



# The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club — Nov/Dec 2014

NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER

**Happy Thanksgiving**



DECEMBER MEETING

**Annual Potluck Holiday Gathering**

WEDNESDAY—DECEMBER 17, 2014 • 7:00 P.M.  
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

Join us for a wonderful way to end the year with good friends, a cup of hot apple cider and delicious food. The Perennial Plant Club invites all our members and families to attend the **14th Annual Potluck Holiday Gathering** on **Wednesday, December 17th**. The club will furnish ham, bread and butter, drinks, eating utensils and plates. We would like everyone to bring something to share and are asking those whose last names start with the letters:

- **A thru I** to bring a **dessert**
- **J thru Q** to bring a **salad**
- **R thru Z** to bring a **hot dish**

In order to assure that there is an assortment of dishes we are asking that you RSVP to either **Peggy Weseloh, 916-486-8387** or **Madeleine Mullins, 916-455-7815**. We have a wonderful time singing carols as **Noelle Anderson** plays the piano and perhaps you will win one of the door prizes. Hope to see you at the party.

# Contents

Program and Tours  
Committee 3

A Most Successful  
Fall Sale 4

Blooms from the Tombs 5

WPA Rock Garden  
Update 5

Save the Date:  
San Francisco Flower  
& Garden Show 5

Library Resources  
for Gardeners 6

Daisy's Picks 6

Book Review 7

Historic Rose Garden  
Events 7



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.



## 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 (916-448-7331) 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

Saul Wiseman

The grants committee met for the first time in late October. **Emma Ahart, Shelly Berlant, Beverly Shilling** and chairperson **Jane Thompson** have written a draft application. The four need to finalize the application. The plan is to have the application on the SPPC website ([sacramentoperennialplantclub.org](http://sacramentoperennialplantclub.org)) by November 15. My suggestion is that we wait until the application is on the website before we make a public announcement that Sacramento Perennial Plant Club has established a grants program to create, promote, and further interest in gardening in Sacramento County; that the cash grants will be given to non-profit organizations; and that the application will be available on the website.

Three of our members. **Janice Sutherland, Barbara Lane-Piert** and **Elisabeth Jones**, who have been on the Program and Tours committee for a number of years, will be leaving the committee. They have done an outstanding service to the club in providing both interesting speakers and tours.

Since they will be leaving at the end of the year, we need a member or a group of members to continue the Program and Tours committee. However, the current committee has already scheduled speakers for the 2015 year; therefore, the new members to the committee will have a "jump-start" on next year. For those of you who enjoy going on the garden tours here is your chance to get involved. We need new members for the 2015 Program and Tours Committee. Here is your opportunity.

## Thank You

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the following writers and photographers who helped produce the *Perennial Post* this last year:

**Noelle Anderson, Barbara Lane-Piert, Linda Hax, Daisy Mah, Madeleine Mullins, Sharon Patrician, Debbie Rogenmoser, Beverly Shilling, Janice Sutherland, Jane Thompson and Saul Wiseman.**

And, a special thanks to the Fold/Staple/Stamp Crew:

**Jeanne Christopherson, Madeleine Mullins, Janice Sutherland and Peggy Weseloh.**

– Cheryl McDonald

## Don Coan

For those of you who have attended the Vendor Sale, I am sad to announce that **Don Coan**, the founder of San Juan de Oriente Pottery, has died. For many years, Don sold pottery and coffee at our sale as part of his dream of helping the people in the little town of San Juan de Oriente. He will be missed.

– Janice Sutherland

## Program and Tours Committee

As co-chairs of Program and Tours, we will be resigning at the end of December. **Janice Sutherland** has done this job for fourteen years; **Barbara Lane-Piert** and **Elisabeth Jones** have been co-chairs the last four years. We have tried to plan speakers and activities that appealed to all the members, whether seasoned gardeners or members new to the world of gardening, and in the process we have had a lot of fun. We are taking on new jobs. We will be co-chairs of the Vendor Sale to be held March 28, 2015. We also want to work on organizing a program for the members interested in propagating plants. This program has started and stopped a couple of times and now we are looking forward to having the time to work on this project.

We have enjoyed the job of planning the program and tour activities for the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club very much and the rewards have been great. The job has allowed us to meet and know the members of the club and make many friends. They know us because we were the ones always talking to them about their gardens and asking “can we put your garden on a tour.” We have met many interesting and nice people in the world of horticulture and visited beautiful places. We are very grateful for all the members and nonmembers who have opened their gardens, all the nurseries that have given us tours, members who helped with projects, given suggestions and driven carpools on out of town tours. We want to thank **Daisy Mah** for sharing her knowledge about plants growing in the Sacramento area at our monthly meetings. New members especially enjoy this program, which supports the club’s mission statement: To provide educational opportunities for Sacramento area gardeners and horticulturalists and to assist and educate interested gardeners with particular emphasis on gardening in the Sacramento area.

The Sacramento Perennial Plant Club is looking for a member or members to take over the Chair of Programs and Tours. One person can do this job but we think it is better to have co-chairs sharing the job.

They will not have to worry about finding speakers for next year. The 2015 calendar of speakers is already done and one speaker is scheduled for 2016.

If you are interested in this job, please talk to SPPC board president **Saul Wiseman** or any board member.

We wish you Happy Gardening!



## Calendar

### November 22

Fall Color Tour—Historic Rose Garden  
10 a.m.  
Rain cancels

### November 27

No meeting in November  
Happy Thanksgiving

### December 17

Annual Potluck Holiday Gathering  
Shepard Garden and Arts Center  
7 p.m.

### January 10

Pruning Party—Historic Rose Garden  
(see page 7 for details)

## Blooming Bits

### Welcome to the following new members:

Linda DeBiase  
Virginia Feagans  
Linda Fuller

### Volunteers Needed

#### Perennial Post Writers and Photographers

If you are interested in submitting a garden-related article to the *Perennial Post*, contact **Cheryl McDonald** at 916-524-5943 or e-mail [mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net).

Photos of your garden or those of others are welcome.

Submissions are due by the 15th of these months: February, April, August, October and December

#### Program and Tours Committee Members

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Program and Tours Committee, contact **Saul Wiseman** at 530-885-9248 or email [swiseman368@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swiseman368@sbcglobal.net).

#### 14th Annual Vendor Sale

Volunteers will be needed for the upcoming Vendor Sale in March. Contact **Janice Sutherland** at 916-481-2137 or email [sutherlandbj@comcast.net](mailto:sutherlandbj@comcast.net), if interested in helping out.





# A Most Successful Fall Sale

by Madeleine Mullins

When **Emma Ahart** told me she would not be participating in the Fall Sale, I was shocked. As long as I've been doing the sales, she contributed ninety-eight percent of the plants. Now the members would have to step up, and they did.

Many thanks to **Bob Hamm** who came up with the lion's share of plants. **Mary Chipman** called to say she would bring at least 29 plants we could use. Thank you, Mary. Then other members got busy dividing and potting up their summer gardens. None of this would have been possible without the generosity of **Wayne Martinson**, who volunteered to pick up and at the end of the sale, return all the leftover plants to Emma. A big thank you, Wayne, from the bottom of my heart.

The most exciting and fun part of the sale was the contribution made by **Jane Thompson** and **Beverly Shilling**. They spent the summer searching for items to repurpose into garden art and garden-related items. For this vibrant part of the sale a sincere thank you to Jane and Beverly. Their contribution was enormous.

As a result of all this and to the members who gave up their time to sell and clean up at the end on Sunday, we had the the best sale ever. Many thanks to all of you.





# Blooms from the Tombs

by Sharon Patrician

**Hamilton Square–Old City Cemetery.** If you want an intense blue-flowered shrub, look no further than *Ceratostigma willmottianum*. Growing to about 3 × 3 feet, this deciduous shrub with pointed leaves and one inch flowers will fill in your landscape plan very nicely. The only drawback is a tendency to reseed, but replanting the offspring is easy and rewarding. The pluses are a long blooming period, a blue flower which draws visitors with its vividness, a shrub which only requires deadheading of spent blooms and a compact shape and form. The “mother” plant in Hamilton has been there over ten years and shows no sign of abating, even with the drought. Our shrub, however, does have a bubbler which allows some water twice a week. Since it appears the drought will continue into next year, we are interested in what will happen when we cut back to once a week watering.



# WPA Rock Garden Update

by Daisy Mah

**New Developments.** Probably the best new change for the garden is that after a lull, the volunteers are again increasing in numbers. **Noelle Anderson** has recently joined other Perennial Plant Club members including editor **Marcia Leddy, Cheryl McDonald, Beverly Shilling** and **Madeleine Mullins**, a 15 year “veteran” to help with deadheading, trimming and weeding. I am presently working up to 14 hours weekly. Meanwhile head gardener **Duane Goosen** has been resurrecting neglected gardens at Swanson Terrace and nearby beds located north of the Sacramento Zoo. He is excited about the impact of his hard work and collaborating with **Greg Gayton** of Green Acres to bring in new plants.

With a recent contribution from the Perennial Plant Club board to fund my propagating efforts, I have sown seeds of unusual California native annuals for the garden. As always, they are somewhat touchy to germinate, transplant, and without intervention, can be tasty treats for the slugs and snails. Remember, the snail is a European import brought over to satisfy a Frenchman’s taste for escargot, from comfort food to now a despised pest. Here it has few predators. Our natives have not developed protective defenses to ward them off. I hope to admire the survivors for their spring blooms alongside other California natives that will contribute to beauty and to wildlife habitat.



## Save the Date

## San Francisco Flower & Garden Show

*Going Wild* will be the theme of the 30th San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, March 18–22, 2015. The Sacramento Perennial Plant Club plans to continue our tradition of attending opening day; so mark your calendars to save **Wednesday, March 18**, for our 17th annual bus trip to this always stimulating event. Details and reservation form will be at the January meeting and in the next *Perennial Post*. In the meantime visit their web site, <http://sfgardenshow.com/> and enjoy some photographs from the 2014 show.



# Library Resources for Gardeners

Gardeners are a thrifty bunch. Here are some nearby and budget friendly resources for gardening:

**The Seed Library.** Tucked inside the Colonial Heights and Rancho Cordova public libraries are seed libraries.



A seed library is a collection of seeds that are available free of charge to all members of the community. Seeds can be checked out from the library's collection and planted in your home garden. At the end of the season, seeds are saved from the plants you grew and some are returned to the library. There are informational brochures on how to save seeds and easy-to-follow checkout forms.

**Shepard Garden and Arts Center Library.** This library owns and maintains nearly 1,000 books that have been donated from individuals, clubs and other libraries. Located in the Center's office and open only when an activity is scheduled, club members may checkout books for 30 days. Books need to be returned to the office when it is open. Subject matter includes flower arranging, landscaping and books on specific flowers. Donations of books are much appreciated.

(Continued on page 7)

## Daisy's Picks



SPPC founding member, **Daisy Mah**, delights us at each monthly meeting with *Daisy's Dozen Horticultural Forum*. Here are a few of Daisy's favorites that bloom in late fall/early winter:

**Helleborus argutifolius** is a member of the ranunculus family or *Ranunculaceae*. A native to Corsica and Sardinia, commonly known as Corsican hellebore is well adapted to our Mediterranean conditions. It often blooms in the late fall through early spring. It grows up to 3' x 3' or more, self sows, has blue green foliage and its architectural form makes it useful throughout the year in a challenging dry shade setting. It is attractive to bees

and often times produces seedlings. There is much ongoing hybridization work of this popular plant. The *Helleborus x ericsmithii* 'Winter Moonbeam' is a patented cross of *sternii* x *niger* with pink buds, white flowers and leathery veined leaves. It is also appropriate in a woodland setting but needs regular water. Blooms can be prolonged with deadheading and old flowering stalks should be removed but avoid damaging emerging new growth. Wear gloves when handling hellebores which can potentially be a skin irritant.

**Correa pulchella** 'Mission Bells' is a member of the family *Rutaceae* and native of Australia. Commonly known as Australian fuchsia it produces its charming, pendulous pink bell-like flowers from fall through spring. They have been tested in a leafy midtown traffic circle where it survives on only nature's rain water. This evergreen shrub grows to 2 ½' x 8' and tolerates being hedged. This has proven to be a sturdy, attractive performer and would like to see others tested in our gardens. The UC Santa Cruz Arboretum has a great collection.



**Salvia leucantha** commonly known as Mexican bush sage belongs to the mint family or *Lamiaceae*. All members of this family have square stems. Bush sage is native to central and eastern Mexico and was introduced by Western Hills Nursery in Occidental. Routinely cutting back keeps it a compact 5' and attractive form, though cultivar 'Santa Barbara' stays relatively small. Once unusual back in the last century, now it is commonly seen in fall gardens. Its showy flowers are magnets for bees and hummingbirds from fall until the first blast of frost. To overwinter a young plant, it is advised to leave the unsightly frost damaged foliage until frost is past.



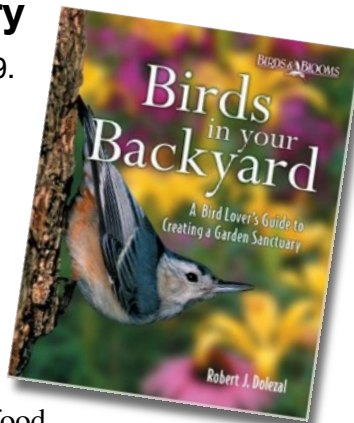
# Book Review

by Debbie Rogenmoser

## Birds in your Backyard: A Bird Lover's Guide to Creating a Garden Sanctuary

by Robert J. Dolezal, Reader's Digest, NY: 2009.

I have six bird feeders in my yard. My hubby and I love to sit in the backyard with a glass of wine, binoculars, camera, field guides and observe the birds that come to visit. So I couldn't resist when I saw this book. It is filled with beautiful photographs. This book is for those who want to create a garden for birds. This garden can be your entire backyard or a small section of your yard. There are suggestions for plants that provide birds with food, supports for nests, shelter, roosting and perching. I liked that the list of plants to attract birds was broken down by flowering plants, ground covers, vines, and grasses, shrubs and small trees. It makes is easy to find the perfect plant for that perfect spot in your yard.



There is a great section on birdhouses and bird feeders that includes the plans for building a variety of different types of houses and feeders. There is even a chart that specifies the preferred height above ground, floor and cavity area, entry hole diameter, and entry to floor for bird feeders for 26 different birds!

There are great hints throughout the book. For example, one shouldn't mount a bird house on the trunk of a tree because it is easier for predators to get into the bird house and steal the eggs or baby birds. Instead, hang the bird house from a tree limb. I loved the instructions for drying seeds from plants in the garden to later use as bird seed.

This book is available at the Sacramento Public Library. If you want to encourage birds to come to your yard, this is a book for you.

## Library Resources

*(Continued from page 6)*

### **Friends of the Sacramento Public Library—Used Book Sales**

Friends of the Sacramento Public Library is a membership-supported, nonprofit organization that advocates, fundraises, and provides critical support for the Sacramento Public Library, branch libraries, the Bookmobile, and related literacy and educational programs.

Sales are held at the Bookden, 8250 Belvedere Avenue, Suite E, Sacramento. For more information, contact **Sara Hunt** at [joshnesss@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joshnesss@sbcglobal.net).

**December 5**—5 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Friends members only—\$15 to join)

**December 6**—9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Open to all)

**December 13**—9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Open to all)

## Historic Rose Garden Events

### Old City Cemetery

1000 Broadway • Sacramento

Join **Anita Clevenger** for a tour on **November 22, 2014** at 10 a.m. to view fall color in the Historic Rose Garden. Plan on an hour and a half to two hours to see how historic roses become even more beautiful in the fall. Rain cancels.

A Pruning Party is planned for **January 10, 2015**. This is an "invitation only" event but any interested SPPC members are invited! If interested, let Anita know by sending her an email [anitac5159@gmail.com](mailto:anitac5159@gmail.com) or call her at 916-715-7294. The organizers will need a count of attendees since lunch will be served.

### Pruning Workshops

Pruning workshops are scheduled for the following four Saturdays at 9 a.m.

**January 17**—Climbing roses

**January 24**—Hybrid Teas, Floribundas and Hybrid Perpetuals

**January 31**—Once-blooming Old Garden Roses

**February 7**—Teas and Chinas

People will be shown how to prune these classes of roses and then be given a chance to practice during the morning.





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SPPC Newsletter  
2743 San Luis Court  
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### Inside this issue ...

**Annual Potluck Holiday  
Gathering**

**A Most Successful  
Fall Sale**

**Blooms from the Tombs**

**WPA Rock Garden Update**

**Save the Date: SF  
Flower & Garden Show**

**Library Resources  
for Gardeners**

**Daisy's Picks**

**Book Review**

**Historic Rose Garden  
Events**



*Ceratostigma willmottianum at Hamilton Square*