



# Sacramento Perennial Plant Club Newsletter

MAY/JUNE 2014

WWW.SACRAMENTOPERENNIALPLANTCLUB.ORG

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### MAY PROGRAM SPEAKER

**Jan Hedman**  
Photographer

### *Photographing Your Flowers and Garden*

THURSDAY—MAY 22, 2014\* • 7:00 P.M.

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

Jan moved to Grass Valley from the Bay Area in 2000 after retiring from the corporate world. Pursuing her hobbies of gardening, travel and photography became her preoccupation. These activities which go together so naturally encourage her to get outside and enjoy the beauty of nature. She enjoys the creative process and takes photography classes and travels to workshops to enhance her skills and keep up with the new technologies. She is an active member of the Gold Country Rose Society, past president, current treasurer and consulting Rosarian. She is active in three other garden groups in the Grass Valley/ Nevada City area and has a large garden. Jan enjoys judging photography competitions and making presentations relating to her favorite topics of flowers and photography.

### JUNE PROGRAM SPEAKER

**Carolyn Singer**

Author, Garden Designer and Horticulturist

### *Refreshing an Older Garden and Using Water-Wise Ideas*

THURSDAY—JUNE 26, 2014 • 7:00 P.M.

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

For over 30 years, Carolyn Singer owned Foothill Cottage Garden, a perennial plant nursery. She no longer has the nursery but Carolyn continues to teach gardening classes, designs and landscapes gardens and writes about gardening. Carolyn has written articles for *Fine Gardening*, *Garden Gate*, *Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Publications* and *Sierra Heritage Magazine* and does many speaking engagements. Carolyn's first book published in 2006, *Deer in My Garden: Perennials & Subshrubs*, has won seven awards including winner of the Best Books 2006 Book Award in Gardening. In 2009, Carolyn published her second book, also an award winner, *Deer in My Garden: Vol. 11, Groundcovers and Edgers*. Her third book, *The Seasoned Gardener*, subtitled "Five Decades of Sustainable and Practical Garden Wisdom" was published last fall. Many of us have older gardens and deal with some of the problems of an older garden. Carolyn is an engaging and knowledgeable speaker and will share her ideas on design and incorporating water efficient ideas and plants into our gardens. I know you will enjoy this evening. Carolyn will have her books available for purchase.

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

## Calendar

### May 5

*Deadheading at Dusk*  
Historic Rose Garden  
6 p.m.

### May 15

Deadline to reserve buffet lunch  
and tour at Big Springs Garden  
(See page 4 for details.)

### May 17

Public Plant Sale (Clearance Sale)  
UC Davis Arboretum  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### May 21

May Nursery Tour  
Dragonfly Peony Farm  
Wilseyville  
10:30 a.m.

### May 22

May Meeting  
Jan Hedman, *Photographing  
Your Flowers and Garden*  
7 p.m.

### June 2

*Deadheading at Dusk*  
Historic Rose Garden  
6 p.m.

### June 12

June Garden Tour  
Big Springs Garden  
Sierra City  
(See page 4 for details.)

### June 26

June Meeting  
Carolyn Singer, *Refreshing an Older  
Garden Using Water-wise Ideas*  
7 p.m.

### July 26

Lake of the Sky Garden Tour  
West Shore, Lake Tahoe  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### August 2

Harvest Day  
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center  
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Sacramento Perennial Plant Club

## Newsletter

The Sacramento Perennial Plant Club *Newsletter* is published bimonthly except for July and August. Contact the editor, Cheryl McDonald, at [mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net) with any questions or suggestions. Garden-related articles are welcomed. A color version of the *Newsletter* along with archived newsletters can be viewed at: [www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org](http://www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org)

## President's Message

Saul Wiseman

I know that most of us read the Home & Garden section of the Saturday Sacramento Bee.

I'm assuming that many of us read or subscribe to a gardening magazine.

A friend subscribes to *Gardens Illustrated*, the British gardening magazine. She gave a bunch of back issues. After looking at each issue, with articles about British estate gardens and great tips for an assortment of gardening styles, I was so impressed with the magazine that I became a subscriber. I brought all the back issues to the Vendor Sale and they were all purchased. Gardening magazines are monthly inspirations. They tell us about new plants, garden design ideas and garden techniques.

While gardening books are like old friends, gardening magazines offer endless new gardening possibilities.

I'm wondering what American gardening magazine our members read. There are a number from which to choose including *Fine Gardening*, *Garden Design*, *Garden Gate*, *Horticulture*, *Organic Gardening*, *Birds & Blooms*, *Country Gardens*, and of course *Sunset*.

Do you have a favorite gardening magazine?

My favorite newsletter is the *Newsletter*, our five-time a year printed publication. I think it is time that we give the newsletter a better name. Any suggestions?



*Don't miss this year's*

## Harvest Day

Saturday, August 2, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Fair Oaks Horticulture Center

Sponsored by the Sacramento County Master Gardeners, *Harvest Day* is Sacramento's biggest one-day gardening event featuring speakers, demonstrations, educational booths, open gardens, produce tasting, a plant clinic and more. Bring your questions to the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center and enjoy!

**Volunteers are needed to man the SPPC booth. Sign-ups at the June meeting.**

**Membership List and Newsletter.** Please check that your name has been listed correctly in the membership roster. If there are any corrections, if you want to be removed from the list or if you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail please call **Carol Meininger** (916-967-1018) or send an e-mail to [sacppc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sacppc@sbcglobal.net).

Check the mailing label on this newsletter to see if your membership dues are paid. You need to have your dues paid in order to receive the newsletter. If you have any questions about the information in the newsletters or you are not receiving your copy of the newsletters; please call **Cheryl McDonald** (916-448-7331) or send an e-mail to [mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net).

## Successful Spring Plant Sale!

The spring plant sale was a great success; one of our very best. We had a wonderful variety of plants for sale. **Emma Ahart's** plants were beautiful and we had many members bring in a very nice selection of plants they had grown. It made for a very profitable sale with a great turnout. Thank you to all the members who volunteered to work on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We do have to give a sincere thank you to Emma and **Madeleine Mullins**, who each year work hard to make the spring sale such a successful money maker for our club.

### *Good Turnout for 13th Annual Vendor Sale*

It was a very rainy day, but we still had a good turnout for the sale and speaker. True gardeners will not let a little (not to say a lot of), rain stop them from finding that special plant for their garden. The vendors are so supportive of this sale and our club; not one of them dropped out. Their sales went down this year but they all said they would be back next year and expressed how much they like our club and appreciate all we do. Many of the vendors use our sale as the opening day of their businesses for the year. To all of our members who volunteered and shared their time and talents in making this year's Vendor Sale a good experience for all, the Board thanks you for your hard work. Thank you one and all. Thank you to all the nurseries that participated in the sale including:



- Golden Pond Nursery**—Loomis (<http://goldenpondwaterplants.com/>)
- Morningsun Herb Farm**—Vacaville (<http://www.morningsunherbfarm.com/ssp/home>)
- Friends of San Juan de Oriente**—Sacramento
- Geraniaceae**—Kentfield (<http://geraniaceae.com/cgi-bin/welcome.py>)
- Carolyn Singer**, author—Colfax (<http://www.carolysingergardens.com/>)
- Bob Hamm**, perennials—Sacramento
- All Things Wild**, native plants (<http://allthingswildca.com/>)
- Dragonfly Peony Farm** (<http://www.dragonflypeonyfarm.com/>)
- J. Brian's Valley Harvest**; jams, jelly, and chutney—Sacramento
- The OG**, cacti and succulents—Stockton
- Paul Mining**, Japanese maples—Carmichael
- Glen Rowley Rustic Birdhouses**—Magalia
- The Secret Garden**—Elk Grove (<http://www.secretgarden-online.com/>)
- Two Flew over the Chicken Coop**, chicken houses—Sacramento
- Big Oak Nursery**—Elk Grove (<http://www.bigoaknursery.com/>)
- Chris Shultz**, garden art—Arnold
- Worm Fancy**—Antelope (<http://www.wormfancy.com/>)
- Carrie "yard art" Simpson**—Placerville
- Monte Cristo Farm**—Placerville

In your summer travels make a stop at some of these nurseries or order some plants from their websites.



### DAHLIA SALE AT THE MAY AND JUNE MEETINGS

#### **Murder and Mayhem in an English Garden?**

By Noelle Anderson

Rosemary Boxer is a botanist who has lost her university position. She meets Laura Thyme, who is recently divorced and a former law officer. As you can imagine, they are women "of a certain age." They decide to team up as gardeners for wealthy estates. But plants and dirt turn out not to be their only concerns. A horrible fungus infection in the lawn of a grand estate is found to be caused by heavy metal in animal manure. A gardener has used symbolic herbs and flowers to reveal a love triangle which resulted in a murder. A man is found strangled with a drip system hose.

These and other intriguing mysteries are the stuff of an English TV show called "Rosemary and Thyme." The plots are clever and the two women gardener-detectives are endearing. The gardens and countryside of England are gorgeous. You can catch this enjoyable show on Netflix streaming or go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4O7Ulvfzvw>.

## *Slow the Flow: Make Your Landscape Act Like a Sponge*

The California Water Board Training Academy and the Storm Water Program have produced a film titled, *Slow the Flow: Make Your Landscape Act More Like a Sponge*. This informative and entertaining film brings to life practices and projects that individuals and communities have created to steward our watersheds and slow the flow of storm water, one of the largest contributors of pollution into our waterways. The half-hour high-definition documentary educates viewers on how storm water is created and the associated problems. While the statistics peppered throughout the film are sobering, *Slow the Flow* offers solutions that any homeowner or municipality can put into place, and shows that individuals can make a difference.

Copies of the film are available on DVD, digital download and other high resolution formats. E-mail [stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov) or phone 866-563-3107 to request your copy. The film is also hosted on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJsBcgLne1k>

(Run time approximately 30 minutes)

## MAY NURSERY TOUR

### DRAGONFLY PEONY FARM

WEDNESDAY — MAY 21, 2014 • 10:30 AM

WILSEYVILLE, CA 95257

<http://www.dragonflypeonyfarm.com/>

*Carpool—bring a bag lunch*



In an enchanting and whimsical forested Sierra foothill setting, overlooking the Mokelumne River in Wilseyville, Julia Moore operates the Dragonfly Peony Farm, one of only a handful of peony farms in the entire state. Julia's "Coral Charm" peony has taken best-of-show and other varieties have won multiple blue ribbons. Among gardeners and landscapers there is a growing awareness of the peony; a lovely old-fashioned, cold-hardy plant that produces large, flamboyant flowers each spring and carries a legacy dating back to ancient China. Julia will share her knowledge of planting, growing and caring for peonies. If you thought peonies would not do well in the valley, think again, Julia grew peonies in Fresno and says they do very well in the valley, just give them a little afternoon shade. Peonies are also very drought tolerant. Julia will give us a tour of her nursery and share her knowledge of growing peonies. Be sure to bring your lunch since we will be able to eat lunch at the nursery. Also wear sturdy shoes to walk around the nursery. **Cash or checks only are accepted at Dragonfly Peony Farm.** Everyone will need to arrange their own carpool.

**Directions to nursery:** Take Hwy 49 (Jackson Hwy) seven miles past Jackson. Near Mokelumne Hill, you will come to Hwy 26, make a left hand turn toward West Point. There is no stop sign. At this intersection, Frank's Restaurant is located in the small shopping center. Continue on Hwy 26 for about 16 miles until you get to Railroad Flat Road. Watch your mileage, because there is a turnoff earlier that will take you into the town of Railroad Flat. When you get to Railroad Flat Road, turn right. Take the first left, which will be June Avenue. There will be a sign for Dragonfly Peony Farm on a tree.

## JUNE GARDEN TOUR

### BIG SPRINGS GARDEN

THURSDAY — JUNE 12, 2014

32613 CALIFORNIA 49, SIERRA CITY, CA 96125

[bigspringsgardens.com](http://bigspringsgardens.com)

The club is planning a trip to Big Springs Gardens in Sierra City. Yes, it is a three hour car ride from Sacramento. Therefore, one needs to leave early to arrive before the \$35 buffet luncheon is served at noon. If one has not been to Big Springs Gardens, I suggest one look at the website for more information. If interested, send a \$35 check payable to Saul Wiseman, 368 Kilham Road, Auburn, CA 95603 by May 15. I will pay for all those going with one check.

—Saul Wiseman



# WPA Rock Garden Update

By Daisy Mah

Since retiring in November 2013, I am happy to announce that the city of Sacramento hired **Duane Goosen** in January 2014. Prior to this, he worked as a City of Sacramento arborist for 9 years, is a former groundskeeper at the UC Davis Arboretum and is an avid home gardener. His hiring took place with much effort and countless hours from **Jeff Weir** and **Dale Claypoole**. They were responsible for setting up the WPA garden online petition site. They also persevered and worked tirelessly meeting with council member **Steve Hansen** and his assistant **Consuelo Hernandez** as well city of Sacramento Parks Department managers.

Duane has some support from staff but most of it is coming from garden volunteers. Because he is well respected in his former arboreal capacity, he successfully enlisted the Urban Tree Department staff to remove a number of mature trees. This included a dead Monterey pine, a severely leaning Canary Island pine and two massive and fertile privet trees. The initial promise of unlimited funding for irrigation upgrades and plants has proven to be short-lived. He has planted evergreen shrubs, trees, and the most obvious improvements are two metal structures for espaliered fig and olive. **Greg Gayton** of Green Acres Nursery has been a generous supporter.

Initially it was not clear if I would return to help or would be wanted but my volunteer efforts have been well received. I will likely return starting in May on a limited basis. Duane took on a challenging position with much energy, intelligence and wholehearted enthusiasm but needs help with identification, care of the unusual plants and propagation of more plants.

## Blooms from the Tombs

By Sharon Patrician

Every spring I anticipate the blooms of Papaver rhoeas. Known also as the “Flanders Field Angels,” this scarlet poppy with a black base is a familiar sight in European fields. Native to Eurasia and North Africa, farmers with grain crops in Europe despise them for taking so much space. I saw these poppies in 1990 on my first trip to Europe with **Fran Clarke** and knew I must grow them. Appropriate to a cemetery, they usually come back every year. They are wind-sown so I cannot predict where they will show up. I treat them as annuals since they don't like our summer heat. They always elicit admiration and awe from cemetery visitors.



## Notes

### Welcome to the following new members:

Jeanie and Lou Campbell  
Terralee Ginther  
Marta James  
Dalene Mar  
Veronica Pardo  
Mary Pieroni  
Ruthanne and Kevin Rankin  
Marilyn and Jim Relles  
Laura Valoppi

**SPPC Board Meeting.** The next Perennial Plant Club Board of Directors meeting will be held May 14th at the home of **Saul and Julie Wiseman** (530-885-9248). The June board meeting will be held June 11 at the home of **Beverly Shilling** (916-452-4762). As always, board meetings are open to all members. Meetings begin at 5 p.m. and start with a potluck dinner—informative and delicious.

### There will be no general meeting in July and August.

The next meeting is Thursday, September 25th. The next newsletter will be the September/October issue. Have a wonderful summer and take time to sit down, have a cool drink, and enjoy your garden.

### Lake of the Sky Garden Tour Saturday July 26, 2014 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lake Tahoe, California

On July 26th, view gardens on the West Shore of Lake Tahoe. Get away from the July heat and tour some gardens in the cool mountain air. Proceeds from this tour will fund scholarships to encourage study in landscaping, horticulture, forestry or environmental science and up to \$6,000 in grants to local community projects.

The last few years the Lake Tahoe garden tour has sold out at 500 tickets. Tickets will be available after June 15th, Check the Lake of the Sky Garden Club website for ordering ticket information. (<http://lakesky.homestead.com/>)

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# Propagate Your Own Plants

## Now Is the Time to Make Vegetative Cuttings

By Carolyn Singer



FOR ME ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING gardening “tasks” is the propagation I can do between April and October. A single mature plant may yield dozens or more cuttings, each one destined to become a one-gallon within a few months.

The best cuttings are made during the growing season, when growing shoots are not coming into bloom. If possible, choose terminal shoots which have leaf nodes close together, whether opposite or alternate. It is important

that the shoot chosen does not have a flowering bud. For example, cuttings from lavender need to be made after the bush has bloomed, and growing shoots show no sign of flower buds.

Work early in the morning, in shade, and take only as many cuttings as you can handle in a few minutes. Cuttings wilt quickly. Do not allow any sun on the cuttings even early in the morning. It is OK to take cuttings from a plant in the sun in the morning, but once taken, protect the cuttings from more sun during the propagation process. If the plant is hydrated, that is, recently watered, cuttings are more likely to be successful.

The best medium for propagation of soft wood cuttings is one-half perlite to one-half vermiculite. The materials are mixed in a container, and water is added to make a slurry. The material is then moved to the propagation flats and small containers. Excess water drains out through the bottom hole. Cells and pots are filled with a slight pressure to ensure that there are no air pockets. Do not press the medium firmly until after the cutting has been inserted. If cuttings are not easily inserted, the toothpick may be used to make a small hole.

Each plant offers a different kind of cutting material: Some have many leaf nodes and a one-inch cutting will work, while others may have fewer nodes and the

longer cutting is necessary. Carefully remove all leaves along the stem except for the few which will remain above the medium. Determine how many leaves your cutting should have. The larger the leaves, the fewer should remain above the medium. Make your final cut below a leaf node. Dip the cutting stem into a rooting hormone (e.g. Rootone), allowing contact with the nodes, and shake off the excess. Cutting should not be wet or it will hold too much of the rooting hormone. Some cuttings root from the nodes, some from the bottom of the stem where the cut has been made, and some from hairs along the stem.

Work in the shade, and keep your propagated material shaded for a few days. Water with a light spray, twice a day or more. If larger leaves still show sign of wilting after a few days, cut them in half. Move the material into bright light but no direct sunlight, and keep it in this exposure for two to three weeks. Shade cloth works well for protecting the cuttings in the first few weeks. Remove any flowers that appear, no matter how tiny. At this stage you want the cutting to put all of its energy into growing roots.

After about five to six weeks, your cuttings should be rooted. Some take longer than others. Cut back the elongated terminal bud to stimulate root growth, and pot up the young starts into containers with a good potting mix.

Your planting mix should not be hot, or high in nitrogen. If it is, it may kill these tender young starts. One of my propagation students from a few years ago recently told me a sad story about her plants. She used a bag of potting mix, and all the young starts died. This mix may have been too high in nitrogen. If you purchase a bag of mix, wet it, and use the hand test to check for warmth.

Planting mix for containers must address the needs of the particular plant. A plant needing good drainage (Sedum or Lavandula) will suffer in a mix catering to the need for quick growth in rich soil (most annual

*(continued on page 7)*

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## Propagate Your Own Plants

(continued from page 6)

flowers and vegetables). I like to make my own mixes. I begin with a combination that is two parts mushroom compost to one part rice hulls. When a pile is delivered, I wet it thoroughly. A few days later, I dig into it and use a simple hand test to check for heat. Sometimes it takes a few weeks for the pile to cool. When it has, nitrogen is not as active, and the chance of damaging young plants has lessened.

Into five gallons of the compost base, I add four cups of organic phosphorus and one cup of oyster shell. Perlite is then added for aeration and drainage. Low-irrigation plants need more perlite, and high-irrigation plants need less. Vermiculite is the next amendment, with more used for plants expecting rich soil, and less for those preferring lean. Using a five-pound can, add one measure of perlite and two measures of vermiculite per

five gallons of compost for plants that need richer and moister soil. Reverse those measures for plants that prefer less water and fertility.

And what will I do with all these plants I'm propagating? I'll trade with other gardeners, give them as gifts, and I may plant a few in my garden this fall. It seems as though there is always room for one more plant!

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This article appeared in the May/June 2008 SPPC *Newsletter*. Permission to reprint granted by Carolyn Singer.

### Propagation Classes

Check Carolyn's website <http://www.carolynsingergardens.com/> for her upcoming propagation classes located at 13925 Sonntag Road in Grass Valley.

Classes will be held June 18th and 28th from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. on both days. Each date is one class, though students make take both. There is a \$75 fee for each class.

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## FALL PLANT SALE

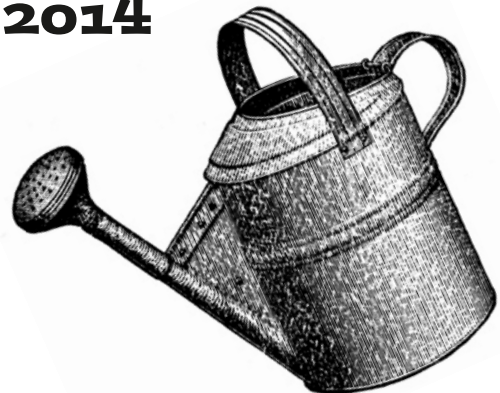
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# Dig Up, Divide Recycle, Repurpose

**Saturday and Sunday  
October 4–5, 2014**

**Plants are needed for the sale  
along with used garden items.  
If you have questions or 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)**





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

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*Iris along a trail at Big Springs Garden*

CHERYL MCDONALD