



The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club ❄ Jan/Feb 2017

Contents

Calendar	2
President's Message	2
2017 Membership Information	2
SPPC Speakers-2017	3
SPPC Grant Applications Due	3
Vendor Sale is Back!	3
Historic City Cemetery Garden Events	4
Blooms from the Tombs	4
Spring Garden Tours	5
Many Hands Make Light Work	6
Looking for Legal Help	6
Shepard Garden & Arts Center Representative	6
SPPC Membership Form-2017	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.

January Program Speaker

Norm Klein

Flora and Fauna of the Baja Peninsula

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER
THURSDAY—JANUARY 26, 2017 • 7:00 PM

Some 40 years back, Norm Klein stopped at an interstate floral shop to pick up a gift. The three cacti he walked out with were the start of a life long obsession with cactus and succulents. In his words, that watershed moment was akin to a drug addiction. Starting in Kentucky, he was an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, later retiring to run marathons and direct races. He is an active member of the Carmichael Cactus and Succulent Society, been featured in the Sacramento Bee and tends to his cactus packed garden. His presentation delves into the exploration of the Baja peninsula and the rich life it supports that resonates today as much as it did in the 70s.

February Program Speaker

Debbie Arrington

Current Trends for California Gardeners

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER
THURSDAY—FEBRUARY 23, 2017 • 7:00 PM

With a mother who was a writer and teacher and a father who worked in circulation for the Press Telegram in Long Beach, a love of the written word was instilled early in Debbie Arrington. She also grew up with gardening. It seemed logical that she would become a garden writer, since 2008, for the Sacramento Bee. With the paper in downsize mode, she adeptly multitasks in several departments that include gardening, food and sports. She is active in the Sacramento Rose Society, a consulting rosarian and recent recipient of the bronze Medal of Service from the American Rose Society. Debbie will speak on what's hot and what's not for California gardeners.

WWW.SACRAMENTOPERENNIALPLANTCLUB.ORG

Calendar

January 11

SPPC Board Meeting
Linda Hax (916-481-9707)
Potluck Dinner
5 p.m.

January 16

2017 SPPC Grant Applications due

January 26

SPPC General Meeting
Norm Klein
Flora and Fauna of the Baja Peninsula
7 p.m.

February 8

SPPC Board Meeting
Deborah Renfrew (916-966-3580)
Potluck Dinner
5 p.m.

February 23

SPPC General Meeting
Debbie Arrington
Current Trends for California Gardeners
7 p.m.

Tours and Workshops at the Historic City Cemetery

1000 Broadway
Sacramento, CA 95818
See page 4 for details.

Gardening Events at the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center

11549 Fair Oaks Boulevard
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

January 14—9 a.m.–Noon

Workshop Watch demonstrations on winter pruning deciduous fruit trees, blueberries, cane berries and grape vines. Learn tips for proper bare root fruit tree planting and care.

February 18—9 a.m.–Noon

Open Garden Talk with Master Gardeners as they demonstrate techniques for pruning fruit trees, grapes, and berries. See proper ways to prune ornamental grasses and shrubs. Learn basics of planting late winter and early spring vegetables.



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 (916-524-5943) 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.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org

President's Message

Lorraine Van Kekerix

As the year starts, I like to reflect on the last garden year, what went well and what didn't. I would rather make a new mistake than make the same mistake twice.

The lava fines **Ernesto Sandoval** recommended incorporating into the soil have improved drainage for a number of new native plants and none died.

I'll have to wait another year to know whether the buffalo grass is working well. It took six months to make a dense ground cover in sunny areas and mowing every 2-4 weeks is a plus. I'm hoping that a partly shaded area with thinner grass will fill in before the tree grows new leaves. Next summer will be the buffalo grass's real water conservation test. Hope you have a chance to reflect on 2016 and make plans for the 2017 gardening season.

Thank You, Wayne Martinson!!

In November, **Wayne Martinson** reluctantly resigned as the long-term Vice-President of the Perennial Plant Club due to health issues. Wayne served on the Board for many years and as the SPPC's representative on the Shepard Garden and Art Center (SG&AC) Board. Thank you Wayne for serving many years as our SG&AC representative, technology guru at club meetings and back-up person when help was needed. The SPPC could not operate without behind-the-scenes workers. We wish Wayne the best and thank him for his loyalty and work.

New Vice-President

When an elected officer resigns mid-term, the Board Members elect a replacement. We are extremely fortunate that **Beverly Shilling**, an active club member and long-time Board Member, is willing to serve the remainder of the Vice President's term. The Board elected Beverly at the November Board Meeting. Please welcome Beverly as our new Vice-President!

2017 Membership Information

Dues must be received by **March 31, 2017**, in order to be listed in the upcoming membership roster and be sent the newsletter.

The roster will be mailed with the May/June *Perennial Post*. The membership application for 2017 is on page 7 and on our website. Be sure to fill out the membership form completely and include it with your dues. **Please consider signing up for one of the many ways you can help the club.**

SPPC Greets New Year with New Technology

We now have the technology to accept credit cards. Pay your membership dues with an easy swipe of your credit card at the general meetings.

The Membership Team Needs You!

Do you have a ready smile? The membership team seeks volunteers to assist with member check-in at meetings. The January meeting in particular could use additional help as members arrive and pay their 2017 dues. If you can assist, e-mail **Carol Meiningner** at cameiningner@sbcglobal.net.

Sacramento Perennial Plant Club Speakers–2017

All meetings are held on the fourth Thursday
of the month at 7 p.m.

Shepard Garden & Arts Center
3330 McKinley Boulevard, Sacramento

Nonmembers are welcome to attend our evening lecture meetings; however, garden tours are open only to SPPC members. SPPC website (www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org) and bi-monthly newsletters will provide details regarding lectures and direction to tours.

January 26—7 p.m.

Norm Klein—*Flora and Fauna of the Baja Peninsula*

February 23—7 p.m.

Debbie Arrington—*Current Trends for California Gardeners*

March 25—9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Vendor Sale (takes the place of the general meeting)

April 27—7 p.m.

Patricia Beach Smith—*Exploring European Gardens*

May 25—7 p.m.

Mark Lum—*Story of Tea*

June 23—7 p.m.

Nida Davidson—*Biological Control: More Than Just Ladybugs*

July

No general meeting

August

No general meeting

September 28—7 p.m.

Ellen Zagory—*Butterflies of the Interior Valley*

October 26—7 p.m.

Marri Castaneda—*Succulent Wreaths and Arrangements*

November

No general meeting—Happy Thanksgiving

December

No general meeting

Holiday Potluck Dinner, 7 p.m. at SG&AC
(date to be announced)

Plant sales, garden tours, and workshop information will be included on our website www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org and in future newsletters.

SPPC Grant Applications Due January 16

Our successful SPPC Grants Program will continue. Applications for the *Saul Wiseman Grants* are available on the SPPC website. Applications will be accepted until January 16, 2017. Submit your grant application either by sending an electronic version to: sppcgrants@gmail.com, or by mailing a paper version to: SPPC Grants, 1108 3rd Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95818

"The purpose of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club Grant Awards Program is to promote gardening within the County of Sacramento. Non-profit groups with gardening-related activities may apply. Up to five (5) grants in the amount of up to \$500 will be awarded annually."

Vendor Sale is Back!

Many thanks to **Sharon Patrician**, **Rose Hoskinson** and **Lee Perrone** for stepping up and volunteering to make the Vendor Sale a reality for 2017. The date is Saturday, March 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will be held at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center. Contact Sharon Patrician (patricianone@att.net) with any questions or if you wish to volunteer.



Held on December 7, our Annual Holiday Potluck was a festive evening filled with lots of wonderful dishes, numerous gifts and great music. Many thanks to **Bobby Frieze** and **Deborah Renfrew** for organizing the event. Thanks to **Jeanne Christopherson**, **Marcia Davenport**, **Charlene Durant**, **Mae Ferral**, **Tamalon Littlefield**, **Janice Sutherland**, and **Peggy Weseloh** for setting up and decorating the tables. Special thanks to **Jane Thompson** for providing the beautiful camellias. The much appreciated apple cider was made by **Madeleine Mullins** and her daughter, **Caitlin**. The many garden-related gifts were purchased and wrapped by **Bobby Frieze** and **Beverly Shilling**. Also, special recognition to **Margaret Cossey** for playing the piano and to accordion player **Robin Aurelius**.



Historic Rose Garden by Anita Clevenger

On **January 14**, we will again be hosting **Stephen Scanniello**, a Great Rosarian of the World, president of the Heritage Rose Foundation and curator of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, for two pruning workshops. This is a chance to learn from an expert and to be regaled with many entertaining tales of roses and the people who grow them. The first, at 9 a.m., will focus on pruning climbing roses. The other will be at 1 p.m., and will show techniques for pruning and rehabilitating mature plants. While our workshops are usually free, we would appreciate a minimum of \$10 donation to be divided between the Heritage Rose Foundation and for expenses in the Historic Rose Garden.

We will be having our “invitation only” **pruning party** on **January 21** from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. All SPPC members are invited, of course! Please RSVP to me so that we can plan lunch—we provide it for our volunteers. My cell is **916-715-7294**. Rain date is **January 28**.

On **March 26**, Hamilton Square manager **Leslie Hurlburt** and I will jointly present our early bloom tour, “Spring Beauties Awaken.” You will have an opportunity to tour both gardens, with the tour starting at 10 a.m. and ending at 11:30 a.m.

The **Open Garden** will be **April 8**, from 9:30 a.m.–2 p.m., celebrating all of the gardens in the cemetery. Once again, we will be selling many different heritage roses, a number of which have not been available previously.

Volunteering. Volunteers work in the rose garden on Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday mornings. It’s a great chance to learn about the roses and their care, and to enjoy the changing seasons.

Blooms from the Tombs

by Leslie Hurlburt

The winter solstice has passed and now the sun climbs the sky from the southern horizon. January and February in Hamilton Square Garden is the time to visit for a look at the many bulbs that have put forth flowers.



Freesia fucata



Spring Starflower (Tristagma uniflorum 'Jessie')



California Lilac (Ceanothus maritimus 'Valley Violet')

The first of the Narcissus flowered in December along with species daffodils (*Narcissus papyraceus* and *Narcissus tazetta*) but many more will put on a show in January, February and March. Yellow Grape Hyacinth (*Muscari macrocarpum* ‘Golden Fragrance’) bloomed at the solstice and continues to put up three to four inflorescences through the end of February. All the other muscari will join in for February and March. Freesia fucata blooms in January followed by other species freesias and a few hybrids. The spring starflowers arrive in February with a number of colorful cultivars from the pink ‘Charlotte Bishop’ to the deepest blue of ‘Jessie’ and the purples of ‘Froyle Mill.’ California Lilac (*Ceanothus maritimus* ‘Valley Violet’) will bloom at the end of February.

Come and enjoy a walk in the garden. The long night is over!

Volunteers Needed. Are you or someone you know looking for a way to volunteer? Hamilton Square Garden is always open to volunteers to help with the day-to-day care of a public garden—weeding, watering, dead-heading and more. Tuesdays and Thursdays are our usual group work days. If you’re interested please e-mail **Leslie Hurlburt** at lesliehurlburt@icloud.com.

Spring Garden Tours for 2017

“Save the Date” for these springtime garden tours scheduled for April through June. These tours are still a work in progress with updates and details to come in the March/April and May/June newsletters. If you have additional ideas for tours, contact **Noelle Anderson** (nandersn@surewest.net) and she will help guide you through the process.

East Sacramento Gardens

Thursday, April 27 (time to be determined)

Tour five private gardens in East Sacramento including the gardens of SPPC members **Noelle Anderson**, **Nancy Griffith** and **Joyce Mills**. After lunch at a local restaurant, we'll tour the vegetable/perennial garden of Capital Public Radio at their campus near Sacramento State.

Troll Knoll

Saturday, May 13 (time to be determined)

<http://www.trollknoll.com>

Troll Knoll is the garden of John and Anne Morris. They bought the property about 10 miles west of Grass Valley after the 49er fire had charred the land. They cleared the burned trees and shrubs and began to build their garden that is a formal and informal mix. The vision and development of this garden is a labor of love for John and Anne; they do all of the gardening themselves. There are paths, all with vistas of rivers and mountains, winding through 20 acres filled with natural settings, beautiful gardens, orchards, vineyards and whimsical humor.

We'll have a picnic lunch on the Troll Knoll grounds.

The Ruth Bancroft Garden

Date and time to be determined

1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA

<http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/index.html>

This carpool trip will be scheduled to coincide with the Bancroft's *23rd Annual Sculpture in the Garden* show. This world-class collection of succulent and drought-tolerant plants, transforms into a month-long outdoor art gallery. The juried exhibit and art sale showcases a diverse range of sculptural styles. The unusual shapes, interesting textures, and striking colors of succulents provide endless inspiration for artists.

We'll have a picnic lunch at The Gardens of Heather Farms (<https://gardenshf.org>) located near the Bancroft.



Local Day Trip

Natomas Rose Garden

South Natomas Community Park
2881 Truxel Rd.

Sacramento CA 95833

www.natomasrosegarden.org/index.html

When the weather turns warm and roses begin to bloom, consider spending some time at the Natomas Rose Garden which is lovingly cared for by volunteers. Since 2008, this rose garden has been a beautiful addition to the South Natomas Community Center. Four intersecting circles connected by wide walkways are planted with about 500 roses.

The garden sits between the South Natomas Library and Fort Natomas, a fun playground for the little ones. A path from the garden leads to "Poets Park," a public art project honoring past and present Sacramento poets laureate.

Books, roses, and art—a pleasant combination for a Spring day.

—Cheryl McDonald



San Francisco Flower and Garden Show

The Perennial Plant Club will not sponsor a bus trip to the **San Francisco Flower and Garden Show** this year. The 2017 show will be held April 5–9. Visit their website at <http://sfgardenshow.com/> to view photos from past years and discover the seminars planned for 2017. Plan a carpool with your garden club friends.



Cultivating Place: Conversations on Natural History and the Human Impulse to Garden

A Public Radio Podcast on Gardens and Gardening

A co-production of North State Public Radio (KCHO 91.7 FM in Chico and KFPR 88.9 FM in Redding) and jewellgarden.com, all podcasts are available weekly at mynspr.org. *Cultivating Place* is based on the beliefs that: horticulture is a foundational element of our cultural literacy—on par with art, music, history, architecture, geography, social studies and literature. And, that gardens and gardening provide a unique, and uniquely beautiful, bridge connecting us to our larger environments—culturally and botanically. Weekly interviews explore the many different ways people come to and bring to life what *garden* and *gardening* mean.

Many thanks to **Karen Martin** for sharing this interesting and educational gardening resource.

Many Hands Make Light Work

by Linda Hax

Perennial Plant Club members share with all gardeners a deep appreciation of the 14th century proverb's truth, "Many hands make light work." To put it more candidly, SPPC needs you!

Become part of a planning group for one of our activities. Join in the camaraderie of creating a plant sale, garden tour, propagation or garden art project. It doesn't involve a lot of time; often only one or two meetings.

Suggestions for helping hands and ideas are:

- Setting up and taking down plant sale displays
- Propagating plants
- Transporting plants
- Assisting plant sale customers with plant selection
- Identifying stimulating topics and speakers
- Researching garden tour sites

As you complete your 2017 Membership Form, think about where your interests coincide with the Perennial Plant Club's mission to provide opportunities for Sacramento area gardeners to learn about perennials appropriate to our climate and water. We're all learning together.

Got a helping hand?

Looking for Legal Help

The SPPC needs to address several issues in the existing by-laws as the club and tax rules have changed. We are looking for an SPPC member with a legal background to make sure what we propose meets requirements. A Board Committee will be working on by-law revisions. The Board and club members must approve all by-law revisions, so you will be hearing more. Please contact Lorraine Van Kekerix at pres.sppc@gmail.com or (916) 457-2674 if you would be willing to provide legal help.

Shepard Garden & Arts Center Representative

The SPPC is one of the larger clubs that uses the Shepard Garden & Arts Center and needs to have a representative on the SG&AC Board. The SG&AC Board sets policies regarding our meeting space, its use, organizes fundraisers to support the SG&AC, etc. Would you be willing to attend an evening meeting (usually the first Monday of the month) and report to the SPPC? Please contact Lorraine Van Kekerix at pres.sppc@gmail.com or (916) 457-2674 if you would be willing to be our SG&AC representative.

Sacramento Perennial Plant Club Membership–2017

**ALL MEMBERS—PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM COMPLETELY
AND INCLUDE WITH YOUR DUES**

NAME(S) _____ DATE _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE (____) ____ - _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY

STATE

ZIP

1. YEARLY DUES: ____ \$20 Individual ____ \$25 Joint ____ \$5 Student

2. PAYMENT: ____ Cash ____ Check (Make checks out to PERENNIAL PLANT CLUB)
Credit card transactions will be available at the general meetings.

3. INCLUSION IN OUR YEARLY ROSTER? YES ____ NO ____

4. GO GREEN! I'd like the club newsletter sent by e-mail ____ **No thanks,** I prefer regular mail ____

5. SEND completed form to: Perennial Plant Club, 4928 Forrestal Street, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Volunteer Participation

Please volunteer to help with one or more of the following activities:

EVENT/ACTIVITY	YES, I CAN HELP!
Plant sales	
Garden tours	
Bus trips	
Newsletter (writing)	
Speakers and programs	
Special events	
Hamilton Square Garden maintenance	

EVENT/ACTIVITY	YES, I CAN HELP!
Membership and greeters	
Publicity	
Web site	
Refreshments	
DIY garden art projects	
Propagation workshop	
WPA Rock Garden maintenance	

► For questions, contact Carol Meininger at 916-967-1018 or e-mail: sacppc@sbcglobal.net



The Perennial Post

SPPC Newsletter
2743 San Luis Court
Sacramento, CA 95818



Inside this issue ...

**Speakers for January
and February**

SPPC Speakers–2017

Blooms from the Tombs

**Spring Garden Tours
for 2017**

**Many Hands Make
Light Work**

Looking for Legal Help

**Shepard Garden &
Arts Center
Representative**

**SPPC Membership
Form–2017**



Freesia fucata in Hamilton Square Garden

LESLIE HURLBURT