



The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  Nov/Dec 2016

NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER

Happy Thanksgiving



DECEMBER MEETING

Annual Holiday Potluck

WEDNESDAY — DECEMBER 7, 2016 • 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 **16th Annual Holiday Potluck on Wednesday, December 7th**. The club will furnish **turkey, cranberry sauce, 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 **salad**
- **J thru Q** to bring a **hot dish**
- **R thru Z** to bring a **dessert**

In order to assure that there is an assortment of dishes we are asking that you RSVP to either **Bobby Frieze, 916-383-8054** or **Deborah Renfrew, 916-966-3580**. 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.

Calendar

November 9

SPPC Board Meeting
Bobby Frieze
(916-383-8054)
Potluck Dinner—5 p.m.

November 19

Fall Color in the Cemetery Gardens

Historic City Cemetery
1000 Broadway, Sacramento
Rain or shine at 10 a.m.

Join Historic Rose Garden docent **Judy Eitzen** and Hamilton Square Perennial Plant Garden docent **Leslie Hurlburt** as they show you late blooms, brilliant foliage and a variety of colorful rose hips in the pioneer garden cemetery. It will be full of birds and colorful plants, a place where gardens grace graves, time stands still and history lives. Meet inside the front gate.

December 7

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



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

Lorraine Van Kekerix

Every fall I'm pleasantly surprised at the flush of new growth and blooms on many perennials after their just-hanging-on look of late summer. The recent rains not only cleaned the air and plants but plumped up the leaves and jump-started new shoots. It is a great time of year to work in the garden, visit public gardens or "tour" fall foliage in our neighborhoods and the foothills. Soon shorter days will limit our time in the garden.



Conflict of Interest Policy

On July 1, 2016, 119 email ballots went to our general membership for a "yes" or "no" vote via Survey Monkey for the following conflict of interest amendment to the by-laws:

Conflict of Interest Policy

The following Conflict of Interest Policy was approved June 8, 2016 by the Board of Directors of the Perennial Plant Club

Conflict of Interest

Whenever a director or officer has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the board of directors, the affected person shall a) fully disclose the nature of the interest and b) withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter. Any transaction or vote involving a potential conflict of interest shall be approved only when a majority of disinterested directors determine that it is in the best interest of the club to do so. The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention and rationale for approval.

The voting poll was open from July 1st through July 15th. During that time 39 responses were received. 100% of the responses were a "yes" vote.

Our current by-laws state that:

Amendments to the By-laws may be presented in writing by any member in good standing to the Secretary for consideration by the Board. If approved by the Board, the proposed amendment(s) shall be put to a general membership vote and shall need two-thirds of the **votes cast** to win approval.

On September 14 the board accepted the general membership approval and it became Article 18 of the by-laws.

Blooms from the Tombs

by Leslie Hurlburt

Hamilton Square Garden has blooms galore to enjoy through the fall until frost. The asters are in full force and much appreciated by the bees. Many of the Salvia are blooming including our Grape-Scented Sage (*Salvia melissodora*) which will bloom until April: <http://garden.org/plants/search/text/?q=salvia+melissodora>. The grape scent is very pleasant. We also have a repeat blooming iris which rebloomed in October: <http://garden.org/plants/view/96652/Tall-Bearded-Iris-Iris-Tennison-Ridge/>. Would love to have more of these repeaters. Hint Hint.

Our Aztec Lily (*Sprekelia formosissima*): <http://garden.org/plants/browse/plants/genus/Sprekelia/> was purchased at the UCD Arboretum member's sale this fall. It flowered for us right away—apparently happy to be out of its pot. It can rebloom several times a year by alternating periods of dryness then forcing new growth by watering. This lily likes well draining, slightly alkaline soil in Zone 8b and higher as it is frost tender. Plant the bulbs with the neck exposed, no more than five per square foot.

The above links take you to the National Gardening Association's web page. Many of the plants we grow at Hamilton Square are posted there. I encourage everyone to become a member. It's free and it will also help Hamilton Square Garden when you join: <http://garden.org/users/join/HamiltonSquare/>. There are forums for everything plant-related. The site allows you to do a number of things, such as creating a web page that is customizable, posting your own photos and making a personalized plant list. I find it very useful and informative. My handle there is, of course, "Hamilton Square." If anyone is interested in volunteering in this garden feel free to contact me at: LeslieHurlburt@icloud.com.



Iris 'Tennison Ridge'



Aztec Lily

Fall Plant Sale

A big thanks for all the contributors to the Fall Plant Sale. It was a big success due to all of the volunteers hard work and generosity. Thanks also to our long-time members who helped guide me through this process of chairing the sale. We made about \$1,500 for the club. Hope to see you all in the spring at the next sale.

—Deborah Renfrew



Saul Wiseman Grant Applications

Saul Wiseman Grant Applications are now available on our website: sacramento-perennial-plant-club.org by clicking "Grants Program." Applications may be submitted electronically or by US Mail. Deadline for applications is January 16, 2017. Funds will be awarded at the end of February 2017.

"The purpose of The Saul Wiseman Grants is to promote gardening within the County of Sacramento. Non-profit groups with gardening-related activities may apply. Up to five (5) individual grants in the amount of up to \$500 may be awarded annually."

Garden Tours

A Popular Member Benefit



CHERYL McDONALD



JANE THOMPSON



PAT FERRIS



RON ANDERSON



NOELLE ANDERSON

Do you have an idea for a 2017 garden tour? It could be a bus tour to somewhere a couple of hours away, a car trip to some interesting nurseries, or—something we all truly love—a peek into your private garden to which you might add a walk or short drive to a few of your neighbors' yards. **Noelle Anderson** will help you with the details of your tour. Contact her at nandersn@surewest.net or 916-731-4648.

Below are descriptions of the club's garden tours from this past year.

Barbara Lane-Piert's Open Garden—April 20

SPPC member **Barbara Lane-Piert** shared her lovely garden which is filled with many blooming roses and perennials. Her whimsical and artistic garden "rooms" displayed throughout the back and side yards are the result of Barbara's keen eye for unique items. They brought smiles and numerous design ideas to many of us. Many thanks to Barbara for a relaxing and delightful way to spend a Spring day.

Private Gardens in Marin County—May 15

SPPC members enjoyed an exciting bus trip to two private gardens in Marin County. The first, featured in *Fine Gardening* as "Texture Extremes" was high on a steep hillside in Tiburon, with cacti, succulents, rare trees and grasses, and striking artworks. Next we picnicked at a park on the bay. After lunch we traveled to Kentfield where we were welcomed into an "English Garden." This was an estate with grand old trees and lawns, roses, a small forest with a teepee for children, whimsical statues, terraces, and a pool. We thank **Noelle Anderson** for organizing this special tour.

Pat and Raylin Ferris' Open Garden—May 29

SPPC members **Pat and Raylin Ferris** shared their recent lawn makeover which features a drought-tolerant garden, filled with native and Mediterranean climate perennials and shrubs that attract birds, butterflies and bees. Pat led an informative discussion about the design and transformation process. Their ultimate vision is to make the front yard a welcoming informal neighborhood park, with a sitting area for neighborly interactions with all ages. Many thanks to Pat and Raylin for hosting this inspiring tour.

Sherwood Demonstration Garden—October 8

SPPC member **Sharon Patrician** organized a docent-led tour of the Sherwood Demonstration Garden, which is operated by the El Dorado County Master Gardeners. This fairly new garden outside of Placerville is on a sunny hillside, bursting with colorful blooms, butterflies, and bees. We learned new ways to raise vegetables vertically and got ideas for healthy soil and sustainable gardening practices. Thank you, Sharon, for organizing this enjoyable tour. To visit on your own, go to http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Demonstration_Garden/.

Murer House/Rhonda Des Voignes' Garden—October 20

We toured the Murer House in Folsom, where SPPC member **Rhonda Des Voignes** works tirelessly restoring and caring for the gardens. This beautiful old property was built by Giuseppe Murer in 1925 and now serves as a center for the promotion of Italian culture and heritage in Folsom. Afterwards, our caravan followed Rhonda to her nearby home. A striking Norway Maple 'Crimson King' resides in the front yard not far from a shady sitting area. Sunny terraces, a pool, comfortable seating areas and fruit trees fill the back yard. Many thanks to Rhonda for being such a knowledgeable and entertaining host.

Holiday Decor from the Garden

Wreath Making Made Easy. Many years ago I read an article about an easy, fast way of making wreaths. I tried it and was off and running. I made wreaths for all the doors and windows on our house and had a lot of fun making them. After you have all your supplies ready, you can make a wreath in about thirty minutes.

You will need a straw wreath form measuring fifteen to eighteen inches in diameter, edge to edge, and U-shaped pins. Both these items can be found at any florist or florist supply store such as Michaels. You will also need boughs of evergreens. I have made wreaths using boxwood, bay, pine, cedar, myrtle, or magnolia. The wreaths made of boxwood, bay or magnolia hold their color and will last a long time. The myrtle wreath has lovely blue berries.

I like to start off by cutting all my green material into short pieces about four to five inches long. Short pieces will make a fat wreath. I then place the straw form on the table, or my lap, and pin the first branch or small bundle of branches on the top front side of the form with the cut end facing to the left. I continue around the circle counterclockwise slightly overlapping each branch or bundle. This way each pin is covered by the next fan of greenery. I then pin the inner part of the form and last the outer side of the form. To make a fatter wreath I pin the backside as well. Do this for wreaths that hang on windows. They will look nice from both the outside and inside.

You can decorate wreaths with fresh fruit such as apples, lemons and grapes or add dried hydrangea, berries, ornaments and ribbons. But I think I like a fat green wreath with a simple wide red ribbon bow the best. Happy Gardening and Happy Holidays to all of you!

—Janice Sutherland

Yearly Tradition. Each year I help my great nephew, now seven, make gifts the family will enjoy. My parents and grandparents believed in learning by doing and this is my chance to pass it on.

This year he is making sachets for the women. We harvest the lavender in summer after the seed heads develop—sharp pruners make this a joint activity. Later he cleans the stems from the seed heads. To make the sachets prettier, we add dried rose blossoms.

He purchases shiny mesh bags in each recipient's favorite color. To make the sachets he spreads the lavender seeds evenly in the bag, places the dried roses carefully on top, pulls the ribbons and ties them in a bow.

For the men, who all like to cook, he dries herbs. After they dry, he strips the herbs from the stems and puts them in purchased spice jars.

My great nephew is very happy to give gifts and proud of what he has made. It would be quicker to take him shopping for gifts, but it is well worth it to teach him he can use the garden's bounty to make gifts.

—Lorraine Van Kekerix



Favorite Garden Tools

When our scheduled speaker for the October general meeting couldn't attend, we opted for a "show and tell" evening featuring favorite garden tools. Here are some of the tools we shared:

Outdoor angle broom
easy; lightweight

Maxicrop
mild seaweed fertilizer;
doesn't attract critters

Hori knife
Red Rooster brand; stainless
steel blade with serrated edge

—Daisy Mah

Fiskar's Pruning Stick
rope-free design; lightweight

—Peggy Gerick

Soil tube
pulls out core sample to check
soil moisture content

—Pam Bone

**California Gardener's Guide,
Vol. II—by Nan Sterman**
well-organized guide with lots of
information; nice companion to
Sunset Western Garden Book
—Cheryl McDonald

**Large aluminum dust pan
Bulb auger**

attaches to drill if planting
lots of bulbs

Outdoor thinning shears
narrow blade for tight spaces;
self-opening

—Stan Logan
(aka "The Tool Man")

Cuttle Fish Hoe
very convenient to have two tools
in one

—Linda Hax

Trenching shovel
lightweight; easier to use if you
have back problems

—Lorraine Van Kekerix

Original Garden Broom
sweeps up wet leaves; easy to
brush leaves off mulch and bark;
works on any surface

—Marcia Leddy



LET'S GROW UP

meaning:
climbing plants
to enhance our
living space

by Barbara
Lane-Piert

SEVERAL DAYS AGO I visited a new development named McKinley Village. Although not exactly my cup of tea, they were beautifully dressed inside and the small postage stamp lots were amazing. Lots of water features AND plantings growing UP the fences. I realized that today large gardens are just not on the radar. Saving time to allow for games, Facebook and emails are taking precedence with the masses. No more free exercise while shoveling muck or digging holes, sadly.

Maybe there are still a few people left who want to see the beauty of our creation in their gardens but who have little space to bring them joy. Lo and behold there are solutions to your problems. No matter how small your garden space (even if you do not have the talent of one of our greatest—Madaleine M.) the solution is right here. Grow UP.

Climbers belong in every garden—large or miniscule. Fences and walls are apparent in tiny gardens and even in apartments that have balconies. Choose wisely and while washing those dishes take in the beauty that surrounds you. The old adage about climbers is sooooo true in most cases. “The first year they sleep, the second they creep, and the third year they leap.” You will need to keep the pruners handy BUT all the advice for pruning your choices will be at your fingertips: The internet.

Our first year (40 years ago) the garden was clay, rocks and no fences. What a struggle two non-gardeners had. Capitol Nursery gave great advice (sure) they sold me pampas grass (8), Algerian Ivy and Boston Ivy. My neighbor helped out by growing English Ivy to cover fences. Phew! We still struggle with it all but the pampas grass is no more, it bit the dust many moons ago. Mistakes were made along the years and my fences are covered with aggressive climbers. The rose ‘Mermaid’ is not for the fainthearted, it believes it is queen of the show, which it is. Madame Galen trumpet vine seems to pop-up everywhere, the Halls honeysuckle and the Japanese one (also suggested by the garden center) is ever present.

Enough of the complaints. There are so many climbing plants to give you joy, protect you from environmental noises and bad air, fill the air with fragrance and paint your intimate space with beauty.

We are all familiar with bougainvillea, jasmine and wisteria but less often seen is the **Hyacinth Bean Vine** (*Dolichos lablab*). Growing rapidly it can be sown from seed in the spring. The blooms resemble sweet peas and are prolific with lustrous seed pods of purple. Many times this plant is listed as an annual but favorably situated may become perennial (keep the secateurs handy). If you love an intense blue you are familiar with the **Morning Glory** (*Ipomoea learii*). This is one climber you can depend on in sun or intense shade but buyer beware it will cover your containing structure very quickly and be back next year. Having grown the **Passion Vine** (*Passiflora caerulea*),

I can attest to it's beauty of bloom and the delicious taste of it's fruit in my smoothies BUT your neighbor may learn to be less friendly when it pops up in their garden space. If your time is very limited, a good choice may be the **Cup and Saucer Vine** (*Cobaea scandens*). An annual that reaches 20 feet in one season in a sunny garden space, has no enemies and requires just water and fertilizer. If you favor the exotic and bright colors, the **Orange Clock Vine** (*Thunbergia gibsonii*) may be a good choice. Bright orange or sometimes yellow, it has hairy leaves and is a twining vine. A rarely seen vine, but very lovely, is the **Canary Bird Vine** (*Tropaeolum peregrinum*). Like most yellow and brightly colored vines they need sunshine at least for a few hours a day. Its growth is about 15 to 20 feet in a season so could easily adorn a balcony at a sunny apartment. You should all consider the luxuriant **Clematis paniculata**. It is free from pests and disease, is gorgeous and only requires good soil. In fall when you are growing tired of our intense heat, this plant will cover your fences, etc. with a blanket of white—looking like the Sierra snows to come. If planted in conjunction with other vines (some mentioned) you will have a season long display of beauty.

LASTLY, when the Queens of the world choose their thrones who would question that the climbing rose would choose to reign from the great heights of your gardens or balconies (they can be contained, within reason, by your secateurs). Good soil, fertilizer and lots of sun and you are on your way to the greatest beauty of all: A climbing rose. You can grace the entrance of your home by surrounding your door or enhance your personal space with well-grown roses. There is no more spectacular sight than a group of climbing roses, in your favorite colors, in full bloom. Many of your favorite hybrid teas have a climbing form. I visited a garden last year that was very small but had climbing 'Iceberg' over all it's walls. What a stunning, summer long sight that was. Pillars, pergolas, fences, walls, balconies will be so effective covered with climbing roses. Ground cover climbers are particularly adapted for use on banks. Talk to a consulting rosarian before making climbing rose choices. I would like to see that you are able to get into or out of your abode. In the land of my birth (U.K.) there is a rambling rose that completely covers a small home. Beautiful but I bet that house is dark and dreary (unless you sit in the garden most of the year adoring the rose).

My wine, my garden catalogues await me. May you have a new purpose: Finding those climbers that will fulfill and renew you. Happy planning....Barbara...



Cup and Saucer Vine

WIKIPEDIA



Orange Clock Vine



Canary Bird Vine

COURTESY OF ANNIE'S ANNUALS



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RON ANDERSON