



# The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  Sept/Oct 2016

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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.

## September Program Speaker

**Suzanne O'Brien**

*Slow Flower Movement*

THURSDAY — SEPTEMBER 22, 2016\* • 7:00 PM  
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

Suzanne O'Brien began her career in floral design while working her way through college at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. After graduating with a degree in Environmental Horticulture, she moved to Sacramento where she continued to work in retail floral design. In 2009, Suzanne decided to open her own business, Garden of Weedon Designs. Around the same time she began teaching at American River College. Suzanne will talk about the slow flower movement—a growing consciousness of a more sustainable, environmentally friendly approach to the floral trade. Rather than being shipped thousands of miles away, flowers are grown on a smaller scale and closer to their market. The net gain is less burning of fossil fuels, less need for chemical preservatives and more flowers grown locally.

## October Program Speaker

**Greg Gayton**

*Trends in the Nursery*

THURSDAY — OCTOBER 27, 2016 • 7:00 PM  
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

By the time Greg Gayton was in the sixth grade, his nurturing instincts and work ethic were readily apparent. Though never quite realized, he dreamed of running his own hardware store, just like the “old-timey” store where he learned skills such as tuning up power tools, caring for flats of tomatoes and developing his gift of gab. In 1970, while studying horticulture at American River College, he answered an ad for Matsuda's Nursery. A year later he was promoted to manager and now, at Green Acres, is heading up the information technology, marketing and safety divisions. Greg's long and storied history in the industry makes him a perfect candidate for the topic “Trends in the Nursery.” Besides being a plant geek, he speaks German and Spanish, is a talented photographer and somehow manages to make time for developing food gardens to feed the needy at Capital Public Radio, Raley Field and his church.

\*Remember there are five Thursdays in September; we meet on the fourth Thursday.

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

# Calendar

## September 14

SPPC Board Meeting  
Cheryl McDonald (916-524-5943)  
5 p.m.

## September 17

7th Annual Arden Park Garden Tour  
9 a.m.–1 p.m.  
[www.ardenparkgardenclub.com](http://www.ardenparkgardenclub.com)

## September 22

SPPC General Meeting  
Suzanne O'Brien  
*Slow Flower Movement*  
7 p.m.

## September 24

What's Blooming Tour  
Hamilton Square Garden  
Historic City Cemetery  
10 a.m.

## October 1-2

Fall Plant Sale  
Shepard Garden & Arts Center  
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

## October 8

Tour of Sherwood Demonstration  
Garden  
6699 Campus Drive, Placerville  
10 a.m.

## October 15

What's Blooming Tour  
Hamilton Square Garden  
Historic City Cemetery  
10 a.m.

## October 12

SPPC Board Meeting  
Noelle Anderson (916-731-4648)  
Potluck Dinner—5 p.m.

## October 27

SPPC General Meeting  
Greg Gayton  
*Trends in the Nursery*  
7 p.m.

**There will be no general meeting  
in November and December.**



## 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.sacramento-perennial-plant-club.org](http://www.sacramento-perennial-plant-club.org)

# President's Message

Lorraine Van Kekerix

Many thanks to **Saul Wiseman** and Board members who have led the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club for many years. The club offers:

- a wide variety of programs on all aspects of gardening,
- bimonthly *Perennial Post* newsletters featuring club and garden activities and information from our members,
- tours and trips to inspirational gardens, nurseries and garden shows,
- opportunities to volunteer to maintain beautiful public gardens featuring perennial plants,
- grants to local non-profits to promote gardening,
- plant sales with many unusual plants and garden accessories, and
- many chances to share information and socialize with enthusiastic gardeners.

As I start my term as president, I look forward to working with members and Board Members to continue our many successful activities. I would also like to hear new ideas. Feel free to contact me via email, phone or at our regular meetings.

## Autumn Garden Tour

# Sherwood Demonstration Garden

**October 8 • 10 a.m.**  
**6699 Campus Drive, Placerville, CA 95667**

The Sherwood Demonstration Garden in El Dorado County is a recent example of backyard gardening at its best. The late Bob Sherwood, Master Gardener, was the visionary and creator of this demo garden. Construction began in 2010 and planting started in 2013. Located behind Folsom Lake College—El Dorado Center, this two-acre site consists of 16 themed gardens. For more information and photos go to [www.mgeldorfado.ucanr.edu/Demonstration\\_Garden](http://www.mgeldorfado.ucanr.edu/Demonstration_Garden).

**The tour will be October 8, 2016 at 10 a.m.** The garden is located on a gentle slope and is handicapped accessible. Meet at the parking lot. After our escorted tour, there are two nurseries nearby (Front Yard Nursery and El Dorado Nursery and Garden) where you may find plants you've just seen for sale or garden ornaments to enhance your vision.

While in this lovely part of Northern California, take in Apple Hill with its plentiful places to picnic, buy food and produce and even sip a bit of wine if this pleases you. Contact Sharon Patrician (916-455-8166 or [patricianone@att.net](mailto:patricianone@att.net)) by **October 1** for a headcount. Day of tour call: (916) 340-4101

**Directions to Sherwood:** Take Highway 50 east and take the Missouri Flat exit. Turn left on Missouri Flat. Turn left onto Green Valley Road and turn right onto Campus Drive. Take road to end of campus and turn left into parking lot.

**Front Yard Nursery**  
5801 Mother Lode Drive  
Placerville, CA 95667  
530-626-3494

[www.frontyardnursery.com](http://www.frontyardnursery.com)

**El Dorado Nursery and Garden**  
3931-C Durock Road  
Shingle Springs, CA 95682  
530-676-6555

[www.eldoradonursery.com](http://www.eldoradonursery.com)



# Meet the New President

by Diana Morris

## It's time for changes at the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club.

With the “retirement” of our longtime president, Saul Wiseman, we were in need of a new leader. Stepping up to the garden gate to ramrod our group of dedicated gardeners is **Lorraine Van Kekerix**. A member of SPPC for many years, Lorraine brings a wealth of gardening interests and experiences.

The beginnings of Lorraine’s garden knowledge began in her family’s Southern California home where her father raised drought tolerant plants along with species orchids. She spent her working years at the Sacramento office of the State of California’s Cal Recycle (Waste Management Board). “Everything becomes waste,” says Lorraine. She has a wealth of interesting facts and insights into the business of waste management. “The most efficient ways to limit waste are waste prevention and reuse,” says Lorraine.

Lorraine carried over her environmental concerns to her extracurricular activities. She has a lengthy background as a member of the Sacramento Valley chapter



Garden images from Lorraine’s backyard.

of the California Native Plant Society, serving as president and chairing the chapter’s plant sale for 10 years. A master gardener since 2005, she recently wrapped up editing the Sacramento County Master Gardeners 2017 Garden Guide and Calendar. She says many Fair Oaks Horticultural Center experts contributed to the calendar.

A lifelong learner, Lorraine enjoys travel to noteworthy parks and gardens. On a recent jaunt to Paris, Belgium and Holland, she vowed to visit one garden or park per day. She was most impressed with Monet’s garden bridge. In addition, she is a member of the Garden Conservancy and mentioned the Conservancy’s *Open Days Directory* as a great reference point for finding gardens to visit.

It is easy to spot Lorraine’s home as you turn down the short street on which she lives. The front yard is full of shade with large trees and plenty of natives and water-wise plantings along

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## Membership News

### 2016 Membership Roster

Please check that your contact information has been listed correctly in the membership roster. If there are any corrections, or if you want to be removed from the list or you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail please call **Carol Meininger** (916-967-1018) or send an e-mail to [sacppc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sacppc@sbcglobal.net).

### Volunteers Needed

#### Vendor Plant Sale Team

Have a knack for organizing? Consider joining a team to organize a club-sponsored vendor plant sale in Spring 2017. Past vendor plant sales were an important connection between the club and the greater gardening community. The event featured lively speakers, many out-of-town specialty plant growers and creators of garden art. One member has stepped up, **IF** we can form a team. Please contact **Lorraine Van Kekerix** at [pres.sppc@gmail.com](mailto:pres.sppc@gmail.com) or 916-457-2674 to volunteer or for more information.



### Refreshments Coordinator

*No coffee? No tea?  
What will happen to me?*

That scary scenario just might come true without a refreshments coordinator.

Ideally, two or three people coming together to help with this task would be great. Give it some thought. If you’ve been wondering how to become more involved with the club, this is the perfect opportunity. Contact Deborah if you have any questions at [odetofoy@gmail.com](mailto:odetofoy@gmail.com) or 916-966-3580.

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## New President

(Continued from page 3)

with a heavy covering of shredded bark mulch. She waters the front yard every two or three weeks. Her backyard holds an abundance of drought tolerant plants with a newly planted lawn of buffalo grass. She says she waters once a week for most of her backyard but more frequent waterings for the buffalo grass as she works to get the grass established. She estimates the grass will take three to six months to fill in.

Lorraine speaks appreciatively of her years as a member of SPPC, of the wonderful people, programs, sales and tours. SPPC is a very special garden club. Please welcome and support Lorraine as she begins her tour of duty as our new president.

**Lorraine would like to hear your comments or new ideas. Contact her at: [pres.sppc@gmail.com](mailto:pres.sppc@gmail.com) or 916-457-2674.**



## Share Your Decorating Ideas for the Holidays

Do you have a favorite way of decorating for the holidays with plants or other garden-related items? Share your traditions or “non-traditional tradition” in the November/December *Perennial Post*.

Inspire your fellow members to switch it up this year with new ideas.

Send an e-mail with your decorating idea and a photo (if you have one) to:

**Diana Morris**

[dinowata@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dinowata@sbcglobal.net)

or give her a call at 530-601-8372.

**Deadline is October 10.**

## New Chairperson for Plant Sales

Hi, I’m Deborah Renfrew and I’m taking over Madeleine’s job of managing the bi-annual plant sales. I know I can’t hold a candle to Madeleine, especially in her vast knowledge of plants, but I’ll give it a go anyway.

My interest in plants probably goes back to my childhood running through the Berkeley Rose Garden. I remember being attracted to the fragrant roses and admiring all of the many butterflies. I’m still a sucker for fragrant plants and smell every plant I come into contact with, even though I sometimes end up with hay fever.

My first real gardening experience was here in Sacramento. My husband and I bought a tract home in North Sacramento. The ground was all hard pan that had to be dynamited by the developer before the houses could be built. It was a challenging experience because when the strong winds came the dirt/dust blew through the screens into the house and coated everything. We managed to lay a front and back lawn and planted many plants but it was geometric and predictable, no curves. My real joy came from putting in the plants around the edges and in front of the house. I was forever impressed when a plant produced fruit or flowers like it was supposed to or attracted bees or butterflies—or put out a fragrance that came straight from heaven. Of course I made many mistakes, but I learned from them. Our most successful plant at this house was a beautiful *Zelkova serrata*. It’s huge now and in the fall has such spectacular color.

We then moved to West Sacramento and the difference in soil was like night and day. You could trim a plant, stick a cutting in the dirt and pretty soon you would have two plants. That aspect of planting really tickled me—the plants were free. Now we live in Fair Oaks and I’ve taken out (along with the help of two dogs) my backyard grass. I’ve also removed half of the grass in the front yard, but replacing it with perennials has been a work in progress. We had a Silver Maple tree and every time I tried to dig a hole, I had to lay down the shovel and go get the axe and mattock before I could dig a big enough hole. I’m burying my garbage scraps here and there to improve the soil but I think it will be years before the soil is healthy with microbes. My biggest problem is purslane—I could feed a whole tribe for a week with it. I’m going to try and do some serious mulching this fall in order to cut down on the weeding next spring. But first the fall plant sale and all those great opportunities to try new plants. I can’t wait. Hope to see you there.

## Fall Plant Sale

October 1–2, 2016

Shepard Garden & Arts Center

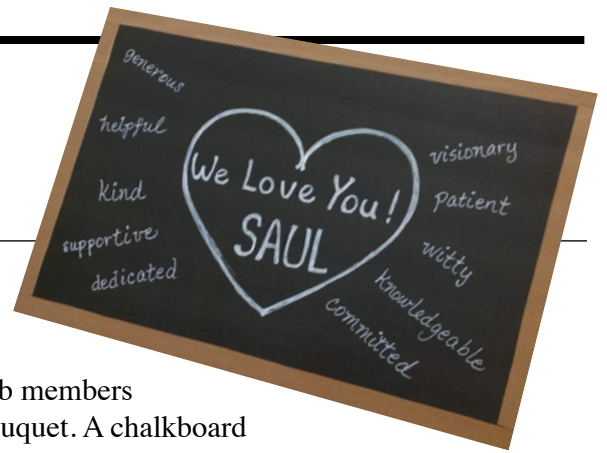
10 a.m.– 4 p.m.

Sign-up to volunteer at the September 22 general meeting.



# Thank You, Saul!

by Linda Hax



On June 23 outgoing Sacramento Perennial Plant Club president, **Saul Wiseman**, was feted with a salad buffet attended by over 60 club members bringing their favorite salad and a single flower offering for Saul's bouquet. A chalkboard sign, "We Love You! Saul," greeted attendees who then added their own comments about Saul's 12 years of service to a card. Appreciation gifts to Saul included two hundred dollars, an engraved watering can, and naming our SPPC grants "The Saul Wiseman Grants" in recognition of Saul's leadership promoting gardening in the greater Sacramento area. Flower-bedecked tables decorated picnic style set the scene as **Daisy Mah** emceed our celebration, interviewed Saul along with tribute observations from **Madeleine Mullins**, **Janice Sutherland**, and **Jeanne Ross**. Our speaker, "**Farmer Fred**" **Hoffman**, shared his inspiring story of recovery from a heart attack and diabetes using "The Healthy Heart Garden." Fred's speech was so motivating it may have dimmed our appetite for the strawberry-topped cake served afterwards, delicious though it was. The evening concluded with introduction of Sacramento Perennial Plant Club's incoming president, **Lorraine Van Kekerix**, and our colorful, new club banner. The Party Planning Team included **Bobbie Frieze**, **Linda Hax**, **Elizabeth Jones**, **Daisy Mah**, **Pat McKnight**, **Carol Meininger**, and **Jane Thompson**, chairperson.



PHOTO COLLAGE: PEGGY GERICK. PHOTOS: PEGGY GERICK, LINDA HAX AND JANE THOMPSON

# SPPC Grants Program News



Our SPPC Grants Program, now in its second year, continues to grow and develop as we invest in worthy gardening projects throughout the greater Sacramento area. This year we supported a variety of garden-related activities, some focused on educating our youth in gardening practice, while others focused on bringing benefit to others by providing food for the hungry or by creating garden spaces for pleasure and beauty. All sought to involve their community in these endeavors.



In late Spring a group of us made visitations to the grant garden projects with the purpose of showing support and interest for what they were accomplishing with our grant funding. It was truly amazing to witness the enthusiasm and joy generated by these gardeners. Let me share some of the positive responses we have received this summer as a result of reaching out through our grants program.

*“... your investment through the Grant Award process has been a significant factor in contributing to the growth and independence of our students. Your partnership with us has provided one more tool for us to use in raising up our students. Thank you for being so generous...for coming and sharing what it is we are doing to grow our garden, our flower beds, and our students and staff.”*

–Aldar Academy

*“The Sacramento Geranium Club wishes to contribute to the grant program you have initiated to promote gardening in the Sacramento area. We admire your work and organization to get this program off to a great start... As fellow gardeners we are proud to support your efforts to reach out to our community and make a difference.”*

– Sacramento Geranium Club

You can see photos from our visitation days and a list of our 2016 Grant Award recipients when you go to our website: [www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org](http://www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org)

There have been two significant Board actions in 2016 regarding the Grants Program. The first was approval to increase the number of grants from three to five (awarded annually in the amount of up to \$500 each). And the second was approval for naming the grants, *The Saul Wiseman Grants*, to honor our outgoing president of 12 years. Saul was a force behind establishing the SPPC Grants Program in the Fall of 2014.

As a reminder, the **2017 Grant Application** will be available on the website beginning September 30. Deadline for applications is January 15, 2017. For any questions or comments, please contact me at [sppcgrants@gmail.com](mailto:sppcgrants@gmail.com).

Jane Thompson, Chair  
SPPC Grants Committee



# Support the UCCE Sacramento County Master Gardeners—*Buy Some Bulbs*

by Diana Morris

**A bouquet of yellow daffodils on a kitchen table brightens an entire home!**

Nothing says spring like cheery, fresh daffodils. Here's a chance to get your bulbs and help the University of California Cooperative Extension's Sacramento County Master Gardener (SCMG) program. They are offering a variety of spring blooming bulbs—daffodils, paperwhites, species tulips, hyacinths, summer snowflake and foxtail lily. Proceeds from this fundraiser help the SCMG continue its quest to offer gardening guidance, programs and events to residents of Sacramento County.

For more information and to see the entire bulb selection, visit their web site at:

[sacmg.ucanr.edu/bulbs/](http://sacmg.ucanr.edu/bulbs/)



**SCMG will be selling bulbs at the following events:**

### Open Garden

Pre-sale orders taken  
Saturday, September 17  
9 a.m. – noon  
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center  
11549 Fair Oaks Blvd.  
Fair Oaks

### Fall Plant Sale

Saturday/Sunday  
October 1 and 2  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Shepard Garden & Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd.  
Sacramento

### Open Garden

Wednesday, October 12  
9 a.m. – noon  
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center  
11549 Fair Oaks Blvd.  
Fair Oaks

### Gifts from the Garden Workshop

Saturday, October 22  
8 a.m. – noon  
UC Cooperative Extension  
Office  
4145 Branch Center Road  
Sacramento



# Blooms from the Tombs

by Leslie Hurlburt



*Anagallis monellii* "Blue Pimpernel" is an herbaceous perennial from the Mediterranean region with 3/4 inch flowers from May until frost. This one is growing in half-day filtered shade with twice a week watering. Well-draining soil is required to prevent root rot. It's size is 10" tall and 20" wide making it easy to tuck in anywhere in full sun to partial shade. Perennial in zones 8-10. For more info look here.... [garden.org/plants/view/75248/Blue-Pimpernel-Anagallis-monellii/](http://garden.org/plants/view/75248/Blue-Pimpernel-Anagallis-monellii/)

### What's Blooming Tours

Hamilton Square Garden  
Historic City Cemetery  
1000 Broadway, Sacramento  
10 a.m.

**September 24**  
**October 15**



## The Perennial Post

SPPC Newsletter  
2743 San Luis Court  
Sacramento, CA 95818



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*A ceramic bird bath created by Marcia Leddy, nestled in her backyard.*

BILLEDDY