



The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  Sept/Oct 2014

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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

Derick Pitman

(aka "Mr. Impatiens")

Tender Plants Can Survive Outdoors

THURSDAY—SEPTEMBER 25, 2014 • 7:00 PM

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

Mr. Impatiens is none other than Derick Pitman. Derick has been collecting and studying impatiens for 17 years. He searches for any kind of information on these plants that he can find, whether it is scientific or horticultural. As a result he has amassed a great deal of knowledge about impatiens.

He is currently working with the Strybing Botanical Gardens in San Francisco where he takes great pains to grow and bring impatiens species into cultivation. Of the approximately 1000 species, only a few are grown commercially. He has given many species to Kartuz Greenhouses, Cistus Nursery, Plant Delights Nursery and Annie's Annuals to help in the distribution of these wonderful plants. They can also be found at the Strybing plant sales which are held the second Saturday of each month.

Derick's talk will focus on how to grow and care for these hardy plants that are related to more tender tropical plants. In addition to the impatiens species, he will cover a variety of plants including begonias, gesneriads and bromeliads.

OCTOBER PROGRAM SPEAKER

Linda Knowles

Gardens of France

THURSDAY—OCTOBER 23, 2014* • 7:00 PM

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

A one-of-a-kind trip to over a dozen of France's gorgeous gardens will be presented by Linda Knowles. There will be stunning photos from three trips, including Monet's Garden at Giverny and the Roseraie de l'Hay. You'll feel like you're on a floral journey through France.

Linda is currently the president of the Sierra Foothills Rose Society and acquired her love and knowledge of plants under the instruction of her botanist grandfather. In fact, both sets of grandparents were avid gardeners. The love of roses came through many visits to the rose garden at Exposition Park in Los Angeles. Linda has over 300 roses in her garden, plus a variety of perennials and shrubs.

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

WWW.SACRAMENTOPERENNIALPLANTCLUB.ORG

Calendar

September 10

SPPC Board Meeting
Cheryl McDonald (916-448-7331)
5 p.m.

September 20

Open Garden
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

September 25

SPPC General Meeting
Derick Pitman (aka "Mr. Impatiens")
Tender Plants Can Survive Outdoors
7 p.m.

October 4–5

Fall Plant and Yard Art Sale
Shepard Garden and Arts Center
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

October 8

SPPC Board Meeting
Location to be announced
5 p.m.

October 11

UC Davis Arboretum Fall Plant Sale
9 a.m. – 11 a.m. (members only)
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. (open to the public)

October 14

SPPC Fall Walking Tour
Start at 4440 G Street, Sacramento
10 a.m.

October 15

Open Garden
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center
9 a.m. – Noon

October 23

SPPC General Meeting
Linda Knowles
Gardens of France
7 p.m.

October 25

UC Davis Arboretum Fall Plant Sale
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (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 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

President's Message

Saul Wiseman

One of my goals for the coming year 2014-2015 was accomplished. The newsletter has a name.

My next goal is to establish a grants program. At the Board of Directors meeting this month, I will ask for the club to develop such a program.

Why a grants program? According to the June treasurer's report, the SPPC has \$19,390.93 in the bank.

We need to use some of that money to help non-profit organizations—community gardens, elementary schools, and other programs—involved in promoting gardening.

Applications could be available immediately and posted on our website for those interested in applying. Both a deadline for submitting the application and a date for awarding the grants would need to be established.

If we are to start the program, the club needs a committee to administer the program.

Who would receive the grant, how many grants would we be given, and what amount of money would be used for grants would need to be determined by members of the grants committee.

I'm hoping that the program is established.

My third goal is to have more membership involvement. More new members. More members at our lively monthly meetings and garden tours. More members attending SG&A Center sales and our Vendor Sale in March.

One goal accomplished. Two goals remaining.

And the winner is . . .

Karen Martin

for submitting the winning newsletter name,
The Perennial Post.

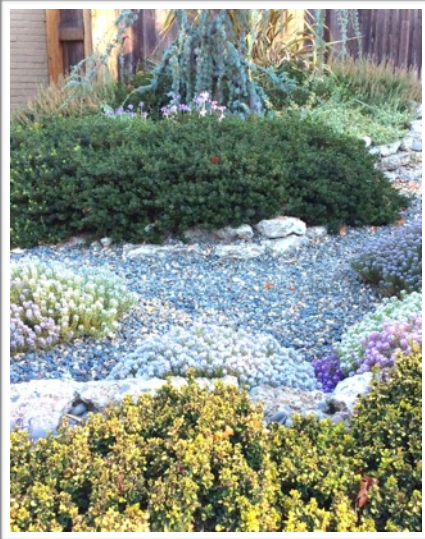
We had 58 terrific entries.

Thank you to all who participated.

Membership Roster and Newsletter. 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. 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.

Our Fall Walking Tour

Starting at 4440 G Street, Sacramento 95819
Tuesday, October 14 • 10 a.m.



NOELLE ANDERSON

Beginning at her home at 4440 G Street, **Noelle Anderson** will lead us on a walking tour of her neighborhood.

We have a new dirty word in our vocabulary: DROUGHT. With that in mind our early morning walk will introduce gardens that are solving the problem by xeriscaping their gardens. We will visit one garden where both front and back can be viewed. The garden is glorious with lots of handsome trees, drought tolerant plants, garden art and streams of river rocks. All other gardens will be viewed from the street/sidewalks.

You will see many different plans and many different plantings most of which are using

native grasses and drought tolerant plants. Lots of groundcovers, trees for shade and rocks for rivers, recycled material for retaining walls and plants grown in crevices. You will also see that xeriscaping does not mean neglect. Watering, clipping and pruning are still on the agenda. Bring your cameras, your notebooks and be prepared to go home with your brain in overdrive. For those interested we will stop for coffee and the sharing of ideas after the completion of our walk.

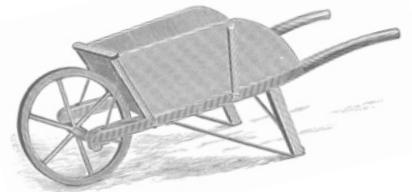
Blooming Bits

Welcome to the following new members:

Greg Gayton (returning)
Cheryl Wong

SPPC Board Meeting. The next Perennial Plant Club Board of Directors meeting will be held September 10th at the home of **Cheryl McDonald** (916-448-7331). As always, board meetings are open to all members. Meetings begin at 5 p.m. and start with a potluck dinner—informative and delicious.

There will be no general meeting in November and December.



VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED

Fall Plant and Yard Art Sale

Saturday/Sunday • October 4–5, 2014
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Shepard Garden and Arts Center

This year our annual Fall Plant Sale will also include a creative “Yard Art and Garden Supply” section. Mark your calendars now for the first weekend in October! It will be a great opportunity to get your new fall plantings AND add a clever yard, fence or gate decor to your garden. You might even find a few items for your holiday gift giving!

If you are ‘digging and dividing’ your garden successes to donate to the sale, remember to have them potted by early September. Please label them with name, sun/or shade, and a picture is helpful too. For questions regarding plants, contact **Madeleine Mullins** (916-455-7815). If you have garden supplies or items to repurpose for decor, please contact **Jane Thompson**, artjane7850@sbcglobal.net or (916-494-9302).

Bring all plants and items to SG&AC on Friday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Volunteers are needed to man our tables. We also need a ‘clean & pack up’ crew on Sunday afternoon. You can sign up at our September 25th general meeting or contact Madeleine Mullins. This is a great way to connect with other plant club members and have fun working side-by-side at the sale.



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 the fall:



CHERYL MCDONALD

Celosia argentea spicata 'Xantippe' or wheat straw celosia, belongs to the *Amarathaceae* or Amaranth family, found in the tropics of Asia, Africa and America. This bushy 3' x 2' annual has cylindrical, feathery spikes, 3"-5" long in silvery cream to pale pink. Seeds were mail ordered from John Scheepers *Kitchen Garden Seeds*. Suitable for both dried and fresh floral arrangements.



C. HEDERIFOLIUM—MENEERKE BLOEM

Cyclamen hederifolium belongs to the *Primulaceae* or primrose family and are native to European Mediterranean. Their beautiful ivy-like foliage are green marbled with silver and white with exotic flowers

in pink-white. Stays about 7" tall and spreads slowly by seed. Unlike the typical florist cyclamens, these are hardy, great for dry shade though goes dormant in summer. They are fairly easy from seed but on the slow side and unattractive to snails and slugs.



CHERYL MCDONALD

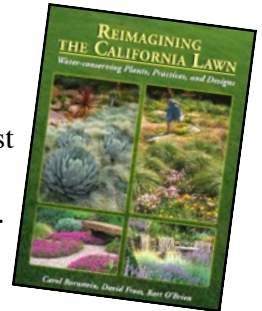
Origanum rotundifolium 'Barbara Tingey' belongs to *Lamiaceae* or mint family, commonly known as ornamental oregano. This beauty is a hybrid of *O. calcaratum* and *O. rotundifolium*. Many are native to Turkey, Armenia, Georgia with attractive, showy bracts and flowers, attracts bees, arching habit are a graceful addition to containers, raised beds and attract bees. Morning Sun Herb Farm in Vacaville is a good source.

Book Review

by Debbie Rogenmoser

Reimagining the California Lawn: Water-conserving Plants, Practices, and Design

by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, Bart O'Brien. Cachuma Press; CA, 2011



I was inspired from last January's meeting (Taylor Lewis was the guest speaker) to get rid of my lawn. Turning off the sprinkler was first... now what? This is one of the books I looked at. It didn't answer all my questions but it did help me clarify them.

The first two chapters are "Garden Designs for Lawn Replacement" and "How to Manage, Reduce or Remove your Lawns." The rest of the book is mostly made up of an alphabetical listing of the recommended plants—very much like the *Sunset Western Garden Book*.

I found the chapter heading "Garden Designs..." a bit misleading in that I expected some sample plans and didn't find any. But in looking at the chapter more closely I found it to be really helpful. This chapter is broken into the types of gardens one can create. Examples include greenswards, meadow garden, rock garden, kitchen garden, succulent gardens, carpet and tapestry gardens, and even green roofs. There are multiple photos of each type of garden and a list of suggested plants with lots of native plants listed at the end of each section. Each section also lists places where one can see examples of these gardens. For example, UC Davis Arboretum's Ruth Risdon Storer Garden and the Carolee Shields White Flower Garden are local examples of a tapestry garden. Rounding out each section are "Design and Installation," "Maintenance" and "Special Issues."

The chapter specific to lawns was informative. A variety of lawn reducer/removal methods are listed and there is even a section on the cons of artificial turf. Some of my questions about my lawn situation were answered—and of course, more questions came up! But that's all good.

What I liked about the section listing the plants is that the authors included a garden use for each plant. For example, lavender (which is a favorite of mine) is suggested for meadow, rock, and carpet and tapestry gardens. This makes it easier to blend styles.

Blooms from the Tombs

by Sharon Patrician

Every July a watermelon pink haze of blossoms covers our centerpiece Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) in Hamilton Square. This tree, planted in the plot over 65 years ago by the plot owners, faithfully performs every summer. Because this tree is only watered with winter rain, it seems happy with its drought conditions. This year, however, it will get one deep watering. Its outer layer of bark peels in sheets at the same time it blooms, leaving a smooth pinkish inner bark. It's only faults, as I see it, are the litter produced by the tree and its propensity to suckering. This is a favored street and backyard tree in Sacramento; our hot summers suit its needs.



WPA Rock Garden Update

by Daisy Mah

The WPA Rock Garden is weathering the summer heat reasonably well as it awaits the impending autumn cool. As I write, gardener **Duane Goosen** remains enthusiastic with this garden filled with unusual plantings. He has been assigned the task of resurrecting the neglected Swanson's Terrace to the north side of the Sacramento Zoo that SPPC member **Jeannie Claypoole** renovated about 15 years ago. A newly planted dainty, *Penstemon schmidel*



'Red Riding Hood' has been blooming for many months. It so far is staying compact unlike the border penstemons that are showy for a short time and sprawls. The group of desert willows donated by our club to honor **Judy Waegell**, *Chilopsis linearis* 'Timeless Beauty' are blooming, still small but healthy. The hummingbirds, flocks of chirping bushtits, mourning doves, swallowtail butterflies and bees are drawn to the diverse plantings. I returned in late July to work about nine hours weekly which has proven enjoyable to be back tending the garden and seeing friends.



Bowling Blast!

If you've been scouring the local thrift stores for a used bowling ball and have struck out, then look no further than these photos for the reason why.

The first annual *Summer Garden Art Workshop* was a huge success thanks to **Beverly Shilling** and **Jane Thompson**. Both two-day workshops were filled to capacity and resulted in beautiful garden spheres that have found homes nestled in our gardens.

Jane and Beverly provided well-organized and comfortable settings that allowed everyone's creativity to flow. And, experienced mosaic artist, **Terri Young** was on hand to help with technique and to give lots of great advice.





Volunteers Needed

Fall Plant and Yard Art Sale

October 4–5, 2014

Shepard Garden and Arts Center

Volunteers are needed to man our tables. We also need a 'clean & pack up' crew on Sunday afternoon. You can sign up at our September 25th general meeting or contact **Madeleine Mullins** (916-455-7815). This is a great way to connect with other plant club members and have fun working side-by-side at the sale. (See page 3 for more information.)

Newsletter Contributors and Photographers

Do you like to write or take photographs? If you've written garden-related articles in the past or would like to write a current article to share with the membership, please send it to **Cheryl McDonald**, mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net

Photos of your garden or those of others are always welcome.

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

Fall Plant Sales

There are some great plant sales coming up. Remember, fall is the best time for planting.

SPPC Fall Plant and Yard Art Sale

October 4-5

10 am – 4 pm

Shepard Garden and Arts Center

UC Davis Arboretum

October 11

9 am – 11 am (members only)

11 am – 1 pm (open to the public)

October 25

9 am – 1 pm (open to the public)

A Splendid Day with New Friends

by Sharon Patrician

Hamilton Square was honored with a visit in late June by some members of the Board of Directors of *Pacific Horticulture*, a gardening journal dedicated to inspiring and educating gardeners on the West Coast. The magazine is published by the non-profit Pacific Horticulture Society.

I learned about this magazine in 1975 when I was new to ornamental gardening. I have been a faithful subscriber since then, especially when their 1976 issue came out dealing with that year's drought. I learned about plants from all over the world which could tolerate drought and still be beautiful. I was hooked on perennials from that point forward.

When a board member contacted me about a tour for the Board which was meeting in Davis, I was thrilled. This was an opportunity to share what I've done the last 16 years with people who are educators, writers, editors and keen gardeners. It was also an opportunity to puzzle out some perennials which I acquired with the wrong labeling. We clarified at least two salvias, and I learned more about Echiums (a new interest) and Origanums.

Included in our group was John Whittlesey, designer and nurseryman, who recently published *The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias*. Among John's many photos are some taken at the Historic Cemetery, Hamilton Square Garden, for which he generously gave us credit. I got this book through Amazon and it is a very useful reference in identifying the Salvias which always seem to get their name tags lost.

In addition, Warren Roberts, Emeritus Director of Horticulture, UC Davis, strolled with us on that lovely Sunday. Since I was leading the group, I failed to take notes, an omission which I now greatly regret. He provided much new information, corrected my misinformation and regaled us with plant identification stories.

Based on feedback, the guests had a

wonderful time and were thrilled to learn Sacramento has a perennial garden of great interest. Leslie Hurlburt (my stalwart helper and colleague) and I loved the opportunity to talk up Sacramento's botanical contributions and to mingle with gifted gardeners and educators. It was a splendid day.



Sharon Patrician (center front) and Leslie Hurlburt (center back) with their *Pacific Horticulture* Board of Directors guests in the cemetery.

Expect the Unexpected

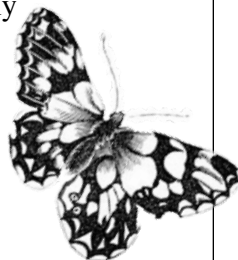
by Barbara Lane-Piert



I sit here with my laptop and glance at the sky. It is mid-August and the sky is full of clouds. Surely I remember mid-August being hot, not humid. Perhaps in my older years I am getting forgetful. Do we usually have weather like this? I am sure we don't. It feels good to relax instead of perspiring with 100° plus heat but this weather brings worries that what we consider normal weather no longer exists. We must prepare for what is to come. Increased erratic weather patterns are now "the name of the game" and many of our fellow gardeners in the south and the east of these United States will suffer from storms, floods and ice in unexpected places. My family in Georgia soon tired of building snowmen when snow faced them every day for weeks.

After writing that depressing news, this gardener will embrace the positive by talking perennials, plants and our wonderful friends the living insects that surround us. We are dealing with our sad gardening news "the drought" which I will not expound on because it will be redundant. We have heard enough. Fortunately we have clay soil which holds our precious water a little longer. Just a little mention here. Remember that water not only runs down but soil acts as a sponge enabling it to run up. Enough said.

If you know me you are well aware that I am a rose nut. Having grown roses since that very first one was given to me on Mother's Day so very many years ago, I have broken my piggy bank many times buying more and more. My current love is David Austin roses. The U.K. hybridizer, who has offended some by naming his roses "English Roses," is under fire from me for starting this most recent passion. Will this ever stop? Maybe it will for I have noticed in the past few years a steady increase in my beloved insect: the butterfly. I have been seeing so many beauties this past year....my goodness, is that a Monarch? They flutter and dance to music I cannot hear, they parade their beauty in front of my eyes with total disregard for any danger that I might present. I sat with glass in hand



last night in the garden, pondering the reason for this steady increase in these lovely insects and suddenly the answer was before me. My visits to Green Acres, Annie's Annuals are to blame (?) for all the perennials I have been loading up. Unknowingly I was buying food that was loved by my little beauties. Having a couple of Buddlejas was not the answer, instead it was the abundant perennials I have planted in pots, and more pots (forgive me drought) that was exciting and enticing the dancing ladies (and gentlemen). I shall ignore the caterpillars munching on my plants for they are my future loves.

I must investigate further what plants to buy, where to buy them, and when. A recent study in the U.K. of the butterfly conservation has given a list of 100 plants to attract the butterfly. Please, please let me not think I can buy all of them. I must concentrate on the top chosen ones. I know...you are waiting...I think I will share with you my gardening friends. Hopefully our favorite nurseries will stock all we need. You will have to hurry when all the stock arrives in the spring because I will be first in line. Here is list of the top plants to attract our friends: #1- Erysimum 'Bowles Mauve' (now that was a surprise). Others included at top of the list are Verbena bonariensis, Lavandula x intermedia, Eupatorium cannabinum (yes its related to hemp), nepeta species, Agastache foeniculum (no surprise there), origanum species, Hyssopus officinalis and of course the buddleja species (I was surprised this was not at #1).

This article comes to a close with me sharing the name of the rose that started all this madness— "Color Magic" was the name, sold to my daughter by a fellow rosarian Muriel Humenick at the now closed Fountain Square. A passion was born by the glory of the rose and now continues with the love of my dancing beauties and their garden feast. May all your autumn gardens be spectacular....

Barbara



The Perennial Post

SPPC Newsletter
2743 San Luis Court
Sacramento, CA 95818



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Celosia argentea spicata 'Xantippe'

CHERYL MCDONALD