



The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  Mar/Apr 2019

President's Message

Lorraine Van Kekerik

It's going to be a busy early spring and we need your help to make it successful.

March 10, is clean up day at the Shepard Garden & Art Center (SG&AC). Help make the center look its best for our sales and the busy facility rental season.

The SG&AC Spring Sale is set up on **March 15** and sales take place **March 16-17**. This is our largest fundraiser of the year. We sell lots of member grown, reasonably priced plants.

On Saturday, **March 23**, we invite many specialty growers and garden suppliers to sell their wares at the SG&AC. One stop garden shopping! In past years the public asked about buying food at the sale. So this year Ms. T's, the caterer who cooks the delicious holiday party turkey, will sell snacks and lunch to volunteers and the public.

Enjoy the April and early May field trips and tours! Reserve and pay early to ensure you have a seat on the **Luther Burbank Garden** bus tour.

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.

March Vendor Sale Speaker

Debbie Arrington

Looking Forward: Garden Trends for 2019

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER
SATURDAY—MARCH 23, 2019 • NOON

An award-winning journalist and lifelong gardener, Debbie is one of Sacramento's best known gardening experts. She's the co-creator of the popular *Sacramento Digs Gardening* blog and website, writing about Sacramento area gardening on a daily basis.

As the Sacramento Bee's home and garden writer, she covered those subjects extensively for almost 10 years as well as entertainment, food, sports and other topics. She won the Garden Writers Association's 2018 Silver Award for best newspaper article and its 2018 Gold Award—its top national honor—as best newspaper garden writer. She also won the 2015 GWA Silver Award for best newspaper garden column.

A Southern California native, Debbie worked for the Long Beach Press-Telegram and its sister Knight-Ridder newspapers for 20 years before moving to Sacramento in 1999. A longtime member of the Sacramento Rose Society, she is a consulting rosarian and has won numerous awards for her roses. She still gardens at both ends of the state.

April Program Speaker

Roxie Jones

All About Sunflowers

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER
THURSDAY—APRIL 25, 2019 • 7:00 PM

In the process of landscaping her first home, Roxie Jones became a gardener. She continues to garden, 48 years later, but now at a different home site. In 2013, Roxie became a master gardener. A request came to the County Cooperative Extension office for a speaker who could focus upon sunflowers. Not surprisingly, no master gardener had talked on that topic and the question became, could there be enough material to fill an hour presentation on this unheralded plant. Although she had never grown them, Roxie's curiosity was piqued, so she agreed to research sunflowers and share what she learned. As is oftentimes the case, there is more to something than meets the eye. Now, Roxie grows native sunflowers as well as a wide array of hybrid sunflowers. Not only will we see some of the varieties, we will have the opportunity to learn about the joy of growing sunflowers and understand their historical significance and environmental benefits.

WWW.SACRAMENTOPERENNIALPLANTCLUB.ORG



Sacramento Perennial Plant Club

OFFICERS

President: Lorraine Van Kekerix
Vice-President: Beverly Shilling
Secretary: Bobby Frieze
Treasurer: Pat McKnight

CONTACTS

E-Mail: Kirsten Salomon
Grant Program: Jane Thompson
Hamilton Square: Vacant
Membership: Carol Meininger
Newsletter: Cheryl McDonald
Plant Sales: Deborah Renfrew
Publicity/Website: Linda Hax
SG&AC Rep: Noelle Anderson
Speakers: Daisy Mah
Tour Coordinator: Sharon Patrician
Vendor Sale: Lili Ann Metzger
WPA Garden: Daisy Mah

Send questions or comments to:
pres.sppc@gmail.com

BOARD MEETINGS

All SPPC members are invited to attend monthly board meetings. Begins at 4 p.m. at a board member's home.

March 14

RSVP to Marcia Leddy
(916-213-7743)

April 11

RSVP to Jane Thompson
(916-494-9302)

NEWSLETTER

The due date to submit a garden-related article for the **May/June 2019** issue is **April 15**. Please send your article to Cheryl McDonald: mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net.

The Perennial Post is published bimonthly except for July and August. Archived newsletters can be viewed on the club's website.



Spring Plant Sale—Member Grown Plants

March 16–17, 2019 • 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Shepard Garden & Arts Center

Mark your calendars and invite a friend to come along to our SPPC Spring Plant Sale!

Whether you are looking to add a special new plant in your garden, replace a failing plant, or just start over in an area of your garden, the Plant Sale comes just in time for your new Spring plantings.

You will find a many varieties of perennial plants, each propagated and grown by our very own club members. We also try very hard to answer your gardening questions and offer advice on the planting and care of your plants. Hoping to see you there!

If you would like to volunteer and for more information, contact **Deborah Renfrew** (916-966-3580) or send an e-mail odetofoy@gmail.com.



Many Hands Make Light Work

Your hands are needed!

When: Tuesdays—March 19 & April 2. Starts at 9 a.m. both days—work as long or as little as you like. Heavy rain cancels.

Where: The Historic City Cemetery, Hamilton Square

Why: In anticipation of the cemetery's Open Garden on April 13

We need for SPPC's show piece, Hamilton Square, to look its best. Come join club members in general clean-up of this historic site. For questions, contact Beverly Shilling (b_shilling@sbcglobal.net; or 916-452-4762)

Reminders for General Meetings

Tools & Treasures Table—Please bring gently used garden-related items for the Tools and Treasures Table. Any money donated goes to fund SPPC activities. If the item you bring does not find a new home, you must take it with you when you leave. SG&AC does not have storage space for anything left behind.

Tool Sharpening & Container Drilling—**Stan Logan** and **Jim Thompson** will be at the SG&AC at 6:30 p.m. before each meeting to show members how to sharpen their tools and to drill holes in ceramic, wood, or metal containers.

2019 Membership Drive

Dues must be received by **March 31, 2019**, in order for you to be listed in the upcoming membership roster and be sent the newsletter.

Be sure to fill out the membership form completely and include it with your dues. Please consider signing up for one of the many ways you can help the club. The form is on our web site: www.sacramento-perennial-plant-club.org

For questions, contact **Carol Meininger** at 916-967-1018 or e-mail: sacppc@sbcglobal.net

Vendor Sale Returns

Save the Date

Saturday, March 23, 2019

16th Annual Vendor Sale

Shepard Garden and Arts Center

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

We have a great lineup of returning favorites and new vendors bringing in some wonderful plants and garden treasures. The proceeds of this event help fund the Grants Program, speakers and other community gardening projects. If you use social media please post the event information and share with your friends.



On Saturday at noon, the guest speaker is **Debbie Arrington**, award-winning journalist and lifelong gardener. Debbie is one of Sacramento's best known gardening experts. She's the co-creator of the popular *Sacramento Digs Gardening* blog and website, writing about Sacramento area gardening on a daily basis. Her talk is titled *Looking Forward: Garden Trends for 2019*.

Here's a partial list of who will be at this year's event:

All Things Wild—native plants

Carrie Simpson—yard art, bird feeders, reclaimed glass sun catchers

Friends of San Juan de Oriente—pottery from Nicaragua

Geraniaceae—plants in the geranium family and books

Golden Pond—aquatic plants, perennials, miniature gardens

Mad Man Bamboo—bamboo plants

Paul Matson—Japanese Maples

Morningsun Herb Farm—culinary and medicinal herbs, perennials, veggie starts

The OG—cactus and succulents

Tufarock Designs—natural accents for the home and garden

Two Bowls Ceramics—pottery for the home and garden

Volunteers Are Needed!

Friday, March 22: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- Volunteers are needed for set-up.
- Bring garden books or magazines to donate for the sale.*
- Bring blooms for the "What's Blooming" display.

Saturday March 23: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks, including clean-up.
- Volunteers provide their own lunch or can purchase lunch from Ms. T's.

*If you cannot bring books or magazines on March 22, contact **Carol Meininger** (916-967-1018) or **Lorraine Van Keckerix** (916-457-2674) for book storage. Note: Lorraine will be unavailable March 2–9.

To sign up, contact **Lili Ann Metzger** (Lili@abqhomeandgardenshow.com; or 916-837-3291).

Calendar

March 14

SPPC Board Meeting
RSVP to Marcia Leddy
(916-213-7743)
Starts at 4 p.m.

March 10

SG&AC Cleanup Day
Shepard Garden & Arts Center
9 a.m.–1 p.m.

March 16–17

SG&AC Annual Spring Plant Sale
Shepard Garden & Arts Center
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

March 19

Hamilton Square Clean-up Day
Historic City Cemetery
1000 Broadway, Sacramento
Starts at 9 a.m.

March 23

16th Annual Vendor Sale
Shepard Garden & Arts Center
9 a.m.–3 p.m.

April 2

Hamilton Square Clean-up Day
Historic City Cemetery
1000 Broadway, Sacramento
Starts at 9 a.m.

April 11

SPPC Board Meeting
RSVP to Jane Thompson
(916-494-9302)
Starts at 4 p.m.

April 25

SPPC General Meeting
Roxie Jones
All About Sunflowers
7 p.m.

May 4

Bus Trip to Luther Burbank
Home & Gardens
(See page 5 for details.)

Save the Date—May 13, 2019

Mosaic Garden Spheres Workshop

(details to come)

Carol's Compost

Aged horse manure, no weeds, alfalfa-fed horses. Pickup truck of three yards for \$60. Free delivery and unloading. Call Carol at 916-291-9831.



Spring Garden Tours for 2019

SATURDAY

March 30, 2019

Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden

Benicia

Morningsun Herb Farm

Vacaville

Heavy rain cancels



Overlooking the scenic Carquinez Strait in the Benicia State Recreation Area is a native plant demonstration garden managed by volunteers. This 3-1/2 acre site is planted with bulbs, perennials, trees and flowering shrubs endemic to the West. If a docent is available, they will lead a tour pointing out specimens; otherwise, the plants are well labeled. You may have a picnic lunch at the garden or drive into charming downtown Benicia for lunch and a stroll among the shops, art galleries or the Benicia Historical Museum. On the drive home, feel free to stop at Morningsun Herb Farm in Vacaville and look for plants you admired at the Botanic Garden. **Carpooling strongly urged** and there is a \$5.00 parking fee per auto. Leave at 9:00 a.m. from SG&AC. Paths are paved and easy to walk. Bring water; bathroom facilities available nearby.

www.bsragarden.org

www.morningsunherbfarm.com

SATURDAY

April 6, 2019

Berkeley Botanical Garden

Berkeley

Annie's Annuals

Richmond

Heavy rain cancels

A world-class botanic garden connected to the University, the garden is divided into geographic zones of the world. The garden is in the Berkeley hills and paths are paved; however, there can be some steep hills. If members are interested in a docent-led tour, one can be arranged for a modest additional cost.



Contact **Sharon Patrician** at patricianone@att.net by **March 6** for a head count.

A docent tour requires ten or more persons. On the return, those members interested in visiting Annie's Annuals, after lunch in the East Bay, will be given directions. **Carpooling strongly urged** since parking is limited. Leave SG&AC at 9:00 a.m. Bring your own water; bathrooms available.

Admission: \$10-12
Parking: \$1 per hour
Additional tour: \$10

www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

www.anniesannuals.com

SATURDAY

April 13, 2019

Open Garden at the Historic City Cemetery

1000 Broadway, Sacramento



Now in its 23rd year, the annual Open Garden, is a popular and well-regarded garden event in Sacramento. It's an opportunity to see many heritage roses, perennials and native plants in full bloom. Open from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Park on surrounding streets. If a volunteer is available, there may be a tour of Hamilton Square or the Native Plant garden. Roses propagated by volunteers will be available for sale as well as rose-related items. Roadways are paved but walking among the headstones requires some attention due to repairs. **Carpool or public transport.** Water for sale and bathroom available.

www.cemeteryrose.org

TUESDAY

April 16, 2019

Wildflower Walk–North Fork of Yuba River

Heavy rain cancels

Back for a second year, **Lee Perrone** will lead a tour at one of four places near the Yuba River. Location will depend on bloom.

Warning: *Sturdy shoes and a walking stick are recommended since the paths can be slippery or rutty.*

Leave at 9 a.m. from SG&AC and plan to return about noon or 1 p.m. You are welcome to bring a picnic or have lunch in Chico. Bring your own water; bathrooms are not available. Call Lee (916-737-2152) to indicate your interest and for directions.



WEDNESDAY

April 24, 2019

Stan & LaVille Logan's Iris Garden

Davis

Patricia Carpenter's Native Plant Garden

Davis

Heavy rain cancels



Stan and LaVille invite you into their home to check out the Canary Row sculpture and the koi pond. Note the "Crystal Palace" potting area with multiple candelabras. The main iris garden is on the east side of the yard. The "Gogh Garden" is named after the design of pavers they created one cold winter. You will find several mosaic projects in conjunction with the next garden sphere mosaic workshop on May 13. If you have interest in rain barrels, check out the three locations where they trap water off the roof. If you would like to set up your own system, Stan would be glad to help. **Carpooling urged.** Leave from SG&AC at 9:30 a.m.

Leaving the LaVilles, we will caravan to Patricia Carpenter's garden where we will have lunch. Water will be available. This is a large, private garden with many trees, shrubs, perennials and natives. The ground is level and seating is readily available. Patricia is extremely knowledgeable and will act as tour guide.

BUS TRIP

SATURDAY

May 4, 2019

Luther Burbank Home & Gardens

Santa Rosa

Nursery at Emerisa Gardens

Santa Rosa

- ▶ **Bus leaves SG&AC at 8:30 a.m.**
Use street parking—do not park in the SG&AC parking lot. Expect a return to SG&AC by 5:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Trip cost: \$50 per person**
Includes the bus, driver gratuity, and all fees for docent-led tours (Note: Members may bring a friend to share in the fun.)
- ▶ **Bus seating is limited.**
If space is still available by mid-March, the registration form will be sent to members as an e-mail attachment.

Our first stop is the **Luther Burbank Home & Gardens** in Santa Rosa. This historic landmark commemorates the work of famed horticulturalist, Luther Burbank, who introduced over 800 new plant varieties. The greenhouse and gardens were his laboratory and have been lovingly restored and cared for. Roses



should be in full bloom! Our tour begins at 11:00, followed by a sack lunch in the Garden at picnic tables, or spread a blanket on the grass, or relax on benches along paved pathways.

Next stop, we proceed by bus to **Nursery at Emerisa Gardens.**

This family-run nursery specializes in hardy and unusual perennials, shrubs, classic and unusual roses, grasses, herbs, succulents, Phormiums and more.

The owner of the nursery is giving us a 45 minute tour of the wholesale nursery

(2,500 different varieties grown on-site) and will give us **10% off on all plants** at the retail store next door. There will be room in the bus storage area for your purchases.

Be sure to pack your own sack lunch. Bottled water and baked treats will be provided.

Questions?? Please e-mail or call **Jane Thompson:** (artjane7850@sbcglobal.net; 916-494-9302).

www.lutherburbank.org

www.emerisa.com

WEDNESDAY

May 8, 2019

Jensen Botanical Garden

8520 Fair Oaks Blvd.

Carmichael, CA 95608



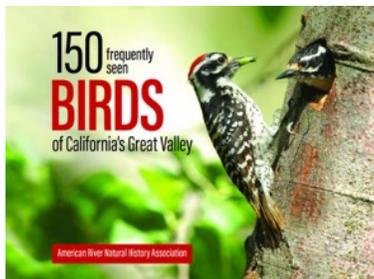
A small yet well-appointed shade garden right off busy Fair Oaks Blvd., the garden was constructed by Charles Jensen to house his collection of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. Volunteers maintain the garden in conjunction with the Carmichael Recreation & Park District. In May rhododendrons and roses bloom. There are also Dawn Redwoods, Maples, Dogwoods, Mock Orange and Redbuds. Signage is a challenge but there will be a handout to guide you to the 18 designated beds.

Meet at the garden at 10 a.m. **Carpooling is urged** since the parking lot is relatively small. Bring your own water; portapotties are up the hill going through the park to the community garden. Paths can be muddy after a rain and there are roots in those paths. Elevation gain is modest.

www.CarmichaelPark.com



Book Review



By Peggy Kennedy

When, at our last Perennial Plant Club meeting, Anamaria Pasquiers talked about the joys of the garden, she mentioned, among many features, wild birds. This reminded me of a new book, printed a little more than a year ago, about commonly seen birds in our area. Titled *150 Frequently Seen Birds of California's Great Valley*, this 4 1/2" x 6" spiral-bound field guide features simple text and at least two photographs of each of the 150 bird species in the book. In total it has 322 color photos within 320 pages. It is a field guide for casual or beginning birders and may be of interest to some of PPC's members.

The book is for sale at the following bookstores: Beer's Books, Avid Reader and Time Tested Books. You can also find it at Wild Birds Unlimited and Wild Birds and Gardens, as well as the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and the Cosumnes River Preserve. The cost is \$16.95 plus tax.

All proceeds from this book will benefit the mission and goals of the American River Natural History Association and Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

2019 Saul Wiseman Grant Recipients

Dear Plant Club friends,

At our February Club Meeting, it was my pleasure to introduce our 2019 Saul Wiseman Grant Award Recipients. This was a wonderful reminder to all of us of what a privilege it is to give back to our community and participate in so many worthwhile gardening endeavors. It turns out that this year's award recipients will benefit Title 1 schools by engaging students in science and nature curriculum and by changing the school community culture in many healthy ways.

Our shared commitment to the Grants Program continues to give all of us a measure of satisfaction and pride, knowing that our Plant Club is having an impact.

Jane Thompson

Chair, SPPC Grants Committee



Bret Harte Elementary School Garden

Bret Harte Garden Council • Sacramento

The school Garden Council coordinates teachers, students and volunteers to support their ongoing efforts in this large school garden. Grant funds will cover classroom materials such as butterfly larvae and worms, as well as gardening tools, mulch, signage and irrigation supplies for the garden areas.

Cameron Ranch Garden

Cameron Ranch School • Carmichael



The Garden Coordinator will involve local volunteers, parents, staff and students to establish a new Nature Area for native host plants which will attract birds and beneficial insects. Teachers will tie natural science curriculum and schedule classroom visits to the garden, where students can both study and maintain the area.



Garden Valley School Butterfly Garden

Natomas Garden & Art Club • Sacramento

This ambitious new Garden Club plans to transform an underutilized space in the center of the school campus, allowing staff, students and families to enjoy the beauty of a Butterfly Garden. The garden will provide teachers and students with hands-on activities and observational lessons in science and nature studies.

Mission Avenue Open School & Community Garden

PTA-Mission Avenue School • Carmichael



The PTA Garden Committee is currently overseeing the completion of a new school community garden on their campus. It will provide school-wide classroom opportunities for learning projects associated with planting, growth cycles and harvest. With Grant funds they will purchase two composting bins, organically-sourced plants and seeds.



Rancho Cordova School Garden

Rancho Cordova Elementary School

A garden committee of dedicated teachers will oversee this project on campus by developing lesson plans for teachers to engage students in gardening. They will also assist the student-led Garden Club in maintaining the garden. Grant funds will be used to purchase plantings, seeds, soil, garden tools, and a large capacity storage shed.

A New Tool!

I am really excited about a new tool that I just discovered.

I was sharpening tools for the volunteers pruning the roses at the Historic City Cemetery, and one of the workers showed me a sharpening tool that I had never used. I had avoided it because it seemed like just a gadget too simple to be effective. But I tried it out on the spot, and it really works! This tool consists of a handle with a slim rectangle of carbide at the end.



Even though the carbide has 90 degree edges, those edges are so sharp that they are able to shave off metal from the cutting edge of a pruner or lopper. Using this tool takes just a little practice, and—if you end up buying one—I could show you the technique in few seconds. So why would you use this tool instead of the metal file that I've touted before? Using a file is tricky because you have to stabilize the garden tool and then establish the proper angle with the file. Then too, sometimes there is very little space to fit a file near the hinge point of the blades. This new

For more of Stan's tool and garden tips, check out the "Blog" section on our web site.

tool avoids these complications. It is such a small tool that it can easily be carried in your pocket if you want to sharpen your

pruner on the job. So I think this tool should be on your "must buy list" if you like to keep your pruners and lopper sharp.

The *Corona AC 8300 Sharpening Tool* can be purchased on Amazon for around \$10.

Stan, still The Tool Man



Perimeter Project Ivy Pullers



If you like ivy, read no further. Ivy had taken over large areas of the garden beds adjacent to the Shepard Center, damaging the wooden walls and providing a thick cover for rats and trash. A group of hardy souls has worked three times, removing ivy from the North and East sides of the enclosed patio. They began last fall on September 19, preparing the space that is now beautifully filled with the new cactus and

succulent garden. Later, on December 11, **Chuck Donaldson, Deanna Bloom** and **Marcia Leddy** (featured in the photo above) dug in on the east side. More recently, on January 27, **Deanna Bloom, Sandy Dunn, Noelle Anderson,** and **Marcia Leddy** continued the clean-out, removing the ivy and as much of the roots as possible. The clean trunks of the large old pittosporum and camellia trees look beautiful now.

BUT! The job is not finished! Ivy is a tough customer and will soon regrow if we do not discourage it. The next step is to put down large pieces of cardboard and cover it with a thick layer of bark mulch. You can help by saving any large cardboard boxes that come into your life. Bring those large pieces to the Shepard Center Spring Clean-up Day on Sunday, March 10 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. If you can stay to work, wear old shoes and old clothes and bring a rake. We can defeat the ivy and make space for some lovely new plantings.

**Shepard Garden & Arts Center Spring Clean-up Day
Sunday, March 10 • 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**



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SPPC Newsletter
2743 San Luis Court
Sacramento, CA 95818



Inside this issue ...

16th Annual Vendor Sale

April Meeting Speaker

**Spring Plant Sale—Member
Grown Plants**

**Hamilton Square Garden
Clean-up**

2019 Membership Drive

2019 Spring Garden Tours

Book Review

**2019 Saul Wiseman
Grant Recipients**

SG&AC Perimeter Project

New Tool!



Morningsun Herb Farm at the Vendor Sale

CHERYL McDONALD