



The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  Nov/Dec 2017

President's Message

Lorraine Van Kekerix

Members tell me two of their favorite club activities are the garden tours and the Vendor Sale that brings vendors from a distance and features a well-respected keynote speaker. At this point, we will be having two spring garden tours in 2018: a bus trip to Bancroft Garden and the Gardens at Heather Farm in Walnut Creek; and a Cornerstone Garden tour with visits to local nurseries. Far less than usual. Several members will share information on how to organize tours. We are looking for a team, not a single person, who is willing to take on organizing tours. That might mean organizing a tour of several member or public gardens in your area.

The Vendor Sale occurs at the end of March. We have checklists on what to do by when for a successful vendor sale and there are people willing to do pre-sale work. What we need is someone to organize the pre-sale work using the existing checklists. An impressive number of people help to set up the sale and exhibits and keep things running smoothly at the sale.

Can you help to keep the tours and Vendor Sale going? If so, please contact me at: (916-457-2674 or lkvk@dcn.org)

NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER

Happy Thanksgiving



DECEMBER MEETING

Annual Holiday Potluck

WEDNESDAY—DECEMBER 13, 2017 • 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 **17th Annual Holiday Potluck on Wednesday, December 13th**. 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 **dessert**
- **J thru Q** to bring a **salad**
- **R thru Z** to bring a **hot dish**

In order to assure that there is an assortment of dishes we are asking that you RSVP to either **Deborah Renfrew, 916-966-3580** or **Marcia Leddy, 916-213-7743**. 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.

WWW.SACRAMENTOPERENNIALPLANTCLUB.ORG

Calendar

November 8

SPPC Board Meeting

Bobby Frieze (916-383-8054)
Potluck Dinner—5 p.m.

For those of you who missed the October general meeting or wish to have another opportunity to see **Marri Castenada's** succulent arrangements, she'll be at the East Sac Craft Fair on Saturday, November 18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The address is 1209 54th Street, Sacramento 95819.

Photos from the October 21st garden tour of Cornerstone will be posted on our web site sacramentoperennialplantclub.org



Saul Wiseman Grant Applications

Saul Wiseman Grant Applications are now available on our website: sacramentoperennialplantclub.org by clicking "Grants Program." Applications may be submitted electronically or by US Mail. Deadline for applications is January 15, 2018. Funding is awarded in February 2018.



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



Polishing a Gem

by Noelle Anderson

The Shepard Garden and Art Center (SGAC) has been called a "Gem of Mid-Century Modern Architecture" and recently it has started to live up to that description. The city has installed a gleaming white new roof which accentuates the white markings in the exterior field-stone columns and shows off the sweeping winglike shapes of the roof design. The city has also repaired the irrigation systems for the two patios.

The interior, which is now the responsibility of the SGAC Board, had been neglected for far too long. The lovely metal sculptures in the large meeting room and in the hall near the office were covered with years of dust and grime. The wood cabinets, festooned with years of scotch tape, were scratched and dull. The kitchen was simply dirty. The two patio gardens were overgrown and weedy.

On Saturday, September 30, many volunteers from the 30 different clubs descended on the SGAC and worked like fiends for more than four hours, weeding and trimming the gardens, painting the benches in the north patio, rendering the kitchen spotless and sanitary, cleaning and oiling the wood cabinets, and thoroughly scrubbing all of the folding tables that are used for the Fall and Spring Sales.

Our Perennial Plant Club was well represented: **Linda Hax, Daisy Mah, Lonnie Ratzlaff, Carol Meininger, Marcia Leddy, Noelle Anderson, Lorraine Van Keckerix, Mae Ferral, Therese Ruth, and Deborah Renfrew** all put in hours of hard work.

When you next visit take a good look at these improvements. The SGAC is now under the care of its Board, and by extension, the folks who use it—the members of the clubs themselves. We will need to maintain what we have begun. This means leaving the counters, tables, and the kitchen clean after we have used them. And NEVER use scotch tape on any surface because it is very hard to remove. Masking tape is okay. In the spring we will have another clean-up day, before the Spring Sale, on Sunday, March 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is an opportunity to meet nice people and work hard.

If you wish to make suggestions for improvements to the SGAC, all club members are invited to the Board meetings on the first Monday of every month, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Or you can donate to the Friends of the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, a non-profit organization that supports the SGAC. Make your check payable to **Friends of the Shepard Garden and Arts Center** and send it to Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95616-3824.



Thank You!

A great big THANK YOU to all you fantastic people who volunteered your time to make the Fall Plant Sale a big success. We made a grand total of \$1108 and I couldn't have done it without all of your amazing effort and dedication. All in all we did pretty well considering the competition from other events—locally and in adjacent counties. Not to mention the terrible wind on Sunday. I really appreciate all of your time and effort and again my genuine thanks and gratitude. Let's do it again in the spring!

—Deborah Renfrew

Harvest Sacramento

Harvest Sacramento—Edible City Initiative, a project of Soil Born Farms, is a collaborative effort of area residents, non-profits, community groups and businesses that harvest surplus fruit and vegetables from backyards and small orchards. The harvest is then donated to local food assistance agencies.

This program began as a grassroots campaign guided by **Mary McGrath** and **Robin Aurelius** (current SPPC members). In early 2009, with the help of 30 volunteers, about 3,000 pounds of fresh citrus was donated to the Sacramento Food Bank. It became apparent that with more organization and effective outreach, substantial contributions of fresh fruit and vegetables could greatly enhance the offerings of local food assistance agencies. Soil Born Farms took on a lead role in providing the necessary support to achieve this goal.

Mary McGrath, says of her East Sacramento neighborhood group, “Although fruit is picked in many areas, our crew continues to pick mostly citrus in East Sacramento. New volunteers continue to join us and we have many neighbors who ask every year for repeat pickings. One unexpected benefit has been to get to know our senior neighbors, like our new friend, Stan. As he got older, he could no longer pick his backyard tree and now we return each year to pick and visit with him. Sharing fruit really has created more community in our neighborhood. Folks at the Food Bank are so happy to see fresh citrus and neighbors are glad their fruit is not going to waste.”

If interested in volunteering, check out Soil Born's list of active neighborhood groups: <https://soilborn.org/initiatives/harvest-sacramento/>

Or, to donate fruit from your property, go to: <https://soilborn.org/initiatives/harvest-sacramento/hs-fruit-donation/>



Stan, The Tool Man

Five Tools for Your Bucket (List)

1. Thinning Shear

This tool will be the next tool of the month, but I want to pique your interest now as it is my favorite tool. Google “Corona Thinning Shear” to see this tool. This pruner is a common item at nurseries. Off brands are cheaper and work just fine.

2. Light-weight leaf rake

Surprisingly, I'm going to suggest you buy a cheap one—one with metal tines, but with a plastic frame. There is little value in moving a heavier tool through repeated motion.

3. Aluminum dust pan

When used with a leaf rake, there is nothing handier for picking up garden litter than a 17" aluminum dust pan. These are available at Amazon or at big box stores.

4. Moisture meter

My wife and I have killed a lot of plants. I'm not talking about weeds. The usual cause is too little or too much water. Buy a meter with a single probe—one just for moisture.

5. Fitbit

Sure this is not a garden tool, but a Fitbit will get you out in your garden more frequently. Have you heard that sitting is the new smoking? Please get moving. I have met a lot of you you now, and would like to see you around for many years to come. I suggest the Fitbit Alta with an additional order of a magnetic wrist band from Amazon.

Tool Sharpening Workshops

Stan will be at the SGAC at 6:30 p.m. before each meeting to show members how to sharpen their tools. He'll have metal files for you to purchase for \$4. These will be individual lessons, so probably only around five members can be assisted per night.



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SPPC Newsletter
2743 San Luis Court
Sacramento, CA 95818



Blooms from the Tombs

Have you ever found a seedling in your garden that looked unfamiliar?

I'm always looking in the hope of finding something interesting—like an unknown *Salvia* hybrid that are said to occur readily. This happened in 1994 in the South Carolina garden of Frances Parker. She named this *Salvia* for her grandson, Anthony. The parent plants are thought to be Mexican sage (*Salvia leucantha* 'Midnight') and Pineapple sage (*Salvia elegans*). *Salvia* 'Anthony Parker' along with its parents are growing in Hamilton Square Garden. The spectacular mixing of the scarlet flowers of *S. elegans* and the magenta purple of *S. 'Midnight'* results in a gorgeous purple/black flower/calyx combination which sit atop a handsome, well-rounded 4' x 4' plant. Blooming begins here at Hamilton Square Garden in mid-October through the first hard frost. What a wonderful surprise it must have been for Frances to see this lovely stranger blooming in her garden.

—Leslie Hurlburt



Salvia 'Anthony Parker' in Hamilton Square Garden

LESLIE HURLBURT