



# The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  May/June 2017

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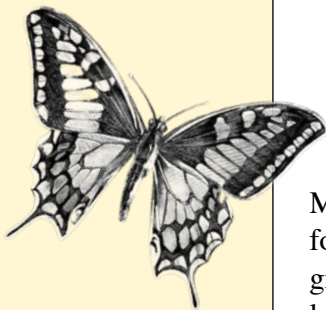
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The Sacramento Perennial Plant Club provides educational opportunities for Sacramento area gardeners and horticulturalists to learn about perennials appropriate to our climate and water limitations.

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.

## May Program Speaker

**Mark Lum**  
*The Story of Tea*

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER  
THURSDAY — MAY 25, 2017 • 7:00 PM

At a California Native Plant Society (CNPS) plant sale, Daisy Mah sampled an acorn flour cake with elderberry frosting made in Mark Lum's "kitchen lab." She was surprised at how delicious and challenging his undertaking, but not surprised that Mark has been invited to join the CNPS board of directors. He harks back to five generations of farmers in Hawaii who emigrated from Guangdong, also known as the Pearl River Delta of China. Mark recalls visits to his grandfather, a hobbyist orchid grower, instilling a love of nurturing plants. At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center he will pursue an ongoing interest in ethnobotany, the relationship between people and plants. In "The Story of Tea," Mark will discuss history, culture and health benefits of sipping tea.

## June Program Speaker and Salad Potluck

**Daisy Mah**  
*Love, Not Hate Thy Herbs*

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER  
THURSDAY — JUNE 22, 2017\* • 7:00 PM

Many herbs available to us are either from Mediterranean or Asian origins. The former easily adapt to our sunny gardens despite water restrictions. But the mints grew well beyond the 3-foot allotment, proceeding to overtake Daisy's garden leading to long-term discontent and banishment. Recently relations have thawed with the discovery that they and companion herbs can also be objects of desire. Besides being beautiful, easy and beneficial to butterflies, bees and birds; herbs add pizzazz to our food. The ancient act of incorporating fresh herbs imparts flavor and texture, not calories. With frequent harvesting, the plants are revitalized, attractive, and to Daisy's disbelief, the aggressive mints are kept in check "Love, Not Hate Thy Herbs" will offer ways to make herbs a daily part of our diet. Herbs will be available for tasting and sale.

**Note: A salad potluck is planned for the June meeting. (See page 2 for details.)**

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

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

# Calendar

## May 10

SPPC Board Meeting  
Carol Meininger (916-967-1018)  
Potluck Dinner—5 p.m.

## May 13

Troll Knoll Garden Tour  
Meet at SG&AC at 8 a.m.  
Carpool trip (See page 5 for details)

## May 25

SPPC General Meeting  
Mark Lum  
*The Story of Tea*  
7 p.m.

## June 10

Natomas Rose Garden Tour and Lunch  
South Natomas Community Park  
(See page 4 for details)

## June 14

SPPC Board Meeting  
Beverly Shilling (916-452-4762)  
Potluck Brunch—10 a.m.

## June 21

The Ruth Bancroft Garden Tour  
Meet at SG&AC at 8:30 a.m.  
Bus trip (See page 5 for details)

## June 22

SPPC General Meeting  
and Salad Potluck  
Daisy Mah  
*Love, Not Hate Thy Herbs*  
7 p.m.

## July 15-16

Iris Rhizome Sale  
SG&AC  
10 a.m.—4 p.m.

## August 5

Harvest Day  
8 a.m.—2 p.m.  
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center  
11549 Fair Oaks Blvd.  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628  
[http://ucanr.edu/sites/sacmg/Harvest\\_Day/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/sacmg/Harvest_Day/)



## 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

Volunteers are the backbone of the Perennial Plant Club and the force behind our many successful activities and events. Thank you to all who have volunteered.

The garden tour season is in full swing. Join us to enjoy a wide variety of local and regional gardens. We would like to continue these fun tours but need a new tour coordinator.

Members were very enthusiastic about the tasty potluck last June and requested we do it again. See the article below for details.



## ***Back by popular demand...***

we will have a special “end-of-season” Salad Potluck dinner on Thursday, June 22 at 6:00 p.m., followed by our speaker Daisy Mah.

Everyone is asked to bring a salad to share. Drinks, rolls and dessert will be provided.

# Membership News

## **2017 Membership Roster**

The roster will be mailed separately this year. When you receive it, check that your contact information has been listed correctly. 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).

## **Welcome to New and Returning Members**

Barbara Alexander	Leslie Mihordin
Alice Bauman	Ralph Neel
Roberta Jan-Johnson	Angela Parker
Janice Kelley	Flora Spalding
Stan & LaVille Logan	Michael Spivy & Frances Spivy-Weber
Judy Ludlow	Wendy Wilson
Viola McNally	

## **Next Meeting and Newsletter**

The next general meeting is Thursday, September 28 when **Ellen Zagory** will speak about butterflies of the interior valley. The next newsletter will be the September/October issue. If you have suggestions for newsletter articles please e-mail your ideas to **Cheryl McDonald** ([mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net)).

# Many Hands Make Light Work

Perennial Plant Club members share with all gardeners a deep appreciation of the 14th century proverb's truth, "Many hands make light work." We achieved that "light work" with many of you contributing your time and talent to make both the Spring Plant Sale and Vendor Sale rousing successes!

Below is a thank you from each event's chairperson:

## 2017 Spring Plant Sale

A great big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped contribute their time to Spring Plant Sale. The two-day event was a huge success and it was all because of you. I couldn't have done it alone, that's for sure. You all were real troopers.

*–Deborah Renfrew*

## 2017 Vendor Sale

**To all the Vendor Sale volunteers:** Without your presence, labor, willingness to help and creativity, our annual Vendor Sale would not be the resounding success it was on March 25, 2017. I am so grateful that many of you stepped up, asked what you could do and cheerfully made it happen. It's that spirit that keeps our club going and brings us so much fun and knowledge.

Our speaker, **Robin Parer**, was superb and the book donations were especially outstanding (thanks to Barbara Oliva's estate and all of you who cleared off your bookshelves). Those of you who helped with the floral display outdid yourselves this year in spite of untimely rain and cool weather. Our thanks to **Kirsten Salomon** and **Janice Kuykendall** who provided the lovely background music, to **Wayne Martinson** who provided the audio equipment, to **Janice Sutherland** for her advice and beautiful bouquets and to **Saul Wiseman** and **Lorraine Van Kekerix** who made the door prize drawings so enjoyable. The vendors all reported how pleased they were

with sales and how well they were treated by our volunteers.

Finally, to my co-chairs, **Rose Hoskinson** and **Lee Perrone**, kudos for your graciousness and hard work. You made a great team and your organizational skills made everything go so smoothly. And didn't the weather give us a break! All in all, a great day and worth all the hard work and aching feet.

*–Sharon Patrician*

## Do You Enjoy Garden Tours?

**Noelle Anderson**, who has done an amazing and much appreciated job of coordinating garden tours, is now the club's representative at the SG&AC board meetings. She's ready to turn the garden tour reins over to another volunteer.

Some of our best tour ideas come from SPPC members. The tour coordinator becomes a "point person" that helps guide those ideas to fruition. Maybe you could partner with another member or two for this task. The more the merrier!

If you are interested and have questions about coordinating tours, contact Noelle at 916-731-4648 or [nandersn@surewest.net](mailto:nandersn@surewest.net).



Lovely spring blooms seen in East Sacramento on our April 27th tour.

## Coffee and Tea Are Back!

Many thanks to **Marcia Leddy** for volunteering to make our general meetings more welcoming and comfortable. Once again we'll have coffee, hot tea and now, water available during the meeting break. We are looking for a few members to join Marcia and form a refreshment team. Contact Marcia at 916-213-7743 or [mcl@williesworkshop.net](mailto:mcl@williesworkshop.net) if interested in helping out.



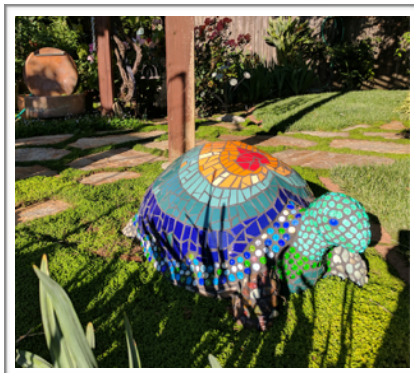
# Garden Tours

## 25th ANNUAL PENCE GALLERY GARDEN TOUR

Sunday, May 7 • Noon–5 p.m.

Stroll through nine private gardens throughout the city of Davis. This is a popular fundraising event for Pence Gallery. **SPPC members Stan and LaVille Logan's garden will be on the tour. Below is a whimsical mosaic project they created.**

For more information and ticket prices, go to [www.pencegallery.org](http://www.pencegallery.org)



## 19TH ANNUAL EAST SAC GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, May 13 / Sunday, May 14  
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Tour seven beautiful and inspiring gardens in Sacramento's "Fabulous 40s" neighborhood. Stroll along the tree-lined streets to view a variety of lush and creative gardens.

For more information and ticket prices, go to [www.eastsacgardentour.com](http://www.eastsacgardentour.com)

## CAPAY VALLEY MOTHER'S DAY GARDEN TOUR

Sunday, May 14 • 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Come join in the delight of spring flowers while strolling through Capay Valleys' finest gardens. Talk to the gardeners themselves and learn the secrets of their success.

For more information and ticket prices, go to [www.thecapayvalleygardentour.com](http://www.thecapayvalleygardentour.com)

## Natomas Rose Garden Tour and Lunch

Saturday, June 10, 2017 • Begins at 10:30 a.m.

South Natomas Community Park • 2881 Truxel Rd., Sacramento CA 95833



Since 2008, this rose garden has been a beautiful addition to the South Natomas Community Center. Four intersecting circles connected by wide decomposed granite walkways are planted with about 500 roses. SPPC member, **Lonnie Ratzlaff**, was instrumental in the creation of this garden. We'll leisurely stroll through the rose garden and "Poet's Park"—a public art project honoring past and present Sacramento poets laureate. **Bring a sack lunch.** Water and lemonade will be provided.

**SAVE THE DATE**

## Cornerstone in Sonoma

Saturday, October 21, 2017

We are planning a trip to **Cornerstone**—a wine country marketplace in Sonoma. There are shops, food, gardens, local art and live music. Morningsun Herb Farm supplied the herbs for their display garden. An afternoon visit to a Santa Rosa nursery is in the works. October is a beautiful month in the wine country and an ideal time to buy plants for your garden. More details along with mode of transportation will appear in the September/October *Perennial Post*. To learn more about Cornerstone, visit their web site at [www.cornerstonesonoma.com](http://www.cornerstonesonoma.com). Below is an example of one of the innovative garden designs currently on view.



White Cloud by Andy Cao and Xavier Perrot

# Garden Tours



**Saturday, May 13**  
**CARPOOL TRIP**

## **Troll Knoll**

*Spend a lovely day with fellow gardeners in this imaginative Disney-like garden.*

10148 Oak Canyon Drive, Penn Valley, CA 95946  
[www.trollknoll.com](http://www.trollknoll.com)

**Carpool from Shepard Center at 8 a.m.**  
**Tour starts at 10 a.m.**

A stroll through the gardens can take 2 1/2 hours or more depending on the interests and discussion. There is an elevation change of about 300 feet in both directions and numerous steps. Although most of the garden paths are paved, the ground can be uneven and gravelly.

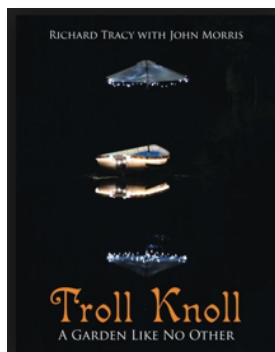
**Wear sturdy shoes.**

**Bring a sack lunch and water for our picnic on the Troll Knoll grounds.** This is a private garden without access to a public restroom. Consider stopping at Western Gateway Park where there are public facilities.

We recommend you read the advice on the “Practicalities” page on the Troll Knoll web site: [www.trollknoll.com/about-us/practicalities-at-troll-knoll/](http://www.trollknoll.com/about-us/practicalities-at-troll-knoll/).

**Troll Knoll: A Garden Like No Other**

by Richard Tracy with John Morris  
Available for purchase at Troll Knoll the day of the tour.



**Wednesday, June 21**

**MEMBERS-ONLY BUS TRIP**

## **The Ruth Bancroft Garden**

[www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/index.html](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/index.html)

## **The Gardens at Heather Farm**

[gardenshf.org/the-garden](http://gardenshf.org/the-garden)

**Depart from Shepard Center at 8:30 a.m.**  
**Return by 6:30 p.m.**

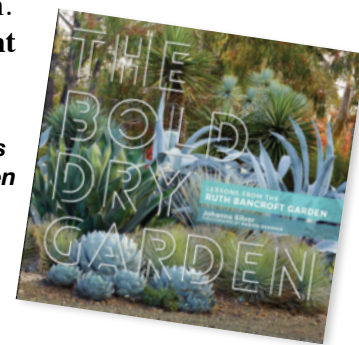
Sit back, relax and take a leisurely trip on the bus to the Bancroft's 23rd Annual *Sculpture in the Garden* show. We'll stroll the garden's world-class collection of succulent and drought-tolerant plants. Note that pathways are not paved. There is seating scattered throughout the Garden including wooden benches and chairs.

**Bring a sack lunch and water for our picnic lunch** at The Gardens of Heather Farm. There are no picnic tables, so bring a blanket and/or a folding lawn chair for seating which will be placed in the bus storage area. The terrain at Heather Farm can be hilly — some pathways are paved others are gravelly.

See page 7 for bus trip form.  
**Seating is limited. Payment and form due May 15.**

### **The Bold Dry Garden: Lessons from the Ruth Bancroft Garden**

by Johanna Silver and Marion Brenner  
Available for purchase at the Bancroft the day of the tour.





## Generous Donations to Our Grant Program

Many thanks to **The Sacramento Geranium Club** for donating \$300 and **Pat Smith**, our April general meeting speaker, who donated her \$100 honorarium to our Grants Program.

# Harvest Day

**Saturday, August 5, 2017**  
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Fair Oaks Horticulture Center**  
11549 Fair Oaks Boulevard  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Sponsored by the Sacramento County Master Gardeners, *Harvest Day* is Sacramento's biggest one-day gardening event featuring speakers, demonstrations, educational booths, open gardens, produce tasting, a plant clinic and more. Bring your questions to the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center and enjoy!

**Volunteers needed for the SPPC booth. Sign-ups at the June meeting.**



## Deadheading at Dusk

**Monday, June 5**  
6 p.m. until sunset

Join Rose Garden volunteers as they lightly prune and deadhead early spring roses.

**Historic Rose Garden**  
1000 Broadway, Sacramento

### FOR SALE

Aged horse manure, no weeds, alfalfa fed horses. Pickup truck of three yards for \$60. Free delivery and unloading. Call Carol at 916-291-9831.

# Blooms from the Tombs

by Leslie Hurlburt

Our drought parched landscapes have been quenched, pushing the gardens here at the Historic City Cemetery into a much admired super bloom. The Hamilton Square Garden has a diverse group of Mediterranean perennials that have flourished thanks to the well-draining soil here. The photos below are of plants collectively called "Rock Rose." They thrive here with little care or water but have handled this winter's exceptional rain as an opportunity for exuberant growth and bloom.



Left to right: *XHalimocistus wintonensis* and its cultivar 'Merrist Wood Cream.' Both are evergreen shrubs with a height and width of 3-4 ft. They are perfect in poor soil and full sun.



Left to right: *Helianthus nummularium* 'Henfield Brilliant' and 'Rodanthe Carneum.' Both are low growing ground covers or subshrubs.

### "What's Blooming" Tours

One hour guided tour of Hamilton Square Garden at the Historic City Cemetery on the last Saturday of the month. Rain or shine.  
1000 Broadway, Sacramento

**Starts at 10 a.m.**

**May 27 • June 24 • July 29 • August 26**

# SPPC Bus Trip to Walnut Creek



**Wednesday, June 21, 2017**

**The Ruth Bancroft Garden & The Gardens at Heather Farm**

**Cost: \$55.00 / 2017 SPPC members**

(includes bus, driver gratuity and docent-led tours at each of the gardens)

Membership form available in the Jan/Feb newsletter and online at [www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org](http://www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org)

**Bus leaves at 8:30 a.m.**

Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.  
Sacramento (rear entrance on Park Avenue)

Use street parking—do not park in the SG&AC parking lot.

Expect a return to SG&AC by 6:30 p.m.

## Members-only Bus Trip

We'll begin our day in Walnut Creek with a docent-led tour at the **The Ruth Bancroft Garden**. This tour coincides with the Bancroft's *23rd Annual Sculpture in the Garden* show. This world-class collection of succulent and drought-tolerant plants, transforms into an outdoor art gallery featuring a diverse range of sculptural styles.

After traveling a short distance to **The Gardens at Heather Farm**, we'll picnic on the garden's Meadow Lawn and then take part in a docent-led tour. There are 10 themed gardens connected by paved and gravel walkways. **Wear sturdy walking shoes.**

**Be sure to pack your own sack lunch.** There are no picnic tables, so please bring a blanket and/or a folding lawn chair for seating. These items will be placed in the bus storage area.

**Trip cost: \$55** (includes bus, driver gratuity, admission and docent-led tours at each of the gardens)  
**Bus seating is limited.**

If you have questions, please e-mail [nandersn@surewest.net](mailto:nandersn@surewest.net) or call 916-731-4648.

Cut along dotted line, send your completed form and check for \$55 made out to:  
PERENNIAL PLANT CLUB. **Mail to: Pat McKnight, 1930 Larkin Way, Sacramento CA 95818**

**Due date for completed form and payment is May 15.**

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## Bus Trip to The Ruth Bancroft Garden & The Gardens at Heather Farms

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 2017 MEMBER? \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_



## The Perennial Post

SPPC Newsletter  
2743 San Luis Court  
Sacramento, CA 95818



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*April 22—Barbara Lane-Piert's and Norm Klein's gardens*

CHERYL McDONALD