



Sacramento Perennial Plant Club Newsletter

MARCH/APRIL 2013

FOUNDED IN 1988 • CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

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MARCH VENDOR SALE SPEAKER

Nicholas Staddon

Behind the Curtain

SATURDAY—MARCH 30, 2013 • 12:00 PM
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

Nicholas Staddon, director of new plant introductions for *Monrovia Nursery* in Azusa, has been with *Monrovia* for over 24 years. He works with breeders, hybridizers, and professional plant explorers, who scour the globe for new creations and discoveries in the plant world. Nicholas is also sought out as a resource and guest for television and radio gardening shows across the United States. Nicholas works closely with professional garden writers and *Monrovia* customers, providing information on plants both old and new—sharing his views on garden trends. Nicholas has created a series of informative ‘Plant Savvy’ videos that can be found on line.

Born in England, Nicholas attended Otley Agricultural College where he received his degree in agricultural science. Before joining *Monrovia*, he managed garden centers in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico. He says of New Mexico, “One of the most beautiful places in the world—the vistas will move your heart and the gardening will break it.” Nicholas now resides in California and continues to be consumed with a passion for plants and animals. He travels extensively for *Monrovia* in his quest for great new and notable plants for American gardeners.

APRIL PROGRAM SPEAKER

Ellen Zagory

Unusual Perennials

THURSDAY—APRIL 25, 2013 • 7:00 PM
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

Ellen Zagory has been a horticulturist at the UC Davis Arboretum since 1987, first as propagator and nursery manager and now as Director of Horticulture. Ellen serves as a spokesperson for the Arboretum in their education and outreach programs, promoting water conserving and pollution-reducing gardens.

Ellen’s presentation will discuss many of the attractive plants native to the Mediterranean region, California, and parts of Mexico that have proven heat and drought resistant in the Central Valley. Ellen will highlight some unusual perennials that do well in this area and that will be available for sale at this years two spring sales at the Arboretum. (Add them to your must try list.) In addition, many of the plants also will help you to create a diverse landscape attractive to hummingbirds and beneficial insects.



Calendar

March 12

SPPC Board Meeting
Madeleine Mullins (916-455-7815)
5 p.m.

March 16

What's Blooming Tour
Hamilton Square
10 a.m. (rain cancels)

March 20

San Francisco Flower
and Garden Show
Bus leaves SGAC at 7:30 a.m.

March 23–24

Annual Spring Plant Sale
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

March 30

12th Annual Plant and Garden
Vendor Sale
9 a.m.–3 p.m.

March 30

Early Bloom in the Cemetery Tour
Historic Rose Garden
10 a.m. (rain cancels)

April 6

Boonie Lang's Japanese Garden
Tour starts at 11 a.m.

April 18

Ruth Ostroff's Iris Garden
Tour starts at 11 a.m.

April 20

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

April 25

April Meeting
Ellen Zagory, *Unusual Perennials*
7 p.m.

April 27–28

Gardens of Folsom Tour
www.folsomgarden.org

May 4

Sacramento/Carmichael Garden
Tours (details in May/June
newsletter)

May 6

Deadheading at Dusk
Historic Rose Garden
6:30 p.m.

May 8

25th Anniversary Celebration
Maple Rock Gardens, Newcastle
10 a.m.

President's Message

Saul Wiseman

Maple Rock Gardens

Many of us have been to Maple Rock Gardens in Newcastle when it was owned by Frank and Ruby Andrews. Now, Scott Paris, owner of High Hand Nursery, has purchased the 30-acre property.

I have not been to Maple Rock Gardens since the change in ownership. Considering that Scott is a landscape designer and has a landscape construction company and based on a brief conversation with Scott, I do know that we can expect to see a very different garden. I think we are in for a surprise.

Maple Rock Gardens is the rural sister-property of the High Hand Fruit Sheds in Loomis. Scott is using some of the property on the land to farm. He will be using what he grows on the farm for his High Hand Café. The wide variety of vegetables will include 50 varieties of tomatoes, seven different eggplants, six types of cauliflower and even seven varieties of melon.

Not all of what he grows at the farm will go to the café. I'm anticipating that foodies be will able to directly buy different varieties of produce at the High Hand Fruit Shed.

So I'm assuming that our tour of Maple Rock Gardens will also include a visit to the farm. Also, Scott is planning a big event on May 18 titled "Bloomtastic Festival." We'll find out more about the event on May 8.



Anniversary Luncheon and Tour

To celebrate the 25th anniversary, the club members will visit Maple Rock Gardens in Newcastle on Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. for a guided tour and catered lunch provided by High Hand Café. **The garden tour and luncheon are for members only.** At the January meeting, a signup sheet was circulated. If you did not attend the January meeting and intend on being at the celebration, you need to **send an e-mail no later than April 24** subject line CELEBRATION to Saul Wiseman at swiseman368@sbcglobal.net. Please note that Maple Rock Gardens is a garden with uneven walking surfaces, stairs, and rising elevation—handicap access is limited and sturdy shoes are a must. The address is 100 Clark Tunnel Road in Penryn. For more information visit MapleRockGardens.com.

John Gray

At the January meeting, our scheduled guest speaker was John Gray, who never appeared. The day after the meeting I learned that John had died the previous Friday at Modesto Memorial Hospital from kidney failure and infectious diseases. John loved Scotland. Julie and I went with John in 1995 on one of his many tours of Scotland. John was planning another tour this summer. He will be missed by his friends.

—Saul Wiseman

VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED

Annual Spring Plant Sale

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY—MARCH 23–24, 2013 • 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

Please donate plants and garden related items. Labels with pictures of the plants are helpful. Bring plants and items to the Shepard Garden & Arts Center (SGAC) on Friday, March 22. We have a large selection of plants ready for spring planting. Many of the flats of perennials have been propagated by club member **Emma Ahart**. We need volunteers to pick up the flats Friday morning and transport them to the center and help set up. Volunteers are needed 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. For information call **Madeleine Mullins** (916-455-7815).

We are looking for some members to each 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. Please volunteer so that one person does not have to do all the work.

12th Annual Plant and Garden Vendor Sale

SATURDAY—MARCH 30, 2013 • 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER



The Sacramento Perennial Plant Club's 12th Annual Plant and Garden Vendor Sale at the SGAC is Saturday, March 30 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We invite both local and regional small nurseries and other garden-related businesses to participate.

How can you help? First, come to the sale! Vendors offer rare and unusual plants and garden related items, some air plants, unusual geraniums, exotic bamboo, artfully combined succulents already growing in the perfect container, colorful pottery, garden art, and much more. Or learn about raising chickens in an adorable artisan chicken coop.

Our guest speaker is **Nicholas Staddon**, director of new plant introductions for *Monrovia Nursery* in Azusa. Those who attend the talk will get a complimentary raffle ticket for a *Monrovia* plant.

How else can you help? We sell used garden books and magazines, so please donate some. Also, we will have our usual display of blooms from our gardens. Please label your bloom or one branch of a tree or shrub and bring it along with your books or magazines to the SGAC on Friday, March 29 between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m., or early Saturday morning, the day of the sale. If you would like to drop off your books or blooms at a

different time, please contact **Noelle Anderson** (916-731-4648; nandersn@surewest.net).

Also, the proceeds from the sale help us to support the WPA Rock Garden in Land Park and the Old City Cemetery Gardens, as well as other local garden projects.

The following vendors are scheduled to participate:

- All Things Wild (native plants)
- Barsch Tropicals
- Big Oak Nursery
- Bob Hamm (perennials)
- Dragonfly Peony Farm
- Friends of San Juan de Oriente (decorative pottery)
- Geraniaceae
- Golden Pond (aquatic plants, grasses and perennials)
- J. Brian's Valley Harvest (jams, jelly and chutney)
- Mad Man Bamboo Nursery
- Monte Cristo Farm (azaleas and rhododendrons)
- Morningsun Herb Farm
- The OG (cacti and succulents)
- Paul's Mining (Japanese maples)
- Rustic Birdhouses
- The Secret Garden
- Two Flew the Coop (chicken houses)

Notes

Looking for great garden help?

Dave Rude (pronounced roo-DAY), a former employee of Capital Nursery is highly recommended by **Peggy Gerick** for garden help. Dave pruned, shaped, espaliered and transplanted many plants in Peggy's yard. The work was excellent. If interested, contact Dave at (916) 421-0402.

Want to get out of town? The *South Africa Safari, Bees and Flowers Tour* is scheduled for October 27–November 9, 2013.

Pamela Myczek has shared this interesting and reasonably priced tour organized by local beekeeper and travel enthusiast, Nicki Larson, of *Travel by Nicki*. For questions, Nicki can be reached at 916-481-7826. To see a preview of the tour, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ezz89av1sc>.

SPPC Board Meeting. The next Perennial Plant Club Board of Directors meeting will be held March 12th at the home of **Madeleine Mullins** (916-455-7815). As always, board meetings are open to all members. Meetings begin at 5 p.m. and start with a potluck dinner—informative and delicious.

Membership List and Newsletter. Please check that your name has been listed correctly in the membership roster. If there are any corrections or if you want to be removed from the list please call **Jeanne Christopherson** (916-283-6999). Check the mailing label on this newsletter to see if your membership dues are paid. You need to have your dues paid in order to receive the newsletter. If you have any questions about the information in the newsletters or you are not receiving your copy of the newsletters; please call **Cheryl McDonald** (916-448-7331).

Late Winter in the Gardens

Blooms from the Tombs

by Sharon Patrician

HAMILTON SQUARE With an eye for spring, we have pruned our shrub roses, eliminated those early weeds and done some rearranging. We are working on a database of everything planted in Hamilton Square with the hope of providing this information to visitors in a pleasing form.

Blooming right now and laughing at the frost is *Rhodanthemum* 'Moondance.' A small, rounded marguerite-like plant, it has exquisite pink buds which open to a white daisy-like bloom. Lovely as an edging plant and setting off the grey head stones, it is one of our favorites. It's listed as an annual but behaves like a perennial in the cemetery. Ours have lasted over two years.



Rhodanthemum, 'Moondance'

A Grove of 'Timeless Beauty'

by Daisy Mah

WPA ROCK GARDEN As a child growing up in the Land Park neighborhood, our former treasurer the late Judith Waegell had fond recollections of bounding through the WPA Rock Garden. Perhaps that early experience nurtured her love of gardening expressed in her extensive and beautiful garden. To honor her dedicated service to our club, the board approved a planting of trees for the rock garden. Because of her interest in California natives, I suggested a grove of five desert willows (*Chilopsis linearis* 'Timeless Beauty'). This native is smothered with fragrant, lavender and white blooms throughout the summer.

The five trees will be incorporated along a hillside to the eastern edge of the rock garden. It is gratifying that this area that was once a thicket of shrubs will again be expanded to make way for more drought tolerant, wildlife friendly and beautiful native plants that will honor our native flora and our friend Judy.

A Chilly Winter in the Rose Garden

by Anita Clevenger

HISTORIC ROSE GARDEN Roses in the Historic Rose Garden continued to bloom throughout this winter's freezing nights and dry days. The Tea and China roses are virtually evergreen and everblooming, needing minimal winter pruning. Other types, such as Hybrid Perpetuals and Hybrid Teas, bloom best on new growth that is stimulated by judicious thinning and shortening. Volunteers have pruned diligently on Tuesday and Saturday mornings despite the chilly weather. Sixteen people braved a very cold pruning party on January 12, and were thankful for the tea, coffee, soup and chili that helped keep them warm. The pruning season is over, but work will continue on weeding, hanging new tags, and prepping the garden for its spectacular spring flush. We are hoping for a particularly fine display from once-blooming roses such as Gallicas, Mosses and Damasks, European varieties which need winter chill to perform their best.

Meet the Members

Cheryl McDonald

by Diana Morris

Meet our new newsletter editor: Cheryl McDonald.

A recent retiree from the California State Department of Education, publishing division, Cheryl says she started planning early for retirement and wanted to “build my retirement tribe” by maintaining connections to health, community and creativity.

With a fine arts degree from California State University Sacramento, Cheryl has a keen eye for the visual arts, including the many elements of design. Her conversation is peppered with references to composition, structure, and color. She spends time scouring the internet for gardening ideas and goes on to list some of her favorite sites: gardenista.com, houzz.com, and plantlust.com. She prints ideas of interest and keeps these pages in a “garden binder” for future reference.

Preferring ornamentals to vegetables, Cheryl fills her backyard with a fine collection of perennials, shrubs and trees but also makes room for a raised bed of vegetables. Her garden includes different art objects collected throughout the years and several unique garden rooms, plenty of sites to sit quietly and enjoy the peace of the garden. The inside of her house is as peaceful as the outside. Tasteful antiques and clean lines of design can be seen in each room.

Cheryl was fortunate enough many years ago to participate in a class at the Learning Exchange lead

by the renowned landscape designer Michael Glassman, often seen on the HGTV and DIY television channels. Her magazines of choice include *Sunset*, *Fine Gardening* and *Garden Design*. She speaks fondly of touring Digging Dog nursery in Albion and the beautiful estate like grounds and greenhouses. Other favorite nurseries are *Mountain Feed & Farm Supply* in Ben Lomond (near Santa Cruz), *Mostly Natives* in Tomales and the ever-popular *Annie's Annuals*.

In discussing her vision for the newsletter, Cheryl says she would like to include an ongoing list of garden websites along with recommendations from various members, much like the advice shared at each meeting. “Creating a feeling that new ideas are welcome” and continually expanding contributors carries much weight with Cheryl. She speaks of building a sense of community through the newsletter. Ensuring each issue is on the SPPC website is another of her goals.

Cheryl came just at the right time—SPPC was in need of an editor and Cheryl was looking for ways to connect with her community. Thanks to Cheryl for taking on the newsletter responsibility. We all look forward to every insightful, inspiring and informative edition.



APRIL GARDEN TOURS

Boonie Lang's Japanese Garden

SATURDAY — APRIL 6, 2013

7920 MORNINGSDRIVE, GRANITE BAY
TOUR STARTS AT 11:00 AM (RAIN OR SHINE)

Bring a lunch to eat in the garden.

“Myo WaEn” means the Garden of Inspiration and Harmony. The appeal of this garden is to feel the spiritual peace, the unity of rocks, water and plants. The garden was designed by the late Kaito Saito, Japanese Landscape Master and a living treasure of Japan. Of special interest to the horticulturist are the skillful placement of 210 tons of moss rock, the six outstanding 50-year-old bonsai Japanese black pines, the collection of over 25 varieties of Japanese maples, and the unique blending of the east and west by combining a classic Japanese style with western technology operating the garden through six computers.

Instructions: Wait at the top of the driveway. Do not enter the garden. Boonie will greet us at the top of the driveway. Bring a bag lunch and a drink, we'll have lunch in the garden.

Ruth Ostroff's Garden

THURSDAY — APRIL 18, 2013

6136 20TH STREET, RIO LINDA
TOUR STARTS AT 11:00 AM

Bring a lunch to eat in the garden.

Ruth Ostroff is a familiar face at the SGAC Plant Sales, assisting with Sacramento Iris Society sales. When she is not at her booth, she is usually at ours, buying lots of our plants to place in her Rio Linda garden. On April 18th, we will have an opportunity to visit her home garden, landscaped on two acres, to see a colorful palate of hundreds of blooming irises. This is a special year to visit, because her garden is one of the American Iris Society (AIS) Regional event show gardens for 2013. Over 100 selected irises will be critiqued for garden form and beauty by AIS Judges. Some may go on to become medal winners in their classes. In addition to the show garden, Ruth also grows the door prize irises that are given away at the Sacramento Iris Society monthly meetings. You will be able to see



Iridaceae, 'Fringe Benefits'

many of the newly introduced 2012 irises in this area of the yard. Finally, she has about 300 of her own irises scattered about, favorites she has gathered over the years. Mixed in and about the yard are many of our familiar perennial and native plants and lots of fruits and veggies.

Instructions: Ruth would like us to each bring a bag lunch and a drink. She is having the Sacramento Master Gardeners for an afternoon tour and would like the two groups to meet and have lunch together. *Note:* If you get lost, you can call Ruth at 916-813-9381.

Open Garden Day

SATURDAY — APRIL 20, 2013

9:30 AM–2:00 PM

HISTORIC CITY CEMETERY

HAMILTON SQUARE AND THE HISTORIC ROSE GARDEN

Tucked away in the Historic City Cemetery at Riverside and Broadway is a perennial garden of special delight. Sponsored by the Perennial Plant Club as one of its community projects and managed by **Sharon Patrician**, long-time club member, this unlikely garden in the midst of Sacramento's history is a wonderful surprise. Sharon has planted the acre site with many species of aster, buddleia, cistus, echinacea, lavender, shrub roses, penstemon, salvia and bulbs. Sharon will guide visitors through the garden on Saturday.

Club members **Barbara Oliva** and **Anita Clevenger** are leaders at the beautiful historic rose garden in the

(continued on page 7)

April Garden Tours

(continued from page 6)

cemetery, Barbara as the garden's curator and Anita as its manager. There will be tours of the rose garden throughout the day which club members are welcome to join. If you have not been to the Open Garden Day put the date on your calendar. The roses are beautiful, the fragrance is heavenly, and companion plants will also be in bloom.

Open Garden Day begins with a sale of historic roses, propagated from the garden's collection, at 9:30 a.m. The historic roses will be featured at the front of the cemetery, and you then stroll south to Hamilton Square to view what's blooming.



Volunteers preparing for the sale of historic roses.

SAVE-THE-DATE

MAY GARDEN TOURS

Sacramento/Carmichael Garden Tours

SATURDAY — MAY 4, 2013

Emma Ahart
Sue Blomberg
Ellie Longanecker

Details in the May/June newsletter.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Maple Rock Gardens Tour and Luncheon

WEDNESDAY — MAY 8, 2013

For members only. To reserve a spot, send an e-mail
no later than April 24 with subject line
CELEBRATION to Saul Wiseman at
swiseman368@sbcglobal.net.

Sacramento Perennial Plant Club Membership—2013

Jeanne Christopherson, Membership Chair

ALL MEMBERS—PLEASE FILL OUT THE ADDRESS FORM COMPLETELY

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Mailing Address _____

City

State

Zip

You will be included in our yearly roster unless you notify us otherwise. Yes___ No___

Indicate how you would like the club newsletter sent to you: E-mail___ Mail___

Yearly Dues _____ \$20 Individual Membership _____ \$25 Joint Membership

Cash_____ Check_____ Make checks out to PERENNIAL PLANT CLUB.

Send to: Jeanne Christopherson, 3231 Chenu Avenue, Sacramento, 95821-6113

Phone (916) 283-6999, E-mail: iamjc7@surewest.net

Areas of interest _____

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Irises in Ruth Ostroff's Garden



SPPC Newsletter

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