



# The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  Mar/Apr 2017

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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.

## March Vendor Sale Speaker

**Robin Parer**  
*Geraniaceae 101*

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER  
SATURDAY—MARCH 25, 2017 • 9:00 AM—3:00 PM

Hardy geraniums, pelargoniums, erodiums and monsonias all belong to the Geraniaceae—otherwise known as The Geranium Family. While often referred to as “those red things,” they have been considered either dearly beloved or nearly despised by generations of California gardeners. This is an amazingly diverse group of plants which include tuberous rooted and night-scented pelargonium species, scented-leaf pelargoniums, ivy geraniums (angels and pansy face), rosebuds, fancy leaf, alpine erodiums (which grow so beautifully in containers), blue wildflowers (a favorite of perennial gardeners), and many thousands of plants in between. We will look at selected members of The Geranium Family and talk about their similarities and differences. We will also discuss how to care for these plants in the fierce summer climate of the Central Valley.

## April Program Speaker

**Pat Smith**  
*Charming, Incidental and Decidedly Deliberate  
Gardens in Europe*

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER  
THURSDAY—APRIL 27, 2017 • 7:00 PM

Pat Smith will be the first to admit that she is not an avid gardener but credits a gardening neighbor for her garden education and enthusiasm. Prior to a 22-year stint at the Sacramento Bee authoring excellent articles on design, architecture and music, she performed opera for 40 years. She was born into a family who valued and was well-versed in the arts. Her mother was an interior designer and painter; her father, an engineer and architect. Pat is fascinated by ways to solve problems and capturing it on “film.” Her presentation will delve into a wide spectrum of garden solutions ranging from the window box, a 2 ft. square plot and to the rambling estate.

[WWW.SACRAMENTOPERENNIALPLANTCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.SACRAMENTOPERENNIALPLANTCLUB.ORG)

# Calendar

## March 8

SPPC Board Meeting  
Jane Thompson (916-494-9302)  
Potluck Dinner—5 p.m.

## March 18-19

SG&AC Annual Spring Sale  
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

## March 25

15th Annual Vendor Sale  
Speaker: Robin Parer (at noon)  
SG&AC  
9 a.m.–3 p.m.

## March 25

"Spring Beauties Awaken"  
Early bloom tour of Hamilton Square  
Garden and Historic Rose Garden  
Historic City Cemetery  
10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

## April 8

Open Gardens Day  
Historic City Cemetery  
9:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

## April 13

SPPC Board Meeting  
Carol Meininger (916-967-1018)  
Potluck Dinner—5 p.m.

## April 22

Open Garden Tour  
10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
(See page 4 for details.)

## April 27

East Sacramento Garden Tour  
10 a.m.  
(See page 4 for details.)

## April 27

SPPC General Meeting  
Pat Smith  
*Charming, Incidental and Decidedly  
Deliberate Gardens in Europe*  
7 p.m.

## April 29-30

"Gardens of Folsom" 2017 Tour  
11 a.m.–4 p.m.  
(See page 7 for details.)



## The Perennial Post

*The Perennial Post* is published bimonthly except for July and August. Contact the editor, Cheryl McDonald, at [mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net) or call (916-524-5943) 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](http://www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org)

# President's Message

Lorraine Van Kekerix

As I write this, we face the dilemma of too much of a good thing. We got the rain we desperately needed, but got so much in such a short time that there are now issues at Lake Oroville, mudslides and flooding.

I am anxious to start gardening, but soils are too wet to work without causing compaction that will limit future garden success. In addition, temperatures are too low. So, the next best thing is to shop for plants and garden goodies at the Shepard Garden and Art Center Sale on March 18 and 19 and our Vendor Sale on March 25.

Successful sales require volunteer workers and shoppers!

## Spring Plant Sale—Member Grown Plants

March 18-19, 2017 • 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Shepard Garden and Arts Center

Purchase a wide variety of reasonably priced, member grown plants at this sale. We need volunteers to pick up the flats Friday morning, **March 17**, and transport them to the center and help set up. Volunteers are needed on Saturday

### Special Thank You

A special thanks to Scotts Miracle-Gro Company for their special donation of potting soil to the Aldar Academy to further propagation of plants and foster an interest in the plant program at the school. Aldar Academy has generously donated bags of the potting soil to our plant propagator and we want to thank them for sharing their gift with our club. We really appreciate it.

and Sunday (10 a.m.–4 p.m.) to man our tables and clean up. This is a good way to get to know other members of the club, and it is fun to work at the sale.

We need some members to take care of a few of the plants that do not sell at the Spring Sale and care for them until the Fall Sale. Each person would take only a few plants.

To volunteer and for more information, contact **Deborah Renfrew** (916-966-3580) or send an e-mail [odetofoy@gmail.com](mailto:odetofoy@gmail.com).

**New Way to Pay.** New this year, convenient credit card purchases will make it even easier to buy lots of plants.

## 2017 Membership Drive

Dues must be received by **March 31, 2017**, in order for you to be listed in the upcoming membership roster and be sent the newsletter.

The roster will be mailed with the May/June *Perennial Post*. The membership application for 2017 is in the Jan/Feb newsletter and on our web site [www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org](http://www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org). 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.

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

# Popular Vendor Sale Returns

## 15th Annual Vendor Sale

### Convenient One-Stop Shopping for Plants and Garden Art

The 15th Annual Vendor Sale offers you a wide assortment of shopping opportunities to enhance your garden. Northern California vendors gather to display their wares—ranging from worms, to plants, to garden art—all gathered for your shopping convenience in the courtyard of the Shepard Garden and Arts Center on Saturday, March 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This year's vendors include:

- **Bellflower Home and Garden**—large and small metal art, garden accessories
- **Big Oak Nursery**—locally grown annuals, perennials, shrubs, vegetables and fruit trees
- **Bob Tadlock Design**—locally propagated blueberries, rhododendrons, herbs and trees
- **Friends of San Juan de Oriente**—Nicaraguan pottery
- **Geraniaceae**—geraniums, pelargoniums, erodiums
- **Golden Pond**—aquatic plants
- **Mad Man Bamboo Nursery**—bamboo
- **Monte Cristo Farm / Maple Leaf Nursery**—ornamental plants
- **Morningsun Herb Farm**—herbs, vegetables, and perennials
- **RodArte**—tile garden art
- **Rustic Birdhouses**—handmade birdhouses
- **Two Flew the Coop**—chicken coops and decorative items
- **Worm Fancy**—worm composting supplies and casting
- **Additional vendors may be added.**

Vendors have donated items for four drawings to be held at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. Winners must be present at the time of the drawing. At noon, Robin Parer, owner of Geraniaceae, will speak on the topic, *Geraniaceae 101*.

Tell your neighbors and friends about this one-stop shopping opportunity for out-of-the-ordinary plants and garden art.

### Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers on Friday, March 24 from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturday, March 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help with table set-up, selling door prize tickets, running errands, selling books and magazines and clean-up. Contact **Sharon Patrician** at [patricianone@att.net](mailto:patricianone@att.net) or (916) 455-8166 to indicate your interest, how long you wish to work (two-hour shifts are suggested) and what you would like to do. Sharon will try to accommodate you but hopes you can be flexible.

Also, if you have gardening books or magazines you wish to donate or flowers you want to include in our always popular floral display, please contact Sharon at the above address/phone number to arrange delivery.

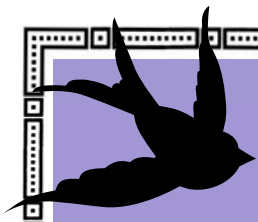


### Robin Parer 2017 Vendor Sale Speaker

**Robin Parer** is an Australian-born horticulturist who lectures frequently to garden groups and societies throughout the United States. She has been featured in many magazines and newspapers including *Sunset*, *House and Garden* and *The New York Times*. She recently finished writing *The Plant Lover's Guide to Hardy Geraniums*, which was published by Timber Press in 2016 and is available on Amazon.

Robin has owned and operated Geraniaceae Nursery in Marin County near San Francisco, California for the past 34 years, and has collected and propagated over 500 geranium species, selected color forms and hybrids. She has traveled widely, collecting both in the field, and from nurseries in the U.K., Europe, South America, Southern Africa and Australasia.





# Spring Garden Tours for 2017

We have a busy spring and early summer filled with a variety of garden tours. From local backyards to expansive views of Mt. Diablo, SPPC members have stepped up to share their gardens and expressed their ideas for interesting gardens to visit. The opportunity to be inspired and to learn from other gardeners is a popular benefit of SPPC membership.

## April

### Saturday, April 22 Open Gardens

*Celebrate Earth Day by visiting these two local gardens.*

#### **Barbara Lane-Piert's Garden**

9412 Marcola Court, Sacramento 95826  
Starting at 10:00 a.m.

Barbara's beautiful and playful garden will be a warm and inviting start to the day. You'll find a multitude of roses, unusual perennials, climbing vines, a charming playhouse, and pond.

*Suggested location for lunch:*

#### **KP International Market**

10971 Olson Drive, Rancho Cordova 95670  
[sac.kpinternationalmarket.com](http://sac.kpinternationalmarket.com)

Food Court with huge selection of international foods ready to eat, plus fun grocery shopping!

#### **Norm Klein's Garden**

1139 Mace River Court, Rancho Cordova 95670  
Starting at 1:00 p.m.

At the SPPC January meeting we learned that our speaker, Norm Klein, has over 1,500 cacti and succulents. He cautions us to "Stop and Look," rather than look while walking. These plants can be large and prickly creatures.

### Thursday, April 27 East Sacramento Gardens Capital Public Radio Garden

Tour begins at 10 a.m.  
Meet at 4440 G Street, Sacramento 95819



Tour five private gardens in East Sacramento including the gardens of SPPC members **Noelle Anderson**, **Nancy Griffith** and **Joyce Mills**. Begin the tour at Noelle's home, 4440 G St., Sacramento 95819 at 10 a.m. Maps will be distributed at that time.

Bring a sack lunch for a picnic at Capital Public Radio, 7055 Folsom Blvd., or you may choose to have lunch at a nearby restaurant. Beginning about 1:00 p.m., we will have a docent-led tour of the station's vegetable/perennial garden.

# May

Saturday, May 13

## CARPOOL TRIP

### Troll Knoll

*Spend a lovely day with fellow gardeners in this imaginative Disney-like garden.*

10148 Oak Canyon Drive, Penn Valley, CA 95946  
[www.trollknoll.com](http://www.trollknoll.com)

**Carpool from Shepard Center at 8 a.m.**



In 1991, shortly after the devastating 49er Fire, John Morris (the “Troll”) and his wife, Ann, bought this 20-acre Penn Valley property. They cleared the burned trees and shrubs and began to build their garden that now is a mix of many, mostly humorous, garden



vignettes. Think roses, a pond, giant redwoods, as well as dragons, Romanesque ruins, geckos and dinosaurs.

**Bring a sack lunch and water for our picnic on the Troll Knoll grounds.** Sturdy shoes are in order for the 2 1/2 hour stroll through the garden. For more information concerning the practicalities of this tour go to [www.trollknoll.com/about-us/practicalities-at-troll-knoll/](http://www.trollknoll.com/about-us/practicalities-at-troll-knoll/).

# June

Wednesday, June 21

## BUS TRIP

### The Ruth Bancroft Garden

1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598  
[www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/index.html](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/index.html)

### The Gardens at Heather Farm

1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598  
[gardenshf.org/the-garden](http://gardenshf.org/the-garden)

**Depart from Shepard Center at 8:30 a.m.  
Return by 6:30 p.m.**

This members-only bus trip coincides with the Bancroft’s *23rd Annual Sculpture in the Garden* show. The garden’s world-class collection of succulent and drought-tolerant plants transforms into a month-long outdoor art gallery. The unusual shapes, interesting textures, and striking colors of succulents and cacti provide endless inspiration for artists.



We’ll then travel a short distance to *The Gardens at Heather Farm* where we’ll have a picnic lunch. There are no picnic tables, so please bring a blanket and/or a folding lawn chair for seating. These items will be placed in the bus storage area.

The garden’s six acres are filled with themed gardens connected by paved and gravel walkways. The Diablo Ascent Garden offers expansive views of Mt. Diablo along with a blend of California natives and Mediterranean plantings.

**Trip cost: \$55** (includes bus, driver gratuity and docent-led tours at each of the gardens)

**Bus seating is limited.** The bus trip form will be e-mailed to members at the beginning of May. Due date for completed form and payment is May 15.

## Local Garden Tours

### Gardens Gone Native

April 8, 2017

This self-guided tour is free but registration is required. Check the website for details.

[www.facebook.com/gardensgonenative/](http://www.facebook.com/gardensgonenative/)

### Open Gardens Day

Old City Historic Cemetery

April 8, 2017

9:30 am–2 pm

The day begins with a sale of rare heritage rose plants and continues with free tours of all the gardens and cemetery.

### Land Park Garden Tour

May 6, 2017

10 am–4 pm

Benefits the Holy Spirit Parish School art program and local charities. Check the website for cost and details. [hs-ps.com/development/fundraising/land-park-garden-tour-and-tea](http://hs-ps.com/development/fundraising/land-park-garden-tour-and-tea)

### East Sacramento Garden Tour

May 13–14, 2017

10 am–4 pm

Supports enrichment and academic programs at David Lubin Elementary School. Check the website for cost and details.

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

## Save the Date

### Natomas Rose Garden Tour and Lunch

Saturday, June 10, 2017

Begins at 10:45 a.m.

South Natomas Community Park  
2881 Truxel Rd.  
Sacramento CA 95833

Enjoy a leisurely tour of the Natomas Rose Garden along with “Poet’s Park” a public art project honoring past and present Sacramento poets laureate. A boxed lunch will be available for \$6.00. SPPC member, **Lonnie Ratzlaff**, was instrumental in the creation of this garden. At the May general meeting, there will be more information and a head count of those planning to go.

## 2017 Saul Wiseman Grant Award Recipients

The Sacramento Perennial Plant Club proudly announces the following 2017 Saul Wiseman Grant Award recipients. The SPPC Board has also ‘conditionally approved’ a fifth application which will be announced when their grant funding is awarded.



### Growing Healthy / Growing Knowledge

Aldar Academy  
Mission Oaks, Sacramento

This school involves students in the joy of gardening by growing food for cooking and flowers for arranging. Student learning includes hands-on gardening experiences and curriculum which is tied to horticulture and healthy eating. Grant funds will be used to build new raised beds in their vegetable garden area, replacing those that have worn out.



### Elk Grove Community Children’s Garden

Elk Grove Community Garden & Learning Center  
Hampton Village, Elk Grove

The Elk Grove Community Garden features 88 raised beds, numerous fruit trees, bee hives, and a Children’s Garden. Master Gardeners offer classes and workshops at the center and all the produce grown in the gardens is donated to the local Food Bank. Grant funds will be used to purchase concrete pavers for a more stable walkway in the Children’s Garden.



### ReSoil Sacramento Compost Centers

Green Restaurants Alliance Sacramento  
Midtown Sacramento

ReSoil Sacramento is a community network which produces healthy soil at compost centers in the area using organic scraps from 15 Sacramento restaurants. They teach composting techniques and train compost center teams. Grant funds will supply four new composting centers at two midtown community gardens, an Adult School in East Sacramento, and the International Rescue Committee Refugee Farm in West Sacramento. They will also erect garden signage giving credit to SPPC for our support.



### Murer House Garden Shed Project

Murer House Foundation  
Folsom

The volunteer gardeners who tend the historic gardens at the Murer House endeavor to protect the original plantings, and restore, amend and rebuild the landscaping surrounding the home. Grant funds will go towards the purchase of a much-needed garden shed to house all the gardening tools in one easily accessible location on the property.

The purpose of the Saul Wiseman Grants is to promote gardening within the County of Sacramento. Non-profit groups with garden-related activities may apply. Up to 5 grants in the amount of up to \$500 may be awarded annually.

The 2018 Saul Wiseman Grant Applications will be available September 30, 2017 on the SPPC website. For more information please contact **Jane Thompson** at [sppcgrants@gmail.com](mailto:sppcgrants@gmail.com)



# Blooms from the Tombs

by Leslie Hurlburt

The bees will soon be swarming and the place to be is at the Historic City Cemetery. This history-filled landscape of carriage paths is lined with memorials, monuments and gardens that grace it with utmost respect. When you visit the Historic City Cemetery in Sacramento, I encourage each of you to come for a stroll to see the SPPC sponsored Hamilton Square Garden. The next guided tour will be a joint tour of the Historic Rose Garden and Hamilton Square on **Saturday, March 25th** at 10 a.m. starting at the front gate. Outside street parking only. Mother nature has set the perfect stage this year for a spectacular show! Here's a little peek of the "Blooms from the Tombs."



*Dianthus plumarius* 'Rose de Mai'



*Athanasia pinnata*



*Ixia longituba* var. *bellendenii*

## March 25

### "Spring Beauties Awaken"

Early bloom tour of Hamilton Square Garden and Historic Rose Garden  
Historic City Cemetery  
10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

*(Enjoy a full day of garden-related activities by attending the SPPC Vendor Sale in the afternoon.)*

### "What's Blooming" Tours

One hour guided tour of Hamilton Square Garden  
Last Saturday of the month  
(April through November)  
Historic City Cemetery  
10 a.m.

### Hamilton Square Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for a way to volunteer or know anybody who is? The club's civics project, Hamilton Square Garden, always welcomes volunteers to help with the day-to-day care of a public garden— weeding, watering, deadheading and more. Tuesdays and Thursdays are our usual group days. Any time you can volunteer— once a year, or as often as you like— will be welcomed. Also, if you're willing to commit to the up-keep of a single plot, you may adopt one in Hamilton Square Garden. You'll be able to keep it looking picture perfect through the seasons. If you're interested please e-mail Leslie Hurlburt at [lesliehurlburt@icloud.com](mailto:lesliehurlburt@icloud.com).



## Butterflies, Flowers and Bees! Oh My!

Follow the road to the *Gardens of Folsom* 2017 Garden Tour!

**Saturday, April 29th and  
Sunday, April 30, 2017**

**11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

This year's tour features some unique gardens filled with lush plantings, swimming pools and a koi pond. Enjoy a coastal themed garden planted with succulents, a garden designed for family gatherings and a serene poolside oasis filled with whimsical garden art. Feel a Tahoe atmosphere in a spacious outdoor kitchen, stroll through the free form-drought tolerant garden and don't miss the gorgeous, Asian inspired garden with the spectacular view and resident bee hive. Learn about irrigation techniques and visit the plant sale at the San Juan Water District Demonstration Garden.

Tickets are \$20 for attendees 16 and over, and include a descriptive brochure and a map of the tour route. *The tour will be held "Rain or Shine"* with no refunds. Tour details and tickets can be purchased at [www.folsomgarden.org](http://www.folsomgarden.org), or call



## The Perennial Post

SPPC Newsletter  
2743 San Luis Court  
Sacramento, CA 95818



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*Garrya elliptica 'James Roof' at the WPA Rock Garden*