



Sacramento Perennial Plant Club Newsletter

MAR/APR 2014

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MARCH VENDOR SALE SPEAKER

Amigo Bob Cantisano

SATURDAY—MARCH 29, 2014 • NOON
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

Amigo Bob Cantisano is president of Organic Ag Advisors, founded in 1988. He is the managing partner of Heaven and Earth Farm on the San Juan Ridge of the Sierra foothills. Amigo has over 40 years of experience growing and advising in most organic crops grown in the Western U.S. and the tropics.

He advises more than 250 organic and transitional farmers, and hundreds of family farmers and gardeners worldwide. His clients range from small specialty crop growers to producers of thousands of acres of mainstream ag crops. His clients farm more than 90,000 acres of organic and transitional crops.

Amigo is the cofounder of the Ecological Farming Conference, the Ecological Farming Association, founding member of California Certified Organic Farmers and founder of: Peaceful Valley Farm Supply, We The People Natural Foods Cooperative, Aeolia Organics, Starr Farms, Heaven and Earth Farm, and the Felix Gillet Institute. He is the author of numerous publications and a featured speaker at hundreds of events. He hosts a monthly organic living show on KVMR radio in Nevada City, California.

Amigo lives and farms on 11 acres of mixed fruits, berries and vegetables on the San Juan Ridge of the Sierra Nevada, where he is teaching young people and his grandchildren how to farm and live with nature.

APRIL PROGRAM SPEAKER

Kevin Mariani

Compost Tea: How to Make It and Use It

THURSDAY—APRIL 24, 2014 • 7:00 P.M.
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

Kevin Marini is a home horticulture and composting educator and Placer County Master Gardener Program Manager. He will share his knowledge of Compost Tea, one of the fastest growing gardening industries, said to be growing at 25 percent a year. Kevin will talk about the different types of compost tea; compost extract tea, manure tea and herbal tea and how to make each type. He will also talk about how and when to fertilize with the tea. Kevin recommends using fresh made compost tea on your plants not the pre-made tea you can buy at your garden center. Kevin enjoys talking about compost; this should be a fun and interesting evening.



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 19

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

March 22–23

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

March 29

13th 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 12

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

April 24

April Meeting
Kevin Mariani, *Compost Tea*
7 p.m.

April 26

Land Park Garden Tour
10 a.m.

May 3

Folsom–Orangevale Garden Tour
10 a.m.

May 6

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



Sacramento Perennial Plant Club

Newsletter

The Sacramento Perennial Plant Club *Newsletter* is published bimonthly except for July and August. Contact the editor, Cheryl McDonald, at mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net with any questions or suggestions. Garden-related articles are welcomed. A color version of the *Newsletter* along with archived newsletters can be viewed at: www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org

President's Message

Saul Wiseman

Three club events coming this month–

Events happen because members get involved.

First, **Linda Hax** has organized the bus trip to the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show. For all you who are going, we are going the first day of the show, Wednesday, March 19, with the bus leaving at 7:30 a.m. Also **Mae Ferral** will again provide refreshments on the bus.

Second, **Madeleine Mullins** organizes our booth at the Shepard Garden & Art Center's Annual Plant Sale on Saturday and Sunday, March 22-23. She gets help to man the booth from many volunteers. We could not do the sale without **Emma Ahart** who provides a large variety of perennial plants and vegetables.

Third, **Noelle Anderson** and her committee have been planning the 13th Annual Plant and Garden Vendor Sale. We will have 19 vendors at the sale, drawing prizes, and guest speaker **Amigo Bob Cantisano**.

We need support from the membership to keep events and activities happening.

Enclosed in this newsletter are Vendor Sale flyers. Please cut and hand them out to friends.

Annual Spring Plant Sale

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY — MARCH 22–23, 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 on Friday, March 21. 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.

Membership List and Newsletter. Please check that your name has been listed correctly in the membership roster. If there are any corrections, if you want to be removed from the list or if 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. 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) or send an e-mail to mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net.

VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED

13th Annual Plant and Garden Vendor Sale

SATURDAY — MARCH 29, 2013 • 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

The Sacramento Perennial Plant Club is hosting the 13th Annual Plant and Garden Vendor Sale on Saturday, March 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We have invited 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 most of these plants are low water users. You will be able to find unusual geraniums, trees, vegetables, herbs, perennials, water pond plants, native plants, shrubs and artfully combined succulents already growing in the perfect container. You can buy worm compost, colorful pottery, garden art, or gardening books written by a local author. You may want to learn to raise chickens in an adorable artisan chicken coop. **This year's water crisis makes it even more important that we support these small businesses.**



Amigo Bob Cantisano

Our guest speaker at 12:00 noon is **Amigo Bob Cantisano**, organic farming advisor. His topic is “Felix Gillet, The Father of Perennial Agriculture.”

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 bring samples of your blooming garden flowers or

a branch of a flowering shrub or tree with their names if possible. But if not available, we will try to figure it out. Please groom, dust or wash samples and transport in water. Bring your samples along with your books or magazines to the SGAC on Friday, March 28 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 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 or **Daisy Mah** (916-446-1768) gardengirl@att.net

Proceeds of this sale support the WPA Rock Garden in Land Park and the Old City Cemetery Hamilton Square Garden and other local horticulture projects.

The following vendors are scheduled to participate:

- All Things Wild—native plants
- Big Oak Nursery
- Bob Hamm—perennials
- Carolyn Singer, award-winning author of *The Seasoned Gardener* and two volumes of *Deer in My Garden*
- Carrie “Yard Art” Simpson
- Chris Shultz—garden art
- Dragonfly Peony Farm
- Friends of San Juan de Oriente—pottery
- Geraniaceae—Robin Parer, geraniums
- Golden Pond Nursery—aquatic plants, grasses and perennials
- J. Brian’s Valley Harvest—jams, jelly, and chutney
- Monte Cristo Farm—azaleas and rhododendrons
- Morningsun Herb Farm—vegetables, herbs, and perennials
- Paul Mining—Japanese maples
- Rustic Birdhouse
- The OG—cacti and succulents
- The Secret Garden
- Two Flew Over the Chicken Coop—chicken houses
- Worm Fancy



Bob Hamm helping a customer.

BEVERLY SHILLING

LAND PARK GARDEN TOUR

SATURDAY — APRIL 26, 2014 • 10:00 AM

As spring arrives, our first garden tour will be a special treat for the members of the SPPC. The tour begins with the shady, beautifully landscaped, small private gardens of Land Park.

CHERYL McDONALD'S GARDEN

Cheryl's home is located in the Upper Land Park area (south of Broadway and east of 5th Street) at the corner of Dudley Way and San Luis Court. Maps with directions to other gardens will be handed out.

1 We arrive first at the garden of our newsletter editor, **Cheryl McDonald**. Gardening began about 20 years ago in this gardening space. A large camphor tree heralds our arrival surrounded by hydrangeas, azaleas, a camellia and a lovely dogwood. Entering the side garden gate we see in the near distance a raised bed of vegetables. On the right an obelisk is revealed with the climbing rose 'Eden,' flanked by two large tropical Queen Anne palms. Along the adjacent fence resides the glorious rose 'Mlle. Cecile Brunner.' 'R. Banksiae' covers a pergola built by Cheryl's husband, Lee. As we proceed, we see that a small Buddha and tiny fishes are hidden amongst the plants and the pavers.



A HUGE crepe myrtle tree lauds over its space. A mature deep pink redbud with a wonderful framework is surrounded by brickwork. The garden has a Carmel Creeper, a red abutilon and many other shrubs to define it. As we prepare to leave, a gate that is not evident when we enter, has a seat lurking in the corner with a mirror that appears to be a window... a very imaginative use of corner space.

JANE THOMPSON'S CAMELLIA COTTAGE

2 Planned and gardened for close to 40 years, the "Camellia Cottage" of club member, **Jane Thompson**, lives up to its name. Camellias abound



in the front garden and in the back. The front garden is a softly formal garden with a beautiful space of many different plants, including grasses, azaleas, hydrangeas and very healthy society garlic. In one corner three birches dominate. The side garden and the back garden are surrounded by grape stake fencing creating a wonderful backdrop. As we travel to the back garden the side of the house has barberry plants for a hedge. They are pruned to stay small. A patio surrounds the house and guest cottage in the interior garden. The borders around the fence line have many hydrangeas, both mopheads and others. The camellias abound. Dogwoods grown from seedlings stand tall, and purple leafed azaleas have their own space. An ENORMOUS sycamore tree shades the garden. It lives in a corner with a garden seat and many irises. The garden seat, so well-placed, makes a wonderful focal point. Stepping stones and ground covers are evident everywhere making this such an inviting garden.

3 The garden of Jane's neighbor **Monica Guillen** lies across the street and your eyes will be immediately drawn to the garden gate. Unique in color and in form you will spend several moments just viewing it. The large gate, an unusual and lovely shade of green, is surrounded by dark red brick with an antique piece of iron work built into the arch above the gate. One side of the driveway leading to the gate has formal rose trees.

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LAND PARK GARDEN TOUR

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Formal, in the European style, the front garden has a bed surrounded by boxwood plants neatly groomed. A berm at the corner of the driveway holds garden art and plantings. A blooming window box catches the eye and when viewing, the eye is drawn to the front porch where pots of plants and wall art reside. The back garden, beautifully landscaped and accented with garden art collected on her trips to Europe, has a Koi pond, water feature, along with a large dogwood tree and tropical birds. So many ideas can be gleaned from this garden.

4 A short walk down the street brings us to another friend of Jane's, the garden of **Cindy Nelson** who has gardened here for about 15 years. She has a large cedar in the front garden and spring bulbs surround a "St. Francis." Her garden gate of wrought iron is covered in jasmine. What a welcome that will be when in bloom. The side garden windows have window boxes of bloom. Into the garden space in the back we find evidence of the "rosarian" that lives here...the climbing rose 'Iceberg' is anchored to a wall and hybrid tea roses create a hedge surrounding the creative space. Painted signs "Bee Zone" and "Fresh Honey" add a little whimsy. A hidden patio, which was once a greenhouse (glass now removed), has been transformed into a sitting area of privacy. One wall has garden art attached and a chimenea sits in the corner waiting to be lit. A chandelier hangs from the shell of the original greenhouse waiting for company.

KAREN MARTIN'S GARDEN

5 Our fifth garden is the garden of club member **Karen Martin**. Some members of the SPPC visited this garden a few years ago and enjoyed it so much it is on our tour again. Changes have been made, plants and items added, and the presence of a dedicated gardener is evident. Karen has done the design and most of the work herself. We are greeted by a white picket fence and a curved pathway that heralds us into a patio with a seating area, a birdhouse, groundcovers and a large crepe myrtle. Look for the hidden rabbits nestled amongst the mature plant growth. The back garden has been well thought out and red brick pavers and rocks separate individual spaces. Look again and you will see more rabbits hiding. A water feature surrounded by blue pebbles sits mid-range. An ironwork archway gives strength to this lovely focal point. This is a shady garden and multiple shade plants surround the hardscaping. Two very large and healthy abutilon sit

happily against the fence. Karen's vegetables are grown in raised beds...a new one has just been added to grow blue-berries. On our departure we must access our cars and travel to our last garden to observe the latest trend in gardening.



MARCIA LEDDY'S GARDEN

6 The front garden space of club member **Marcia Leddy** is a special example of water saving landscapes. Using the recommended suggestions of cardboard and mulches, Marcia and her husband, Bill, have created an interesting landscape plan. There are plants with water-reduced needs surrounding the space that was originally grass. The "work in progress," only two years old, has yet to mature but shows the use of pebbles to create a vision of a stream surrounded by bark. Some large shrubs, and a tree that creates shade, soften the landscape. Their back garden space is yet to be completed, Marcia is planning future restoration projects.

Sadly our tour has reached its completion but there is still something more to delight the eye. After you leave Marcia's garden take Land Park Drive through the park and continue south (on the provided map). After approximately 3/4 mile, the street rises to meet you and just after that look to your right...there is a garden, landscaped by Michael Glassman. The house sits on a VERY elevated space and the landscaping, so inspiring, has waterwise plants in raised metal beds. Fruitless olive trees, grasses and other plants, although very young, will eventually dominate the garden. As you look ahead, a garden that should not be missed, sits on the next corner. (You will not miss it). A mass of waterwise plants, magnificently planted, are gloriously displayed around a small lawn that has roses to screen the porch. These last two gardens are not on our tour agenda but really should not be missed. *Please do not invade their space.*

FOLSOM–ORANGEVALE GARDEN TOUR

SATURDAY—MAY 3, 2014 • 10:00 AM

Our second week of garden tours will take us up the hill to the town of Folsom.

We will begin with the lovely, tiered garden of

MICHELLE NITZ

Parking will be in front and on the side of Michelle's home and also available in the alley behind her home. Maps with directions to other gardens will be handed out.

1 If you noticed SPPC member, **Michelle Nitz** at a garden tour with pen and paper writing away, she was not preparing an article for our newsletter but was mentally preparing for her personally landscaped garden. She was noting the growth patterns, behavior and beauty of all the plants and hardscaping she saw. The result is a garden with the Wow! factor. Michelle over the past two years, with the help of her spouse Dan, has created a landscape like no other. All plants have been carefully chosen to fit their space and delight the eye. We approach the house by an elevated driveway surrounded by heavily mulched borders of numerous plants. The evidence of Michelle's love of variegated foliage is evident here and throughout her garden. Onward to the side garden and back garden. As you turn the corner of the house, be prepared to have your breath taken away. Michelle has designed and built an amazing place. The garden is tiered and on each tier there are plantings of multiple plants all fairly young but thriving and growing. It is impossible to prepare you for all that lies within. Along the side of the garden you will pass a large creative pergola and trellis they have



designed and built. Think “gecko” and look at the walkway, created by Dan, which you now proceed on. The patio is for rest and leisure and has seating for those less inclined to climb up to view up close the numerous tiers. A climbing rose ‘Pierre de Ronsard’ known as the ‘Eden’ rose cascades downward. Variegated plants along with others fill the beds. In the top tier is the edible garden and another seating area for the weary gardener. Many vegetables are grown and kiwi will cover the small pergola soon. As you proceed downward keep your eyes on the pathway, not only for your safety but for your delight. Your mind “boggled” will only calm down when you reach our next destination the garden of...

A planter's paradise awaits you at the garden of member

RHONDA DES VOIGNES

2 The garden is lush with the growth of mature shrubs, trees, and perennials in addition to unique hardscaping and a thoughtful use of rocks. Approaching the front garden, stepping stones guide you to a seating area surrounded by dwarf bottlebrush shrubs, a Trident maple tree, a ‘Crimson King’ Norway maple and other plants too numerous to mention. The side garden is a work in progress for Rhonda and her husband Bill. Many plants, at the time of viewing are still potted, waiting for their personal space. A fence, shared with neighbours, is covered by a combination of the rose ‘Mlle. Cecile Brunner’ and jasmine. A purple chaste tree, a red crepe myrtle and a large Harry Lauder's walking stick take center stage and are surrounded by many other plants. The back garden space includes an unusual fountain, a pool, and a wall of rock, reminiscent of European ruins, that leads to a small orchard. Sharing the pool space are kumquats in beautiful, very large, European inspired pots, a potting bench with sink, a space for seating and many garden plants. As you meander under the archway built of rock an orchard awaits you. Planted within are pluots, peach, citrus trees, and an apricot tree. Leaving that space we view the work area—the composter and raised beds of vegetables. Onward to the other side of the house you will encounter a “butterfly” garden designed to

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FOLSOM–ORANGEVALE GARDEN TOUR

(continued from page 6)



attract bees and butterflies. So many plants, shrubs and trees live happily in this garden space including maples, and many clematis (bought on SPPC garden/nursery tours including Chalk Hill Clematis Farm). Leaving this splendid garden...

*The beauty and fragrance of roses
awaits you in the garden of*

BALDO AND SUZY VILLEGAS

3 We visited Baldo and Suzy's garden in 2011 and will return to see their ever evolving garden. Presently it is divided into a one acre pasture and one acre devoted to a rose garden, a perennial garden, and an edible garden. The rose garden now contains over 2000 roses including many old garden roses and many types of modern roses which includes many polyanthas, floribundas, hybrid teas, miniatures and minifloras. The edible garden consists of over 40 fruit trees, 30 grapevines, 45 blueberry plants, miscellaneous blackberries and a large vegetable garden with many types of vegetables. The backyard features many perennial plants that were especially selected to attract birds, bees, beneficial wasps, and butterflies. Baldo retired in 2011 after 34 years working as a professional entomologist with the California Department of Food and Agriculture in the area of biological control of invasive insects and weeds. Baldo is an avid gardener, a master consulting rosarian, and a rose horticulture judge with the American Rose Society. He still travels widely giving lectures on insects, roses, as well as pests and diseases common to the home garden.

How to Improve Your Soil Adjust Nutrient Levels After Soil Testing

The following information is helpful if one has done a soil test and finds the soil is low/high in nitrogen, phosphorous, or potassium. Adding the correct amount of a nutrient is important as too much is harmful!

Nitrogen (N) is the nutrient for plant growth and green foliage. It is most important in the early growing of the plant. A deficiency of N in plants results in stunted growth and yellowing leaves. Too much N can burn roots and the plant. Adding N for 100 sq. ft.:

- Cottonseed meal—6 to 10 lbs.
- Blood meal—3 to 5 lbs.
- Fish meal—4 to 7 lbs.
- Feather meal—3 to 6 lbs.
- Foliar spray works fast—dilute Liquid Fish and spray on the leaves.

If too much N is in your soil then plant crops that require lots of N such as corn and grasses.

Phosphorus (P) is the nutrient for flowering, fruiting, and rooting. Adding P for 100 sq. ft.:

- Soft rock phosphate—2 to 5 lbs. which lasts two to three years as it does not leach out of the soil quickly.
- Bone meal—4 to 5 lbs. but accessed in acid soils.
For alkaline soils use seabird guano—1 to 2 lbs.

If too much P is in your soil then an upward shift in the alkaline pH numbers is needed.

Potassium (K) or potash is the nutrient for plant vigor and resistance. K regulates plant growth. A deficiency in plants results in more susceptibility to diseases and frost damage. Leaves may appear scorched on the edges, purple spotting on leaves, yellowing between leaf veins. Adding K for 100 sq. ft.:

- Sulfate of Potash—1/2 to 2 lbs.
- Greensand (glaucanite)—5 to 10 lbs.
- Foliar spray for quick absorption—Ultra Fines Sulfate of Potash

Too much K in your soil raises the pH. Add gypsum at 5 lbs. for 100 sq. ft.

Calcium and trace minerals are the nutrients for health and resilience—as essential to plants as vitamins are to people. Needed in small quantities from compost, kelp meal, Azomite or Nutra Min. Too much will impede the plant's ability to use other nutrients.

For more information on soil amendments, go to the March/April 2010 issue of the SPPC Newsletter (pg.4) at www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org



SPPC Newsletter
Cheryl McDonald
2743 San Luis Court
Sacramento, CA 95818

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Sue Golden from Golden Pond Nursery helping a customer.

BEVERLY SHILLING