



The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  Nov/Dec 2015

NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER

Happy Thanksgiving



DECEMBER MEETING

Annual Potluck Holiday Gathering

WEDNESDAY—DECEMBER 16, 2015 • 7:00 P.M.
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

Join us for a wonderful way to end the year with good friends, a cup of hot apple cider and delicious food. The Perennial Plant Club invites all our members and families to attend the **15th Annual Potluck Holiday Gathering on Wednesday, December 16th**. The club will furnish **turkey, cranberry sauce, bread and butter, drinks, eating utensils and plates**. We would like everyone to bring something to share and are asking those whose last names start with the letters:

- **A thru I** to bring a **hot dish**
- **J thru Q** to bring a **dessert**
- **R thru Z** to bring a **salad**

In order to assure that there is an assortment of dishes we are asking that you RSVP to either **Peggy Weseloh, 916-486-8387** or **Janice Sutherland, 916-481-2137**. We have a wonderful time singing carols as **Noelle Anderson** plays the piano and perhaps you will win one of the door prizes. Hope to see you at the party.

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The Sacramento Perennial Plant Club provides educational opportunities for Sacramento area gardeners and horticulturalists to learn about perennials appropriate to our climate and water limitations.

Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month (except July, Aug, Nov and Dec) at 7 pm at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento. Meetings are free and open to the public.



The Perennial Post

The *Perennial Post* is published bimonthly except for July and August. Contact the editor, Cheryl McDonald, at mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net or call (916-448-7331) with any questions or suggestions. Garden-related articles are welcomed. A color version of this issue of *The Perennial Post* along with archived newsletters can be viewed at: www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org

President's Message

Saul Wiseman

First, with the retirement of **Sharon Patrician** as manager of Hamilton Square, the perennial garden at the Old City Cemetery in Sacramento, we now have three members, **Leslie Hurlburt**, **Dalene Mar**, and **Ruthanne Rankin**, who will be co-managers and continue to maintain the garden and give tours.

I thank Sharon for all her many years of dedication to Hamilton Square and for her friendship.

Second, with her amazing energy and motivation, **Madeline Mullins** as chairperson for both the Fall and Spring Sales and her crew of volunteers, including plant grower **Emma Ahart**, have continued to make the plant sales at Shepard Garden & Art Center a success year after year.

Third, in my opinion, the bad news.

I remember when I first got involved with the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club. In 1998, I met **Bob Hamm** at the Sacramento Farmers' Market when we were both selling plants. I came to a meeting and got involved. **Jeanne Ross** was president. When Jeanne retired because of a family matter, I became president in 2004.

For me, one of the most challenging tasks as president was finding the right person to be the guest speaker at the Vendor Sale held the last Saturday of March each year. I should mention that the reason the sale is always on that Saturday is because that is the only open Saturday on the calendar at the Shepard Garden & Art Center.

However, this coming March I will not have to find a speaker. The Board of Directors at the October meeting voted to not have a Vendor Sale in 2016. Not because of our drought conditions, not because of the lack of vendors, not because of the lack of members who would help with the Vendor Sale, only because of the lack of a chairperson, an individual who would take charge as a few members have done in the past. The club owes a debt of gratitude to **Janice Sutherland** for her many years as chairperson of the Vendor Sale. The sale has been a success because of her dedication and leadership.

In my opinion, the Vendor Sale helps both the vendors and the community. The sale is a service that we provided in the past by bringing together the grower and the gardener.

We shall see if the last Saturday in March in 2017 will still be available for another Vendor Sale.

I'll miss the Vendor Sale.

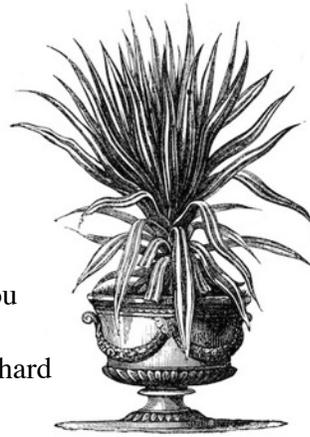
Save the Date
San Francisco
Flower & Garden
Show

Save **Wednesday, March 16, 2016**, on your calendar for the Perennial Plant Club's 18th annual bus trip to the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show's opening day. *Discovery* is the show's theme, and our bus will provide ample room to bring your discoveries home. Reservation form will be in the January-February issue of *The Perennial Post*.

Another Successful Fall Plant Sale!

The fall plant sale was a great success; one of our very best. We had a wonderful variety of plants for sale.

Thank you to all the members who volunteered to work on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. And, a special thank you to **Bob Hamm** for donating plants. We extend a sincere thank you to **Madeleine Mullins**, who each year works hard to make our plant sales such successful money makers.



SPPC Grants Program Announcement

Due to a highly successful first year, our Grants Program will continue for another year. Applications are available on the SPPC website. Applications will be accepted until January 15, 2016.

“The purpose of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club Grant is to promote gardening within the County of Sacramento. Non-profit groups with gardening-related activities may apply. Three (3) grants in the amount of up to \$500 will be awarded annually.”



Photos of the 2015 Grant Award Recipients (from top to bottom)—Aldar Academy, Caleb Greenwood Elementary School and Hiram Johnson High School



Barbara Oliva

It is with sadness we announce the passing of Barbara Oliva. Barbara was one of the early members of the Perennial Plant Club and was at one time its president. Under her guidance and hard work the club grew in size. With her encouragement, the club added out-of-town trips, garden tours, plant sales, and a symposium, which became the Vendor Sale to the yearly calendar. Until health problems slowed her down, Barbara was an active member of the club.

Jean Travis, another founding member of the club, was involved in the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden. Jean asked Barbara, who loved historic roses, to get involved at the cemetery. In March of 1992, the Perennial Plant Club sponsored the first rose planting at the cemetery with 100 roses donated by **Fred Boutin**, **Bob Hamm** and **Daisy Mah**. Since that first planting, Barbara worked hard in the garden and, always the teacher, passed on her knowledge to many gardeners.

In 2009, Barbara and garden manager **Anita Clevenger** traveled to New York City to receive the Great Rosarians of the World—Great Rose Garden Hall of Fame Award. Barbara was honored at the dinner.

Barbara will be missed.

To know more about Barbara, go to the Nov/Dec 2009 SPPC Newsletter archived on the club's website.

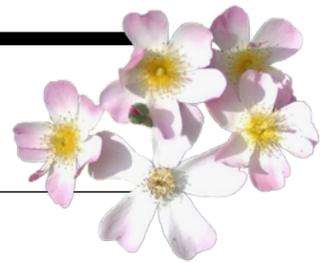
—Janice Sutherland

Rose 'Barbara Oliva'

In 2006, Oregon rose hybridizer Paul Barden named this rose Barbara Oliva to honor Barbara's work in educating people about old roses and their preservation.



Garden Greetings from Janice Sutherland



by Cheryl McDonald



It never fails. I always leave Janice's garden inspired and in need of one of her plants in my yard. It started with the Korean Spice viburnum and its fragrant blooming snowballs. Then, there was the Lyda rose that's happy in shade and the Eden rose growing gracefully up and through a metal obelisk. Now, I have to have "Bill," as in 'Bill's Big Blue,' an aster with striking blue-violet flowers, a magnet for bees and a heavy bloomer until Thanksgiving.

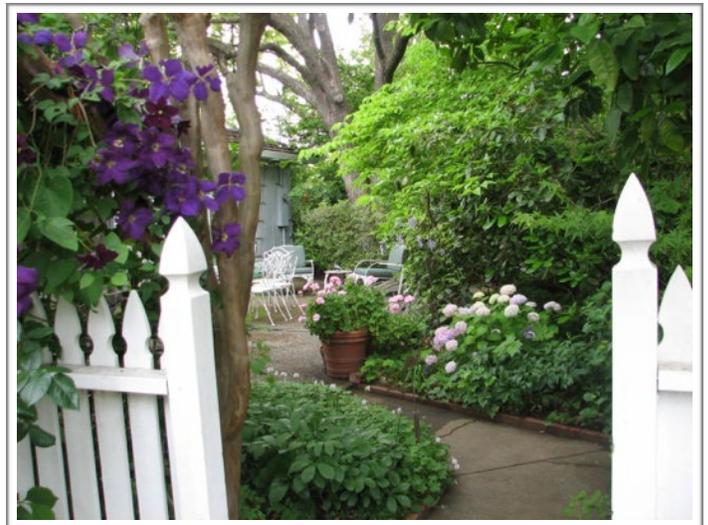
The other "Bill" in Janice's life is her husband Bill. They've been a solid team for 52 years and, since 1977 have crafted a lovely, tranquil garden at their cottage-style home. One of their first projects was to transform a nondescript backyard into a serene, woodland setting made up of dogwoods, japanese maples, azaleas, rhododendrons and ferns. Large camphor trees provide lots of shade.

Throughout the yard are numerous plants and objects that draw your attention. Yet, there's an underlying order to it all that creates calm and ease. Janice's strong design skills keeps the viewer's eye moving through her various garden rooms that have been molded over time. Curving stone paths connect these rooms. When creating a garden path, Janice offers a helpful design tip: View it from above. Look at your design from a second-story window or a ladder.



This different perspective leads to a more successful layout.

Artfully, curated arrangements that herald a new season are carefully placed throughout the garden while many bird feeders and bird-houses are interspersed to add a bit of whimsy.



A retired master gardener, Janice is a wealth of gardening information. In addition to her years as a florist and salesperson at Fair Oaks Boulevard Nursery, she was a landscape designer specializing in restructuring gardens for easier maintenance. A founding member of the SPPC, Janice has poured her heart and soul into making the club an enjoyable experience for everyone. Her vast network of gardening contacts has resulted in many delightful garden tours, interesting speakers and successful Vendor Sales.

Thank you, Janice, for sharing with us your knowledge and passion for all things beautiful.

Photos by Beverly Shilling and Janice Sutherland.

Hamilton Square Garden: A Beautiful Accomplishment

by Leslie Hurlburt

After many years as a devoted volunteer at the Historic City Cemetery in Sacramento, Sharon Patrician has decided to hang up her straw hat. Her extraordinary commitment to Hamilton Square will be missed.

In 1998 Sharon was recruited to beautify Hamilton Square. With the help of volunteers and the city's weekend alternate sentencing crews, work began with removal of sod followed by planting drought tolerant plants.

In 2000, with the help of **Daisy Mah**, a grant of \$5000 was secured from the Glide Foundation for repairs and rebuilds of the elevated plot surrounds. About that time, as a board member of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club, Sharon requested the club's sponsorship of a demonstration garden of Mediterranean perennials. This was approved and contributed greatly to the garden's success. Under her direction, volunteers and the weekend crews maintained the automated irrigation system, the grounds, and all other aspects of gardening.

Sharon participated in the yearly Open Garden event at the cemetery. Twice a year, she gave the "What's Blooming" tour of Hamilton Square to the public along with private tours to garden clubs, social groups, dignitaries, nursery owners and professional landscape architects. The garden is mentioned with accompanying photographs in John Whittlesey's book, *The Plant Lovers Guide to Salvias*. Because of the plant diversity and the open ground for nesting in Hamilton Square, Dr. Gordon Frankie has used the garden in his scientific study of urban native bee populations. One of the many seminars she gave for volunteers on various gardening subjects included an overview of the Dr. Frankie study. Another highlight, in June 2014, was a visit and tour with the Board of Directors of *Pacific Horticulture*. Sharon has penned "Blooms from the Tombs" for the SPPC. The garden has also been a feature on KVIE's



"Rob On the Road." Most recently she secured funding for and had installed metal plot markers in Hamilton Square that will be paired with the garden's plant list database* along with plant photos in an ongoing website project. The marker's primary function is to help the public locate specific plots.

In addition to her duties for Hamilton Square, Sharon was the secretary for the Old City Cemetery Committee (OCCC) Board of Directors for nearly 14 years and was the OCCC

Volunteer Coordinator for approximately 15 years. She along with others coordinated a digital photo library of all the cemetery hardscape, from footstones to mausoleums, including loose pieces for eventual restoration. In 2011 Sharon was recognized by the Sacramento City Council. Her name will always be associated with the garden at Hamilton Square. It is a place of contemplative calm and inspiration to many. It's gifts are manifold, a beautiful accomplishment to be savored by all.

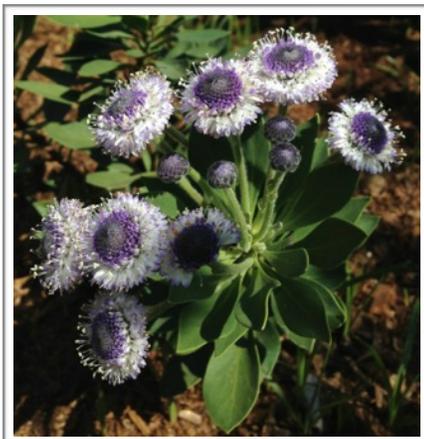
Carol Nelson, a long time friend of Sharon's and a volunteer at the cemetery, speaks for many of us . . .

When my perennials bloom, I am reminded of how much difference one person can make in the world, and more closely yet, to our lovely Old City Cemetery. Knowledge and friendships, you see, keep on giving. I am grateful to Sharon for enriching my life and I will sorely miss seeing her in her straw hat and denim shirt, working in Hamilton. That vision still makes me smile.

*<http://sacramento.krofchok.com/hamiltonsquare/plants.html>

Blooms from the Tombs

by Leslie Hurlburt



This charming, photogenic flower is *Globularia sarcophylla* 'Blue Eyes.' A native of the Canary Islands, it grows in very rocky terrain. A taproot gives it drought tolerance. It blooms spring through fall with a height of 25" to 30" and spread of 12" to 18." This perennial has a mounding habit, requires full sun and seems to do well here with twice a week watering.

Special Thanks: Kudos to **Dalene Mar** and **Ruthanne Rankin** for volunteering twice a week and giving 6+ hours a week each. They have rehabbed adjoining plots which really needed attention. I call them my co-managers. They have already proven to be committed to the project and are undaunted by the task. They also make great company to garden with.

Daisy's Picks



<http://www.suncrestnurseries.com>

Correa pulchella 'Mission Bells' is a member of the family *Rutaceae* and native of Australia. Commonly known as Australian fuchsia it produces its charming, pendulous pink bell like flowers from fall through spring. They have been tested in a leafy midtown traffic circle where it survives on only nature's rain water. This evergreen shrub grows to 2 ½' x 8' and tolerates being hedged. This has proven to be a sturdy, attractive performer. The UC Santa Cruz Arboretum has a great collection and a source of plants. In late spring, I acquired a *C. reflexa* 'Kangaroo Island' touted as a smaller

growing variety and unlike *C. 'Mission Bells'*, it has bloomed all summer with no end in sight. From the UC Davis Arboretum Plant Faire, I picked up *C. 'Pink Eye'* which has a more vertical form and spread of about 3 feet but like a lot of drought tolerant plants, they are slow to develop above ground but likely developing a sturdy root for adapting to drought conditions.

Cyclamen coum is a member of the primrose family or *Primulaceae*. Many cyclamen are native to Europe and Mediterranean region. This species has round, usually green but some forms have silvery leaves. Though they are slow to develop from seed, they are easy but must cover seed completely for best germination. Snails are not attracted to its charming flowers and attractive leaves. It begins to make its appearance in the fall until late spring when it goes completely dormant through the hot, dry summer. *C. hederifolium* has ivy-shaped leaves with attractive silvery mottling. They stay well under 10" high. Unlike the florist cyclamens that most nurseries offer, these are hardy and a beautiful and unique addition in dry shade conditions.



hardycyclamens.com



faroutflora.com

Kniphofia 'Christmas Cheer,' commonly known as red hot poker or torch lily is a member of the lily family or *Liliaceae* and native to South Africa. This cultivar has deep orange buds and opens to golden yellow and can achieve heights of 5 feet and spread of 6 feet. Because of its dimensions, mine will soon find a new home on Connelly Island at McKinley Park, Sacramento. Many hybrids have been developed but this cultivar is unique for its unusual blooming in conjunction with the Christmas season. Its water needs are moderate and takes full sun and is attractive to hummingbirds and bees.



My favorite request at gift-giving time is for hand clippers. Yep, I have them in all sizes and in several strategic spots around my place. One pair in my kitchen is for a quick dash out the front or back to fetch herbs for a recipe. One pair at the back door is to gather fresh flowers for the table. Then there are at least 2 pair of anvil-type clippers (since I don't have roses) that I always keep in my hand tools bucket in the garage. There are at least 2 because I never know when a helpful family member will be joining me and I don't share this tool very well. A long time ago I discovered that pruning is an extremely therapeutic, if not a little addicting activity for me. I never pass up an opportunity to engage in it.

Jane Thompson

I have a favorite (don't know what to call it) tie around the waist, multi-pocketed, about 8-10 inches in length, apron that I wear when gardening. It is so handy. I use the pockets for my snippers, soil moisture meter, gloves or what I need to take with me when gardening. I wish I could find another one as mine is wearing out.

Elisabeth Jones

1. A Must! Double-prong moisture meter
2. The Gardener's Hollow Log
3. Tie-It-Clear-The Invisible Tie Tape
4. Japanese knife (Hori Hori)
5. Lots of Garden Soft Tie
6. Circle Hoe
7. Really, really well-padded knee pads
8. Wide-brimmed hat for shade
9. Variable stream hose nozzle
10. Garden flags for decorations

Sally Berlant

Pacific Horticulture, a quarterly magazine is filled with photos, drawings and well-written articles that focus on the gardens and plants of the west as well as a whole array of subjects (i.e. bugs, wildlife, history and "tours" of gardens throughout the world). They are presently offering a special year subscription of \$25, instead of \$28.

Daisy Mah

I like to give fruits from my garden—navel oranges & pomegranates as well as my homemade orange marmalade & pomegranate jelly.

Marcia Leddy

How about a Camelback Mule so no need to carry your water/wine/juice its right there on your back...keep weeding...**Barbara**...(view on PC if you are not familiar with them).

I think a great gift for a gardener who also loves to read would be a gift certificate for [Audible](#), the online audiobook store. This is

multitasking at its best. Imagine pulling weeds or raking leaves while listening to a favorite author's work. A passport holder one wears around the neck makes the perfect place to stash a MP3 player or cell phone for hands-free listening while you water, weed, dig, prune, and plant. What better book to start with than *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh, a novel whose characters communicate using bouquets and meanings of flower names.

Linda Hax

A few years ago, Anita Clevenger told me about West Country Rose Gloves. Santa brought me a red pair. I love them for pruning in the winter and also deadheading in the summer. The gauntlets protect my arms from the sun, thorns and branches. I am on my second pair.

Janice Sutherland

How about a simple rain gauge?

Nancy Griffith

One of the best garden gifts I received in the past was a pick-up load of garden soil! And another was some extra large tomato cages. This year, I could use a pair of GOOD GARDEN GLOVES—with reinforced finger tips... the weed-pulling fingers of my right hand always wear out before the gloves do!

Alice Bowles

Best thing I've gotten in years: a pot lifter! It goes around a planter, has two handles and you can lift up to 200 lbs. It made it SO easy to move the large planters on my patio. Sells on Amazon for \$23.99.

Carol Meininger

1. Fabric containers for planting that come in all sizes—I've given these to folks with no landscape space along with a bag of compost and veggie transplants.
2. Tubtrugs—Flexible plastic tubs for all sorts of gardening chores. They come in 9 bright colors and 4 different sizes. I have several and use them almost daily—for stomping dry leaves before adding to the compost pile, for hauling gardening supplies, for holding compost while I use my compost sieve over the top, etc. You could fill one up with gardening supplies as a gift basket.
3. Use interesting junk store finds for unique planting containers (like old work boots).
4. Garden clogs
5. A hummingbird feeder along with a book on local hummingbird species. Plus, maybe include a black iron hooked pole for hanging the feeder in a good viewing location.

Karen Martin



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SPPC Newsletter
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'Bill's Big Blue' in Janice Sutherland's garden

BEVERLY SHILLING