



The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  Jan/Feb 2018

President's Message

Lorraine Van Kekerix

My November/December 2017 President's Message sought volunteers to organize a late March Vendors Sale. Since we do not have a volunteer(s), there will be no 2018 Vendor Sale.

I'm still hopeful there will be a team of volunteers to organize garden tours. "How-to" tour organizing information is available. Several members will provide information and answer questions on organizing tours.

Please contact me if you are willing to be part of a tour organizing team. My phone number is 916-457-2674 and my email is pres.sppc@gmail.com.



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.

January Program Speaker

Nita Davidson
Move Over Ladybugs!

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER
THURSDAY—JANUARY 25, 2018 • 7:00 PM

As a toddler in Los Angeles, Nita Davidson began her entomological journey turning over rocks in her backyard and watching the creepy crawlies under them scurry away. In college, she focused on biology, writing and botany. When she found out that UC Berkeley had an entire department devoted to entomology, she headed to graduate school there, where she studied integrated pest management (IPM). Later, while a postdoc at UC Davis, she researched an invasive stink bug and reduced its presence throughout the Sacramento Valley by releasing its natural enemies. In 1993, she began working at the Department of Pesticide Regulation where she worked on implementing IPM and developing outreach. Nita will give a tour of natural enemies in the garden beyond familiar lady beetles and mantises. She'll also discuss what to do when faced with zillions of aphids or whiteflies and how to avoid infestations.

February Program Speaker

John Kipping
Old Growth Forest

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER
THURSDAY—FEBRUARY 22, 2018 • 7:00 PM

Exploring the rich and complex world of the Pacific Northwest temperate rainforest has been a lifelong passion of naturalist and arborist, John Kipping. This evolving ecosystem emerged from Pleistocene glaciations and is now home to some of the most vibrant and productive landscapes remaining on the earth. An intricate relationship between migrating salmon and forest productivity continues to be a beneficial merging of sea and land. Major conifer and flowering species will be covered as well as animal communities. John has been leading eco-tours to Alaska and British Columbia for the past four decades. He was formerly Director of Education at Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park, resident biologist for Audubon Canyon Ranch, and instructor with University of California Extension, Berkeley, Davis and Santa Cruz.

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
Events & Tours: Vacant
Grant Program: Jane Thompson
Hamilton Square: Leslie Hurlburt
Membership: Carol Meininger
Newsletter: Cheryl McDonald
Plant Sales: Deborah Renfrew
Publicity/Website: Linda Hax
SG&AC Rep: Noelle Anderson
Speakers: Daisy Mah
Vendor Sale: Vacant
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. Potluck dinners begin at 5 p.m. at a board member's home; then followed by the meeting.

January 10

RSVP to Linda Hax (916-481-9707)

February

Date and location to be determined

MEMBERSHIP

Dues must be received by **March 31, 2018** in order to be listed in the upcoming membership roster and be sent the newsletter. Fill out the enclosed membership form completely and include it with your dues. The form is also on the club's website. **Please sign up for one of the many ways you can help the club.**

NEWSLETTER

The due date to submit a garden-related article for the **March/April 2018** issue is **February 15**. Please send your article to (mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net).

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

SPPC Speakers & Events—2018

All meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.
Shepard Garden & Arts Center (SG&AC)
3330 McKinley Boulevard, Sacramento

Nonmembers are welcome to attend our evening lecture meetings; however, garden tours are open only to SPPC members. The SPPC website and bi-monthly newsletters will provide details regarding lectures and direction to tours.

January 25—7 p.m.

Nita Davidson—*Move Over Ladybugs!*

February 22—7 p.m.

John Kipping—*Old Growth Forest*

March 11—9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SG&AC Annual Clean-Up

March 17-18—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Spring Plant Sale at SG&AC

March 22—7 p.m.

Stan Logan—*Tool Care by the Tool Man*

April 26—7 p.m.

Chet Blackburn—*The Night Shift*

April 28—Bus trip to the Ruth Bancroft Garden and Gardens at Heather Farm

May 24—7 p.m.

Phyllis Wilburn—*Iris, the Goddess of the Garden*

June 28—7 p.m.

Anne Evans—*Power of Plants on the Plate*

July & August

No general meeting

August 4—8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Harvest Day at the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center

September 27—7 p.m.

Pam Bone—*Fertilizing 101, Why, How and When*

October 6-7—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fall Plant Sale at SG&AC

October 25—7 p.m.

Julia Oldfield—*A Day in the Life of a Nursery Manager*

November & December

No general meeting

December (date to be announced)

Holiday Potluck Dinner, 7 p.m. at SG&AC

Practically Perfect Pruner

I once had 13 hand pruners . . . until I brought a lot of them to the “Tools and Treasures” table. What is surprising is that I only used one of them 95% of the time. The **Corona Thinning Shear** is the one tool that really makes me panic when I lose it some place in the garden. It is small enough to hide in mulch or in a pile of clippings. But smallness is one of its attributes. I imagine that most of you garden with your pants on. By that I mean, you wear pants with pockets. The slender profile of the pruner allows you to slip it in your rear pocket so that it doesn’t stick out far and catch on anything. The blade tips are rounded so there is no danger of immediately creating a hole in your pocket or tender parts.

Another feature that makes this a “must have” for me is the fact that the cutting blades are long and thin. You can reach into tight spaces—cuts can be made close to an adjoining stem. Yet the blades are strong enough to cut through thick plant material. I have to admit that I also occasionally use it *closed* as a weeding tool particularly between pavers. Also, with closed blades you can jam it into the soil to loosen a stubborn weed. Although it’s hard on the cutting edges, this is the best tool I have for cutting off oak tree seedlings beneath the soil. Fortunately, the straight blades are easy to sharpen. I use this thinning shear to clean up cannas, prune grape vines, gingerly trim quince, cut back new growth on cherry and plum trees, and even prune the roses. Yeah, I know I should use a knife-edge bypass pruner, but this practically perfect pruner is already in my back pocket so that is what gets used.

OK, why isn’t it *absolutely* perfect? If dried plant juices build up on the blades, the blades will start to stick. Use either oven cleaner, WD-40 or carefully sandpaper the inner surfaces to remove the buildup. You also have to remember this is a lightweight pruner. It will not cut through a hard, woody stem generally thicker than ¼ inch. It’s at this point that I bypass the bypass hand pruners and reach for a lopper. I love my thinning shear. I feel it is a “must have” in your arsenal of garden weapons.

Convinced? This tool is commonly sold at many good garden centers and hardware stores.

Happy pruning!

P.S. If you’re looking for an entertaining activity at a party, this pruner is invaluable. Stun your guests with the “disappearing pruner trick”—deftly slip the pruner into your back pocket. You can create a contest by seeing which guest can perform this trick the fastest.



SPPC Grant Applications Due January 15

Applications for the *Saul Wiseman Grants* are available on the SPPC website. Applications will be accepted until January 15, 2018. Submit your grant application either by sending an electronic version to: sppcgrants@gmail.com, or by mailing a paper version to: SPPC Grants, 1108 3rd Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95818

Autumn Haiku

My sycamore sheds
its crop of crisp brown leaves, and
uncovers, the quiet nests.

—Mary McGrath



Many Thanks

Our Annual Holiday Potluck held on December 13th was a festive evening enjoyed by everyone who attended. Many thanks to co-chairs **Deborah Renfrew** and **Marcia Leddy** for organizing the event. Thanks also go to **Charlene Durant, Mae Ferral, Linda Hax, Mary McGrath, Carol Meininger, Janice Sutherland, Jane and Jim Thompson** and **Lorraine Van Kekerix** for their talents in setting up and decorating our holiday tables so beautifully. Thanks to everyone for bringing a variety of delicious salads, hot side dishes and wonderful desserts to accompany the turkey and ham entrees. Special thanks to **Madeleine** and **Caitlin Mullins** for providing the hot spiced apple cider to warm us on this chilly evening. **Beverly Shilling, Marcia Leddy** and **Pat McKnight** selected various garden-related gifts for our door prize drawing. The grand finale to our lovely evening came as we sang Christmas carols and songs of the season accompanied by our pianist **Noelle Anderson** and accordion player **Robin Aurelius**.

Tool Sharpening Workshops

Stan will be at the SG&AC 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



Rose Pruning Classes

Saturday, January 13, 2018
9:00 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The Historic Rose Garden will again host **Stephen Scanniello**, a Great Rosarian of the World, president of the Heritage Rose Foundation and curator of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, for two pruning workshops. This is a chance to learn from an expert and to be regaled with many entertaining tales of roses and the people who grow them. The first, at 9 a.m., will focus on pruning climbing roses. The second, at 1 p.m., will show techniques for pruning and rehabilitating mature plants. While our workshops are usually free, we would appreciate a minimum of \$10 donation to be shared between the Heritage Rose Foundation and for expenses in the Historic Rose Garden.

The cemetery is located at 1000 Broadway, Sacramento. There is limited parking within the cemetery, but parking is also available on surrounding surface streets. For more information, call 916-448-0811.



Stephen Scanniello pruning a climbing rose