



# The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  Mar/Apr 2016

## Contents

- Calendar 2
- President's Message 2
- 2016 Membership Information 2
- Announcement of Funded Proposals 2
- Annual Spring Plant Sale 3
- Helpful Tips for the SF Flower & Garden Show 3
- Garden Work Referral System 3
- New Garden Club Opportunity 3
- Roses and more 4
- Bus Trip to Filoli 5
- Blooms from the Tombs 6
- Gardens of Folsom Annual Tour 6
- Hamilton Square Volunteer Opportunity 6
- Bus Tour to Marin 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.

## March Program Speaker

**Baldo Villegas**

*The Good, the Bad and the Bugly*

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER  
THURSDAY — MARCH 24, 2016\* • 7:00 PM

Baldo Villegas, a.k.a. Sacramento's Bug Guy, will be discussing the "The Good, the Bad and the Bugly." In other words, he will explain the difference between bugs that are beneficial, versus harmful, versus just annoying that we commonly encounter in our gardens. He retired after 35 years as an environmental research scientist for the state Department of Food and Agriculture with an expertise in developing biological controls of insects and weeds. He was responsible for training county agriculture departments throughout the state. He is a longtime and passionate member of both the Sacramento Rose and Sacramento Sierra Rose Society. Not only a regular exhibitor, he is a rosarian, judge, and consultant receiving awards from the local chapters to the national level for his valuable contribution towards a greater understanding of roses.

## April Program Speaker

**Sue Fitz**

*Unusual and Distinctive Annuals*

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER  
THURSDAY — APRIL 28, 2016 • 7:00 PM

As true with many child gardeners, the first plants Sue Fitz ever grew were annuals (larkspurs and African daisies). By the time she was a teenager, Sue grew bored with them and moved on to perennials. Settling in Davis after getting a degree in Plant Science at UCD, Sue was disappointed to find that perennials stopped flowering during the extreme heat of Valley summers, so her interest turned back to annuals once more. Perusing old library books on annuals, she discovered that there were dozens that had fallen out of favor with modern growers due to their height and loose growth habits, but she saw their potential for mixing with perennials to extend her border's season. Finally, finding sources for these forgotten plants from English seed catalogs, she began ordering and testing them in her garden, selecting out the ones that did well in the Sacramento Valley. Sue will discuss her favorites and sources for them, and plans to bring in samples from her garden for show and tell.

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

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

# Calendar

## March 9

SPPC Board Meeting  
Madeleine Mullins (916-455-7815)  
Potluck Dinner—5 p.m.

## March 16

SF Flower & Garden Show  
Bus leaves SG&AC at 7:30 a.m.

## March 19–20

SG&AC Annual Spring Sale  
10 a.m.–4 p.m. (both days)

## March 24

SPPC General Meeting  
Baldo Villegas  
7 p.m.

## March 26

*What's Blooming Tour*  
Hamilton Square Garden  
Historic City Cemetery  
10 a.m.

## April 9

Open Gardens  
Historic City Cemetery  
9:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

## April 13

SPPC Board Meeting  
Noelle Anderson  
Potluck Dinner—5 p.m.

## April 20

Barbara Lane-Piert's Open Garden  
10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
(See page 4 for details.)

## April 23

Filoli Garden Tour  
Bus leaves SG&AC at 8 a.m.  
(See page 5 for details)

## April 28

SPPC General Meeting  
Sue Fitz  
*Unusual and Distinctive Annuals*  
7 p.m.

## April 30 and May 1

Folsom Garden Tour  
11 a.m.–4 p.m.  
(See page 7 for details.)



## 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.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org](http://www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org)

# President's Message

Saul Wiseman

## What is involved in being president?

### How time consuming is it?

Two meetings a month except in the summer. Board meets the second Wednesday of the month. Day could be changed to fit your schedule. The board meets at the home of members. Benefits: see members' gardens, have enjoyable potluck dinner, and socialize. Second meeting is the general meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Both the board and general meeting require a written agenda. The writing of the agenda takes about a half an hour. Really, not that time consuming.

Why have I been president for all these years? I like being president. I enjoy the meetings, the company of gardeners, the many interesting people who are members.

Time for someone else to be president.

## Announcement of Funded Proposals

The Sacramento Perennial Plant Club proudly announces the following 2016 Grant Award Recipients:

### Leo's Community Garden

Sacramento Children's Museum

### Compost Learning Center and Botany Teaching Garden

Alice Birney Waldorf-Inspired K-8 School Gardens

### Innovative Strawberry Garden and Signage

Elk Grove United Methodist Church Garden

### Growing Healthy / Growing Knowledge

Aldar Academy

### Faith Community Garden

Faith Lutheran Church Garden and Preschool

2017 grant applications will be available September 30, 2016 on the SPPC website.

## 2016 Membership Information

Dues must be received by March 31, 2016, in order to be listed in the upcoming membership roster and be sent the newsletter. Additionally, paid members will save \$10 on bus trips to the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show and Filoli.

The roster will be mailed with the May/June *Perennial Post*. The membership application for 2016 is in the Jan/Feb newsletter and on our web site [www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org](http://www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org). 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.

For questions, contact Carol Meininger at 916-967-1018 or e-mail: [sacppc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sacppc@sbcglobal.net)



# Annual Spring Plant Sale



MARCH 19–20, 2016 • 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

We have a large selection of plants ready for spring planting. Many of the flats of perennials have been propagated by club member **Emma Ahart**. We need volunteers to pick up the flats Friday morning, March 18, and transport them to the center and help set up. Volunteers are needed on Saturday and Sunday to man our tables and clean up. This is a good way to get to know other members of the club, and it is fun to work at the sale.

We need some members to take care of a few of the plants that do not sell at the Spring Sale and care for them until the Fall Sale. Each person would take only a few plants. For more information, call **Madeleine Mullins** at 916-455-7815.

## Helpful Tips for the SF Flower & Garden Show

by **Linda Hax**

*Discovery* is the theme of this year’s San Francisco Flower and Garden Show which reminds me of a most important discovery made at last year’s show — the free package check service. Within the first hour of arrival, my arms were weighed down with wonderful purchases; so much so, I resigned myself to spending the remainder of the day sitting beside my loot in one of the seminar areas. Then someone pointed out the package check service and once more I was free to browse the floral displays and varied vendors.

Prepare for your day by viewing Wednesday’s seminar schedule at: (<http://sfgardenshow.com/visitor-info/>). Identify those seminars most interesting to you and plan your day around them:

**Save the Roses!**—John Bagnasco Garden America Radio Show

**Slave to the Goddess Flora: Plants & Plans from a Lazy Gardener**—Mark Weathington, North Carolina State University JC Raulston Arboretum

**Smart & Lovely Succulent Landscapes**— Debra Lee Baldwin, author, *Succulents Simplified*

**The New Front Yard**—Johanna Silver, Senior Garden Editor, Sunset Magazine

**Plant Propagation Basics**—Rizanino Reyes, RHR Horticulture

**Growing & Propagating South African Bulbs**—Ernesto Sandoval, UC Davis Botanical Conservatory

**A Grounded Garden: A Modern/Ancient Approach**—Lorene Edwards Forkner, Editor of Pacific Horticulture

**Small Gardens, Big Impact**—Susan Morrison, Garden Designer & Author, *Garden Up! Smart Vertical Gardening for Small and Large Spaces*

**How to Grow 35 to 40 Organic Plants Within a 2-Square Foot Garden**—Shawna Coronado, Author *Grow a Living Wall*

**Plants that Pay the Rent**—Dan Heims, Horticulturist & President of Terra Nova Nurseries, Inc.

If you discovered you forgot to sign up for the San Francisco Flower & Garden bus trip, it may not be too late. Call 916-481-9707 to see if space is still available. The last seat may have your name on it!

## Garden Work Referral System

Many Club members have expressed the need for help with their personal gardens. If you or someone you know would be willing to refer reliable workers or do the work yourself, contact **Sharon Patrician** at 916-455-8166 or [patricianone@att.net](mailto:patricianone@att.net).

**This is strictly a referral service.** Sharon will maintain a list of workers and “employers” and provide this information upon request. The employer and worker must work out terms of employment and remuneration. Compliments and complaints will be maintained as part of the database; however, Sharon will not validate the worker’s licensing or bonding. This will be the responsibility of the employer if required.

The intention is to pass onto members who want help the names and contact information of interested gardeners. **The Club will not warranty the quality of the work, the qualifications of the gardener or resolve conflicts.**

Feel free to contact Sharon at the above number or email address.

### New Garden Club Opportunity

Sierra 2 in Curtis Park has inaugurated a garden club aimed at seniors and welcomes gardeners to join in the planning and work. We meet the second Tuesday of every month at the Sierra 2 Senior Center at 10 a.m. At this time we are basically a “working garden club” with the goal of beautification and maintenance of the Sierra 2 gardens. For more information contact **Louise Robbins** at [louiser@sbcglobal.net](mailto:louiser@sbcglobal.net).

# Roses and more ...

By Barbara Lane-Piert

**O**ne fateful Mother's Day, in the mid-eighties, a rose named 'Color Magic' arrived on the doorstep. Today, in my garden, that rose is history but the passion for roses remains.

Many changes, over many years, came along. A love for all plants, trees, shrubs, perennials and even home grown food was born. We manage to eat our way through our fruit trees all year. Lemon and oranges in winter, cherries, peaches, plum and figs spring to summer, Asian pears and persimmons in fall. Even though some are very small (dwarf) and some very old, they still all produce.

I grow roses, many roses, but still cannot compete with some of my fellow rosebuds (friends in the rose world). Many changes have taken place since those early days of five 'Double Delight,' five 'Fragrant Cloud' and others with fragrance part of the criteria. I remember putting on a "suit" and a mask and spraying the roses every ten days just to have a chance at growing a queen\* in the garden. How crazy was that? Today simplicity is the key. Roses that thrive in drought, are disease resistant (no spraying needed), and easy to prune (hedge sheers in most cases) that is the name of my game.

Do I have a favorite rose? Today yes, and tomorrow maybe another, whatever rose I choose as my favorite will probably be a David Austin rose, commonly known as an "English Rose." David Austin is a hybridizer in England (U.K.) who has spent a lifetime combining the old with the new. If you love the heritage roses you have to love the Austin roses. Half a century ago Mr. Austin had his first success at plant breeding (his hobby at that time) with a rose that had the fragrance and beauty of the old roses combined with repeat blooming and colors of the hybrid teas of today. He started as a young man of twenty and had many disasters. With passion, perseverance and lots of patience he had success. He had a 14 year "barren" period where no new roses were born. Fate intervened, as it sometimes does. In 1983, the renowned gardener, Graham Thomas visited his garden, saw a rose, and it was named after him. *R.* 'Graham

\*A "queen" is the top honor that a rose can receive at a rose show. Always a hybrid tea and usually a rose grown specifically for cutting for the house or for the rose show (i.e. 'Marilyn Monroe,' 'Veteran's Honor,' 'Gemini' or maybe 'Pope John Paul II').



Thomas' was born. After annual crosses of 115,000, three or four are chosen as possibilities (after several years of observing in growing conditions). Now over 250 of his roses are sold worldwide. David Austin has said "It is impossible to define the beauty of a rose but you know it when you see it." He believes a rose has an almost human quality to which I agree.

On Wednesday, April 20th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., I will have my garden gate open. In the front garden, grass resides no longer. In its place are many, many Austin "English" roses. Coffee, tea available and a stroll around our personal space. Through the garden gate you will see a few vegetables planted and work space. Down the garden path and through another gate you will be greeted by a garden, not just of roses, but of all my other beloved plants. Perennials will be starting their journey, Japanese maples will have leafed out, the ivy will be taking over. "Route 66," the space for succulents and cacti, will be there to greet you, garden art that is both quirky, whimsical and in some cases beautiful will make you happy. Visit at any time that day, relax, take in the fragrance, sit and visit with each other. We look forward to seeing you ... April 20th is the date for your calendar. Hope your calendar is not full ... gardening thoughts ... Barbara.

**Barbara Lane-Piert's Open Garden**  
Wednesday, April 20 • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
9412 Marcola Court  
Sacramento 95826



# Filoli: Garden of a Golden Age

**Saturday, April 23, 2016**

**Cost: \$55.00 / 2016 SPPC members  
\$65.00 / Nonmembers**

(Fee includes refreshments on the bus, Filoli entrance fee and bus transportation)

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

**Arrive at SG&AC at 7:45 a.m.**

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

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

**Bus leaves at 8 a.m. sharp!**

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

FILOLI—a lavish early 20th century estate is the last of its kind. It harks back to an era when San Francisco's richest families built to dazzle. Located 30 miles from the city, the estate is located on 654 acres and surrounded with 16 acres of formal gardens. Today it is the property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. More than 100,000 visitors tour the property annually.

**Be sure to pack your own sack lunch.** Prior to reaching Filoli, we will picnic in nearby Huddart Park.

Our guided tour begins at 1 p.m. and will be about two hours long. The first hour we will be guided through the main floor of the lavish Georgian Manor. Then on to the beautiful, formal gardens. These are planted with colorful azaleas and old-fashioned roses—everything from Chinese tree peonies and European hornbeam trees to sturdy geraniums and gardenias.

For more information call **Elisabeth Jones (916-488-8465)**.

**Cut along dotted line, send your form and check(s) made out to: PERENNIAL PLANT CLUB**

Send checks no later than April 11, 2016 to: **Elisabeth Jones, 1760 La Playa Way, Sacramento CA 95864.**



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 2016 MEMBER? \_\_\_\_\_

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 2016 MEMBER? \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Blooms from the Tombs

## Spring Beauties Awaken

by Leslie Hurlburt

March and April are beautiful here at the Historic City Cemetery and I hope you'll all take time to visit this tranquil garden at Hamilton Square. The list of plants (<http://sacramento.krofchok.com/hamiltonsquare/plants.html>) has grown beyond 800. Hundreds of new plants came from **Emma Ahart**. Thank you to her and **Deborah Renfrew** who brought them out. And, the flats that **Daisy Mah** supplied is much appreciated. Also, purchases from Annie's Annuals and additional bulbs add much interest to this garden. Over 70 Salvias top the list with one or more blooming at all times of the year. Second on the list is 34 roses and all in bloom now. More than 20 Narcissus and late-blooming bulbs will still be around in April. The rest of the list of over 600 plants is very diverse and makes a visit or two worth your while.

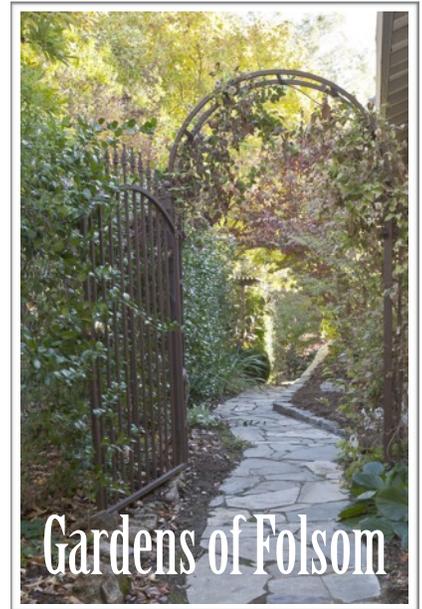
*Enjoy this small sample of the awakening beauties of Spring!*



*Clockwise from left: Wisteria floribunda 'Black Dragon,' Sparaxis elegans, Loropetalum chinense var. rubrum, Tulipa clusiana 'Lady Jane,' Babiana rubrocyanea*

### Hamilton Square Volunteer Opportunity

Are you looking for a way to volunteer or know anybody who is? The club's civics project, Hamilton Square Garden, is always open to volunteers to help with the day-to-day care of a public garden—weeding, watering, deadheading and more. Tuesdays and Thursdays are our usual group days. Once a year, or as often as you like, any time you can volunteer will be welcomed. Also, if you're willing to commit to the up-keep of a single plot, you may adopt one in Hamilton Square Garden. You'll be able to keep it looking picture perfect through the seasons. If you're interested please e-mail **Leslie Hurlburt** at [lesliehurlburt@icloud.com](mailto:lesliehurlburt@icloud.com).



### The 16th Annual Garden Tour of the Folsom Garden Club

Saturday, April 30th and  
Sunday, May 1, 2016

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Peek behind the garden fence of six beautiful gardens on the Folsom Garden Club 2016 *Gardens of Folsom Tour*. The hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 30th and Sunday, May 1st. Tickets are \$15 each. The self-guided tour highlights beautiful scenes, drought tolerant garden solutions, Master Gardeners to answer your questions and the ever popular bake and plant sales. The Folsom Garden Club is a nonprofit organization, raising funds through this annual Garden Tour to support scholarships and grants educating area students and promoting beautification of the City of Folsom. Over \$70,000 have been raised and distributed since 2001. Tour details and tickets can be purchased at [www.folsomgarden.org](http://www.folsomgarden.org) or call 916-221-2457.

SPPC member, **Rhonda Des Voignes'** beautiful garden will be on the tour this year. The photo shown above is of her garden gate.



# SPPC Bus Tour to Marin



## Saturday, May 14, 2016

**Cost: \$35.00 / 2016 SPPC members**

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.

We'll travel by bus to Marin County to visit two private gardens recently featured in *Fine Gardening*. Tiburon is the site for the first garden highlighted in the "Texture Extremes" article in the December 2015 issue. Next we'll enjoy a picnic at a beautiful park with views of the bay. **Please bring your own sack lunch.** The club will provide water and baked treats for dessert. After lunch we'll travel to Kentfield to explore the second garden. You can read about this lovely spot in the January/February 2016 issue. The article is called, "Adapting English Elegance." If we have time, we'll stop at Annie's Annuals in Richmond on the way home. The tour will leave from **Shepard Garden and Arts Center at 8:30 a.m.** and we expect to be back by 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$35. Also, we suggest that you contribute a \$3-\$5 gratuity for the driver.

Because the owners have asked us to limit our number to 30 people, the tour is available only to club members who have paid their 2016 dues. Also, we **must sign the liability waiver that you will find below.**

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 signed form and check for \$35 made out to: PERENNIAL PLANT CLUB**  
**Mail to:** Noelle Anderson, 4440 G Street, Sacramento, CA 95819

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### Acknowledgement of Perennial Plant Club Member Responsibility, Express Assumption of Risk, and Release of Liability for May 14, 2016 Garden Tour

I understand that during my participation in this Perennial Plant Club outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards and risks, foreseen or unforeseen. These inherent risks include, but are not limited to, the dangers of serious personal injury, property damage, and death ("injuries and damages") from exposure to the hazards of travel, and the Perennial Plant Club has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries and Damages can occur by natural causes or activities of other persons, animals, trip members, trip leaders, and property owners, either as a result of negligence or because of other reasons. I understand that risks of such Injuries and Damages are involved in garden touring and I appreciate that I may have to exercise extra care for my own person and for others around me in the face of such hazards.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 2016 MEMBER? \_\_\_\_\_

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



## The Perennial Post

SPPC Newsletter  
2743 San Luis Court  
Sacramento, CA 95818



### Inside this issue ...

**Speakers for March  
and April**

**Announcement of  
Funded Proposals**

**Annual Spring Plant Sale**

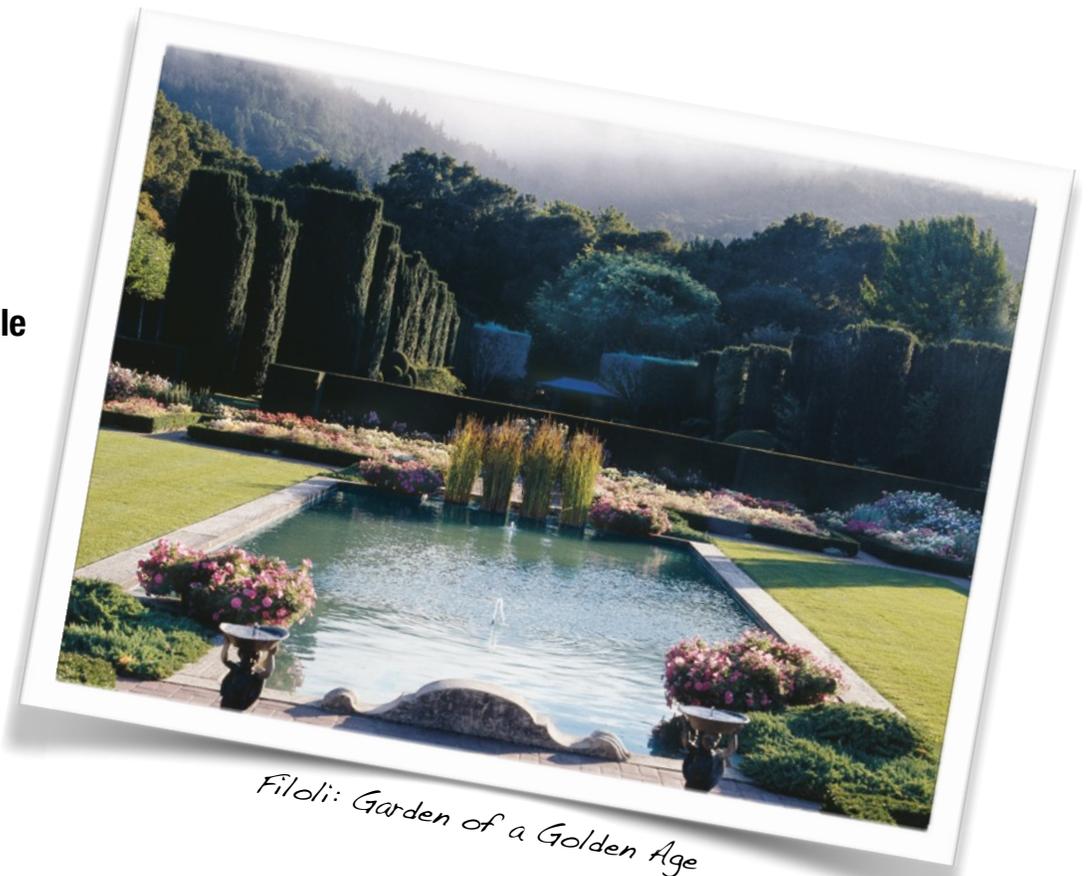
**Garden Work Referral  
System**

**Roses and more ...**

**Bus Trip to Filoli**

**Gardens of Folsom  
Annual Tour**

**Bus Tour to Marin**



*Filoli: Garden of a Golden Age*