. Over the years she has designed over 700 gardens. She has been featured twice in Sunset Magazine and filmed four segments for HGTV's "Gardening by the Yard".

Roberta has developed design methods and a large plant palate for creating a drought tolerant landscape; making the transformation from lawns to no lawns a smooth transition, where the new landscape provides low maintenance, low water, and a beautiful habitat for healthy insects, butterflies and birds.

She has also produced two DVDs: one on "Creating a Drought Tolerant Landscape" and the other on "Creating a Cobble Stream".

FEBRUARY PROGRAM SPEAKER The Loss of Species Diversity in Our Central Valley George Connor Shepard Garden and Arts Center Thursday February 25, 2010, 7:00 PM

George Connor was born in Tokyo, Japan and moved to the Sacramento area as a child. He graduated from Hiram Johnson HS, Sacramento State and UC Davis with a BS in Entomology. He has spent 25 years in the Sacramento area as a practicing arborist, naturalist and is the owner of "Connor Arborist Services".

Besides his business, George interests include Natural History, Photography, Rock Climbing, Fishing and playing the Guitar and Mandolin.

Mark Your Calendar - Upcoming Events

Wednesday , Jan. 20-Feb10

Volunteer Training UC Davis Arboretum 9a.m.-12p.m.

Join our volunteer corps. For information call Suzanne Ullensvang at 530-752-8324 or sullensvang@ucdavis.edu

Saturday, February 6

Guided Tour: Birds that Winter in the Arboretum

11 a.m. Arboretum Headquarters

Saturday, February 13

Guided Tour: Beauty in the Dead of Winter

11 a.m., Buehler Alumni & Visitors Center UC Davis

Saturday February 20

Guided Tour, Acacia Encounters

11 a.m., Putah Creek Lodge UC Davis Arboretum

Saturday February 27 and Sunday February 28

Bob Hamm's Plant Sale

Covered parking area on 18th Street, behind The Gifted Gardener at 18th and J Street. Rain or Shine! Hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. (New Hours!!)

Sunday March 7, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Work Day Shepard Garden and Arts Center

Bring your garden tools

Perennial Plant Club

Perennial Plant Club - Propagating Class

Daisy Mah

March 6, 2010 - 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon

We have had quite a few members who are interested in learning how to propagate plants and have attended Daisy's classes. Everyone learned a lot and had fun. Daisy will teach another propagating class Saturday March 6th. We are no longer able to use the city greenhouse, so this class will be at the home of Janice Sutherland. Daisy will demonstrate and discuss when and how she starts plants from cuttings. Bring cuttings from shrubs or perennials you would like to propagate and Daisy will show you how to make the proper cuts from your plant material. Bring plastic bags you can put your cuttings in and have clean 4" pots at home. We will furnish the perlite you will need. Cut your plant material in the morning and keep them out of the sun and in water. This is the time of year that is best for starting seeds. Go to your nursery, look through some seed catalogs or web sites and buy some interesting perennial and annual plant seeds you would like to grow. You can start your seed in a well WASHED plant tray filled with super soil and a small amount of perlite. Daisy has started many of her wonderful plants from seeds and will share her knowledge and answer questions. Please call Bea Little 453-9220 or Joyce Mills 930-0253 if you are interested in the class or have any questions.

Note from Your Program Co-Chairman

Bea Little and Joyce Mills

We have put together our Calendar for Speakers, Work Shops and Field Trips for 2010. In planning our future calendars we would like to ask you for your ideas. We value any and all input that you have to offer. We want the general membership to be involved. Remember this is *YOUR* Perennial Plant Club and we would like to make sure that everyone's interests are covered.

Are there any hidden talents that you would be willing to share with your fellow members? Do you have any neighbors, friends, relatives and/or co-workers that have interesting garden(s) that we might tour? Perhaps you know someone that has a talent(s) that would be of interest to the group - either as Speaker, Field Trip or Workshop. We are looking forward, as Co-Chairs, to this coming year and hope that the choices we've made for the 2010 year will be enjoyed by everyone.

Please contact either of us with input.

Bea Little bealittle1@juno.com Phone (916) 453-9220

Joyce Mills jgswm2005@yahoo.com (916) 930-0253



10th Annual Vendor Plant Sale Unusual Plants and Garden Treasures

Saturday, March 20, 2010 is the date of our 10th annual Vendors Sale. This year our speaker will be Tom Fisher of Timber Press. His talk is entitled "Planting the Mediterranean Garden-Perennials. He will be speaking at 12 noon. We have specialty nurseries and businesses that sell garden related item participating in the sale, many of them from outside the Sacramento area, but we are also looking for new vendors. You may know of someone who makes garden furniture, does iron work, has a nursery or any other garden related business, who would be interested in selling at our sale. If you have any ideas you can contact Bea Little, Joyce Mills, or Lonnie Ratzlaff. We are also collecting used gardening books and magazines to sell at the sale. We are also looking for volunteers to work Friday night setting up and to work on Saturday.

Fran's upcoming Garden Tour French Riviera, Provence, Paris May 5-19, 2010 15 Days



Travel to La Belle France! Cultural/historic sites, spectacular scenery, Monaco, gardens (exotic, formal, historic, contemporary, country, roses in beautiful historic towns, villages, estates, chateaux, gardens of Monet and Renoir), wine and olive oil tasting. Just three small friendly traditional French hotels (5 nights in Nice, 3 nights in Arles, 5 in Paris), airfare and transfers, high speed train (TGV) buffet breakfast and more for \$3100 per person, plus fees and surcharges, 20 people. Contact Action

Travel at (916) 723-3355 or Fran Clarke, e-mail fclarke@surewest.net, fax/telephone (916) 283-5884 **after January 21. \$350 deposit is due January 27.**

ART PERSONALIZES A GARDEN

From eclectic to elegant, garden art adds fun and beauty
by Carolyn Singer



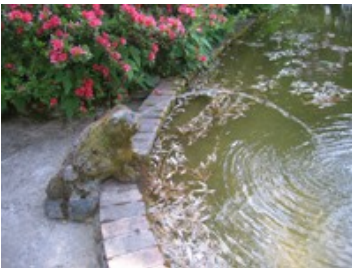
Snow sculpts my garden in magical ways I could not have imagined as I placed a sixty-year-old watering can near my front walkway. Now with snow mounded on the handle it has become a true object of art, though it is most often used functionally. And in the rock garden, a handcrafted sundial on a low post is even more artistic after the snow falls.

Across the open areas, quail tracks in the snow create more art in this winter landscape. Each morning the quail come close to the house in search of the seed I scatter. This artistic canvas will be fleeting but my camera and memory record its beauty.

When I visit gardens throughout the year, I am always touched by the personal additions and the wide diversity of art objects, as varied as the personalities of the gardeners who dwell within the landscape. I find myself taking pictures of the art as often as I do the other garden scenes and individual plants. When snow falls in the foothills, I wish I could be in each one of those gardens to record the effect of the snow accenting and silhouetting the garden and its treasures.



One of my favorite local gardens is Hazel Whitford's on Banner Mountain. The garden is old, which gives it great beauty and depth. And Hazel is an artist. She loves the color blue, and plays with it throughout the garden, adding containers of beautiful hues. Old metal objects from her family's original farm in this area are sometimes used as a single accent or grouped. Rusted metal scraps become works of art with Hazel's creativity. Even the clothesline hung with colorful shirts on the day I visited seemed to add intended artistry!



In a newer garden, one where the landscape process is just beginning, the artistic touches most often define circulation patterns. This might include a beautiful walkway, a rock wall or steps, an artistic gate, water features, or an arch or pergola. It should also include benches, inviting visitors to linger. In one garden I recently designed in Baxter, a free-standing wood archway defines the point of entry into a "garden room" for outdoor dining. From within this area, the same archway frames a view of the edible garden beyond.

Water features may be as simple as a beautiful bird baths or bowls at ground level, perfectly placed for pets and deer. However, when raccoons come in the night and use these strategically placed bowls as water basins for paw cleansing, the water might need to be changed more often! More elaborate water features and fountains add the beauty of moving water.

Once trees, ornamental shrubs, and perennials grow, their form, texture and color is often enhanced by an art object nearby. Some gardeners enjoy elegant touches with statuary, while others just like to have fun, adding metal deer, a fiddler created from rusted metal parts, or an old wheelbarrow filled with colorful flowers.

In some gardens, the color of an entry door on the house or a shed adds an unexpected and delightful accent. In one garden I explored in the Seattle area, the owner painted an old door blue and hung it on an unpainted wood fence. A curving path led to this artistic element, mature shrubs along the sides of the path obscuring its view until the path moved closer.

Another garden in Oregon used wide wood arches with benches built into each side. Though the garden area was quite small, the arches gave the effect of moving from one garden room to another. And the benches invited strollers to sit and talk to each other.

Plan your own garden in ways that delight you, and inspire you to linger. Take time to enjoy the bird and animals. Art in the garden has limitless possibilities.



Perennial Plant Club

Gardening in January

By Bob Hamm

Roses and many other items are pruned now, including deciduous fruit trees (such as apple, pear, peach, plum, etc) and other fruiting plants such as grapes, raspberry and blackberry. Flowering shrubs such as Buddleia (except *B. asiatica*) can be trimmed now; as can summer and fall bloomers, CLEMATIS are already starting to swell buds and those varieties that are cut back each year should be cut back NOW! This is mostly the single flowered forms that bloom on new growth. Ornamental and shade trees (except those noted below) should be pruned. Please note that Grapes and most Maples bleed sap badly if pruned to late, so prune those NOW.

Perennials that benefit from a good pruning back each spring to control sprawl include hybrid Penstemon, *Perovskia* and large *Salvias*. *Epimediums* can have old foliage trimmed off later this month, which will show off their flowers and new foliage as it emerges (an early bloomer). Remember however, to wait on frost tender items.

Early spring bloomers such as Azalea, Japonica, Camellias, Lilac, flowering Quince, Forsythia, deciduous Magnolia, most species Roses, Dogwood, Pieris, Rhododendron, and the flowering forms of fruit trees (flowering peach, pear, cherry etc.. grown for flowers not fruit) have their buds already formed, so hard pruning will decrease or eliminate blooming this season. For these plants the rule is "Prune immediately after blooming".



Helleborus x hybridus - lenten rose

Small perennial requires little maintenance and tolerates semi-dry shade; evergreen foliage looks good all year; nodding, rose-like flowers brighten winter gardens. Grows in the shade and has low to medium water needs. Colors white, pinks or purple Pictures: UC Davis Arboretum All-Star Plants

Do not prune frost tender plants yet! January and February are the months we are most likely to get frost and freeze damage. Do not prune or even clean up frost damage on tender plants until after March 1st. Even frosted stems provide some protection to the growth underneath them, helping prevent further damage. Do not rush to throw out damaged plants, you will be surprised at how many will recover with warm weather.

Bareroot and Dormant plant material is coming into local nurseries this month and it is a good time to get many items into the ground and save a bit on them over potted plants later. HOWEVER some warnings are in order... bareroot material should not be dried out or sprouting into early growth...a major problem with packaged material. Get in EARLY for best selection and quality. Please note that the bareroot plants sold at my February and March Sales is FRESH. I get in fresh material for each sale. I will also have large gladiola bulbs coming in.

Certain summer bulbs are received early in nurseries but HATE chill, never mind cold, so if you are buying the following bulbs either plant indoors, in a greenhouse or hold off planting till the weather is warmer: Caladiums (need WARMTH or will just rot), colored tropical Callas (not quite as sensitive but want warmth) and Dahlias which are often hardy here, but if you put new tubers out too early you risk them rotting before they sprout.

If planning on moving plants around, or digging and dividing perennials, do so early in the season as it allows them to be better establish before our hot, dry summer hits.



Helleborus argutifolius - Corsican hellebore

Medium size perennial with long-lasting, pale-green flowers brightens the winter garden; needs little maintenance and tolerates dry shade; stiff, gray-green foliage adds sculptural interest to the garden year round. Remove old flower stalks in summer for tidy appearance. Part shade and low water needs.

SMALL FRUITS WITH BIG YIELDS

Bare root season is the time to plant!

by Carolyn Singer

Last year was the first time in 31 years that my Bartlett pear trees did not produce. The spring frost which did so much damage to local fruits left its mark on my fruit trees too. But the raspberries, strawberries, rhubarb, and even blackberries were plentiful.

Raspberries grown in fertile soil with a three to four-inch mulch are productive summer and fall despite the variables of spring. The soil does not need to be prepared deeply, but I do add compost, leaves, organic phosphorus, and oyster shell to a depth of six inches. And each year I spread composted poultry manure mixed with leaves as a mulch around established plants.

Because raspberries spread by stolons, the area prepared for planting is about two feet wide and as long a row as space allows. With my appetite for raspberries, and my willingness to share with friends, I need at least twenty-five feet.

Bare root starts are planted eighteen inches apart in a single row. Prune old canes close to new shoots at the base. In good soil, within two years the row (and the adjacent paths) will fill with plants and you will be thinning out the extras.

Many gardeners shudder at the thought of planting blackberries. I, too, spend some of my gardening time attempting to eradicate the invasive Himalayan blackberry. But I would not be without the larger, luscious and more delicious berries such as Olallie and Marion blackberries.

These cane berries grow differently than the raspberry. Dig a hole for the bare root start that is eighteen inches deep and a foot wide. Fill it with the same mix of amendments that you use for raspberries, mixed with the native clay soil.

Space bare root blackberries and boysenberries at least four to six feet apart, and provide a thick mulch at the base of each plant. Canes will be long and need to be trained on wires so that they do not tip root and create the same bramble patch the wild blackberries do! I grow annual cosmos and zinnias in the open area between the berries.

Bare root rhubarb roots are a section of the parent plant and include a thick root with smaller absorbing roots and a bud. Dig a planting hole that is two feet deep and wide. Incorporate a plentiful supply of composted manure and rock powders with the native soil. Good drainage is essential, even in winter when the rhubarb is dormant. Place the bud so that it is visible above the mulch.

This is a perennial that will last for many years with little attention. Rhubarb does get large, so plan ahead for the space it will need. The rhubarb in my garden is four feet wide, and its thick tuberous root has long since outgrown the two-foot wide hole I prepared.



Grapes may also be planted during the bare root season. Usually available as two-year-old roots, the grapes may need to have a rhubarb-sized planting hole. The roots will reach deep into the soil for nutrients as the plant matures.

Strawberries will do well in soil that is prepared to ten inches. As for the other small fruits, the best amendments are compost, decomposing leaves, and well-composted manure mixed with organic phosphorus and oyster shell.

These small fruits are just a few of those that grow well in the foothills. If you have more space, try blueberries (they do well in containers), elderberries, or even currants and gooseberries. Redefine your landscape as an edible garden, incorporating small fruits as an essential element of good (and delicious) design



Work Day

Sunday March 7,

10:00 a.m. - 3:00p.m.

Shepard Garden and Arts Center is having a work day. Our club will be cleaning up the flower beds around the center. Please bring rakes, shovels, pruners or any other tool you like to use. The more people who help the faster we will be done and the easier and more fun the job will be.

Madeleine Mullins

We wish Madeleine Mullins a speedy recovery. Madeleine while decorating the center Dec. 4th fell and broke her hip in four places. She had surgery and worked very hard at her physical therapy so she could get home for Christmas. Madeleine came home Christmas Eve. and is continuing her healing at home.

From all of us take care and see you soon.

Perennial Plant Club

SACRAMENTO PERENNIAL PLANT CLUB
WWW.SACRAMENTOPERENNIALPLANTCLUB.COM

12TH ANNUAL SPONSORED BUS TRIP TO:

SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2010

BUS LEAVES 7:30 AM. RETURNS 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 much more. New organizers and producers this year.

Bus will depart from the Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento. CA

Muffins and juice 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 IS 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 **plenty of 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: ROBERTA FRIEZE 2640 RADCLIFFE CT.SACRAMENTO, CA. 95826 916-383-8054

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2010
SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW
SAN MATEO CONVENTION CENTER

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____

NAME _____ PHONE# _____

Sacramento Perennial Plant Club

Sacramento Perennial Plant Club Membership - 2010

Jeanne Christopherson, Membership Chair

ALL MEMBERS - PLEASE FILL OUT THE ADDRESS FORM COMPLETELY

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Phone Number (____) _____ - _____ E-mail Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City State Zip

You will be included in our yearly roster unless you notify us otherwise. Yes ___ No ___

Yearly Dues _____ \$17 Individual Membership
_____ \$20 Joint Membership

Cash _____ Check _____ Make checks out to PERENNIAL PLANT CLUB.

Send to: Jeanne Christopherson, 3231 Chenu Avenue, Sacramento, 95821-6113
Phone (916) 283-6999, E-mail: iamjc7@surewest.net

Dear PPC member,

Please consider involving yourself more this coming year to make sure 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 indicate your interest in helping in one or two of the following ways:

___ Membership – Jeanne Christopherson, Noelle Anderson _____

___ Hospitality _____

___ Garden and Arts Center Sales Spring ___ & Fall ___ - Madeleine Mullin _____

___ Interested in writing articles for the newsletter - Janice Sutherland _____

___ Interested in writing Book reviews on gardening for the Newsletter-Janice Sutherland _____

___ Computer skills (specify) _____

___ Work with garden tour planning group _____

___ Work with bus trips _____

___ Work with speaker and program planning group _____

___ General meeting goodies (coordinate with our food chair, Madeleine Mullins) _____

___ Hamilton Square – Sharon Patrician – 455-8166 _____

___ Work with the vendor sale planning group - Bea Little _____

___ Work at the Vendor Sale – March 20, 2010 – Bea Little, _____

___ Interested in learning to propagate plants _____

___ Club activities I most enjoy: _____

___ Suggestions for speakers, tours, gardens to visit, etc. _____

Perennial Plant Club

PRESIDENTS LETTER

Saul Wiseman

The Board of Directors has revised Article 8 of the By-Laws. Note two changes: Fiscal year goes from July to June. Election held in May.

June 2009 Revision Article 8 Nomination and Election of Officers

All Board members, including officers, shall serve unpaid two-year terms running from January to January. The nominating committee shall be appointed by the President no later than June of the second year and shall report in August in order to publish the ballot in the September/October newsletter. Elections of Board members shall be held no later than October 31 with members taking office on January 1. Nominations from the membership shall be presented in writing or email to the secretary by the September general meeting. In the event of a vacancy in any office, the unexpired terms shall be filled through election by the Board of Directors.

Revised November 2009 Article 8 Nomination and Election of Officers

All Board members, including officers, shall serve unpaid two-year terms running from July to June. The nominating committee shall be appointed by the President no later than February of the second year and shall report in March in order to publish the ballot in the March/April newsletter and website. Elections of Board members shall be held no later than May 31 with members taking office on July 1. Nominations from the membership shall be presented in writing or email to the secretary by the March general meeting. In the event of a vacancy in any office, the unexpired terms shall be filled through election by the Board of Directors.

If you are interested in being on the nominating committee, please contact me at 530 277 9248 or swise-man368@sbcglobal.net. After six years as club president, I will continue being an active member, but will no longer be president.



Janice Sutherland
Newsletter Editor
3221 Chenu Avenue
Sacramento, CA, 95821