



The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  Mar/Apr 2015

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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.

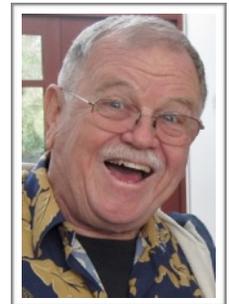
Vendor Sale Speaker

Warren Roberts

The Plants and Trees That Changed the Sacramento Landscape

SATURDAY—MARCH 28, 2015 • 12:00 NOON
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

The Sacramento Perennial Plant Club is hosting the 14th Annual Plant and Garden Vendor Sale on Saturday March 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We have invited local and regional small nurseries, garden related businesses and artists to participate in this sale. This is a great opportunity for you to visit many wonderful specialty nurseries in one location. Without the small independent nurseries, the look of our gardens will change forever. Guest speaker **Warren Roberts**, Superintendent Emeritus of UC Davis Arboretum will give a talk at noon about “The Plants and Trees That Changed the Sacramento Landscape.” Warren was born into a family with a love of plants and at a young age became interested in plants. He learned about California natives from his grandparents. The UC Davis Arboretum had been discontinued and in 1972, Warren was hired to restore and develop the three- and a half-mile arboretum. In retirement he has continued his monthly walks, delighting visitors with his wonderful storytelling. The Warren G. Roberts Redbud Collection was named in his honor.



Warren Roberts

April Program Speaker

Pam Myczek

Veld, Vlei and Roses—Springtime in South Africa

THURSDAY—APRIL 23, 2015 • 7:00 PM
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

Sacramento Perennial Plant Club member Pam Myczek is a U.C. Cooperative Extension Master Gardener and an American Rose Society Master Rosarian and an excellent photographer. In October 2012, Pam traveled to South Africa for the World Federation of Rose Society’s triennial conference held in Sandton, a suburb of Johannesburg. It was springtime in South Africa, and Pam will share glimpses of rose gardens around the conference site, the Cape and its breathtaking coastline, as well as Table Mountain and the unique collections of the renowned Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden.

WWW.SACRAMENTOPERENNIALPLANTCLUB.ORG

Calendar

March 18

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

March 21-22

SG&AC Annual Spring Plant Sale
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

March 28

SPPC 14th Annual Plant & Garden
Vendor Sale at SG&AC
9 a.m.–3 p.m.

April 18

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

April 23

SPPC General Meeting
Pam Myczek: *Veld, Vlei and Roses—
Springtime in South Africa*
7 p.m.

Membership Information

Welcome to the following new members: Marcia Davenport, Kathy and John Mesic, and Julie Scarberry

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 Meining** (916-967-1018) or send an e-mail to sacppc@sbcglobal.net.

Dues are due! Check the mailing label on this newsletter to see if your 2015 membership dues are paid. Your label should say "Paid thru 2015" in the upper right-hand corner. To continue receiving the newsletter, membership dues must be paid by June 30th.



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

Saul Wiseman

I became president of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club in 2004. I'm still interested in being president after all these years. So this is not my swan song. When I'm ready to sing that song, I will let you know.

Last month, the club announced the recipients of our first grants program. I want to thank four club members who served on the grants committee. They include chairperson **Jane Thompson, Emma Ahart, Shelly Berlant, and Beverly Shilling.** I hope this will be an ongoing program.

I would like to thank all the other members in the club who spend both time and energy to make things happen.

March is a busy month, the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show bus tour, SG&AC Spring Sale, and our 14th Annual Plant and Garden Vendor Sale. I'm looking forward to **Warren Roberts** speaking at the Vendor Sale.

Annual Spring Plant Sale

MARCH 21–22, 2015 • 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

Please donate plants and garden-related items. Labels with pictures of the plants are helpful. Bring plants and items to the Shepard Garden & Arts Center on Friday, March 20. 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 and transport them to the center and help set up. Volunteers are needed 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 are looking for some members to each 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. Please volunteer so that one person does not have to do all the work.

Announcement of Funded Proposals

The Sacramento Perennial Plant Club proudly announces the following 2015 Grant Award Recipients:

Aldar Academy—“Seed to Fork”

Caleb Greenwood (Elementary School) Gardens

“Making Hiram Johnson High School a Beautiful Place to Learn”

Grant applications for 2016 will be available on the SPPC website on September 30, 2015.

Plant Nurseries and Garden Artists Coming to the Vendor Sale

MARCH 28, 2015 • 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER

On March 28, 2015, a grand selection of both new and favorite vendors will arrive with their specialties to provide a wonderful collection of plants and garden-related art. Here are the returning vendors and what they will be bringing:

- **All Things Wild**—native plants
- **Barsch Tropicals**—carnivorous and tropical plants
- **Big Oak Nursery**—large variety of one gallon plants
- **Bob Hamm**—large variety of perennials
- **Carrie “yard art” Simpson**—glass garden flowers and birdhouse
- **Dragonfly Peony Farm**—peonies
- **Friends of San Juan de Oriente**—pottery
- **Geraniaceae**—geraniums
- **Glen Rowley**—original handmade birdhouses
- **Golden Pond**—aquatic plants and miniature water gardens
- **Mad Man Bamboo**—bamboo
- **Monte Cristo Farm**—bulbs, perennials, shrubs
- **Morningsun Herb Farm**—herbs, vegetables and perennials galore
- **Paul Mining**—Japanese maples
- **The OG**—succulents, succulent wreaths and planters
- **The Secret Garden**—decorative garden items
- **Two Flew the Chicken Coop**—chicken coops and decorative items
- **Worm Fancy**—worm composting supplies



First time vendors that you won't want to miss:

- **Bellflower Garden Store**—metal art, iron garden gates, trellises, arches, large sunflowers, etc. *Bellflower is offering a great service*—if you buy a large piece of iron art, they will deliver it for free.
- **FoxFarm Soil & Fertilizer Company**
- **Lori Gallentine**—hand painted totes, towels, and metal garden art

Vendors are donating special items for our drawing. The drawings will be held at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Participants must be present to win. The proceeds from this event help to fund our work supporting community gardens and local horticulture projects.

Please pass out the flyers we are sending you and tell your neighbors, friends and garden clubs about the sale.



Blooms for Vendor Sale Flower Display

We need you to look in your garden or a friend's garden for “what is blooming” and bring in a sample on Friday afternoon, March 27 (just one bloom or branch) of a plant, shrub, bulb, or tree and label it. We will have a display table. This display has been very popular. If you have any questions about the plant display, contact **Janice Sutherland** (sutherlandbj@comcast.net; 916-481-2137)

Book and Magazine Donations

by **Barbara Lane-Piert**

Spring is in the air and with it our annual vendor sale. Plants and vendors by the score are coming our way.

We will hold a book and magazine sale as a fundraiser for our rental space, our speakers, our trips, our picnic, our holiday gathering and now for our grant program (giving funds to worthy participants in the gardening world). Let's take a look at how we can help.

As a crazy book and magazine maniac, I plan to start my Spring cleaning in the cubbyholes that hold books and magazines. Books about planting and raising begonias, orchids, roses, fruit trees and vegetables will be donations. Magazines that have been replaced by more current ones, with similar articles, will somehow, someday, make it to the table for the fundraising venture.

I am a great believer in recycling. The bucket you gave to a charity shop years ago is probably a prized possession in my garden today. The sweater Aunt Winifred gave many years ago probably has a special place in my closet only to be recycled back to the charity shop after I tire of it. Hidden in the depths of our closets may be long forgotten books and magazines that you can scan keeping only those with current interests. Someone will love your donations and add to our general fund.

Deliver donated books or magazines to any meetings prior to our sale, call for a pickup, if locally in town, to Barbara (916-362-5337), deliver to the center on Friday, March 27 after 1:00, or even on the day of the sale (early preferably).

With gardening days and happy Spring days ahead lets start the annual purge ... *Barbara*

Propagation 101

The first propagation workshop of 2015 was held on Monday, January 19 at the home of **Janice Sutherland**. Workshops will be offered throughout the year. Members in the group will decide what they would like to learn and how often to meet.

SPPC provides soil, labels and other items needed for the classes. Members need to bring sharp and clean hand pruners, well-washed 4-inch pots and a tray to carry them. American Rose Society Master Rosarian and SPPC member, **Pam Mcyzek**, guided members through the process of readying cut roses for propagation.



CAROL MEININGER

Pam Mcyzek demonstrates how to cut roses for propagation as Deborah Jones looks on.

If you are interested in the workshops or have any questions, please call or e-mail:

Janice Sutherland
(916-481-2137)
sutherlandbj@comcast.net

Barbara Lane-Piert
(916-362-5337)
lanpeir@calweb.com, or

Elizabeth Jones
(916-488-8465)
bcj999@surewest.com

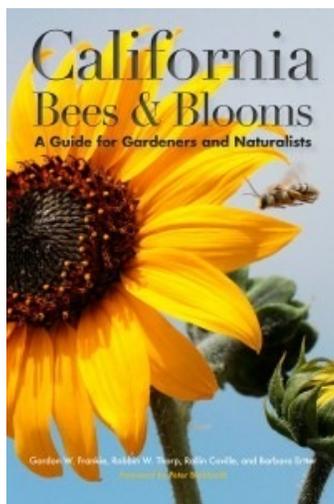


BOOK REVIEW



by Sharon Patrician

(BLOOMS FROM THE TOMBS—Instead of the usual highlight on a plant now blooming at Hamilton Square, Historic City Cemetery, the column will be devoted to a book review which acknowledges the Cemetery. Hamilton Square is the Perennial Plant Club's "demonstration" garden for drought tolerant ornamentals.)



In reviewing *California Bees & Blooms: A Guide for Gardeners and Naturalists*, sent to me by **Dr. Gordon Frankie**, one of the authors, it occurred to me that the world of bees is more intricate and interwoven than I ever imagined. As I browsed through its table of contents, it is a book concisely written for the amateur yet sophisticated enough for educators and naturalists.

About 2006, while weeding in Hamilton, a tall bearded man in a florid Hawaiian shirt came striding toward me. He introduced himself as Dr. Frankie with the Entomology Department at Berkeley University and said he was referred by **Daisy Mah** of the WPA Rock Garden. His

enthusiasm for the subject of native bees was contagious, and I agreed he could use Hamilton as a test site to count bees and observe what they dined upon.

Nine years since that meeting is the above book, the result of research and study in at least 13 private and public gardens throughout the state. Until I met Dr. Frankie I was only aware of bumble bees and mason bees. I was stunned to discover that Hamilton *alone* attracted at least 60 species of native bees.

The book is organized with a description of bees and their importance in the agricultural and urban landscapes. Several species are highlighted with their appearance, distribution, flower preferences, season and nest habitat. There are profiles of plants and their use to bees (pollen and/or nectar), and their desirability in a bee-habitat garden.

As a reference book and even a field guide, the book is invaluable for California gardeners. While native bees prefer native flowers, they will sample many of the Mediterranean plants commonly grown in this state such as lavenders, rosemary, nepeta and salvias.

Above all, this book is aimed at the conservation of native bees as important pollinators. There is a section explaining how citizens can help the movement to preserve wild habitat as well as establishing a backyard garden with preferred plants for bee nourishment and the next generation. As the introduction points out, humans have become dependent on a single species (the honey bee) "...for the lion's share of agricultural pollination services." It's time the task was spread to other bee species if we are to thrive in the future.

The book is available through Amazon Books or www.heydaybooks.com, the publisher. It is worthy of any gardener's library.

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 early spring.



DUANE GOOSEN

Abutilon hybrids or flowering maple or Chinese lantern are members of *Malvaceae* or malva family. Others in family include hollyhock, okra, lavatera. There are many colors ranging from white, red, yellow, pink, flesh with variation in sizes and shapes of the blossom and height. They begin cranking out their flowers in the spring though if the winter is mild as what we have been experiencing, they are flowering during the cold season. The flowering slows in the heat of the summer and resumes again with the milder temperatures of autumn. They enjoy some afternoon shade where they over time take on a graceful, tree-like structure. They can also take our full sun but will grow denser and bushier. They need moderate or average water. They attract hummingbirds and bees. They are native to warm regions of the world, South America in particular.



CHERYL McDONALD

Erysimum hybrids or wallflower are members of *Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)* or crucifer family with the distinctive four-petaled, cross-like flowers. *E. 'Bowles Mauve'* was once commonly available but there are many other great varieties to choose from. Some newly planted varieties have been blooming in the WPA Rock Garden at William Land Park beginning in January for a much-appreciated hit of color. The flowers are great nectar and pollen sources for butterflies and bees and are provide good structure and

form. All that is required is shearing off flowers at the end of the flowering season with moderate water and full sun. They range in colors from yellow to lavender and from 4 to 12 feet in height. Lifespan is a brief three years but grows up quickly. They are native to Europe through North Africa.

Tulipa clusiana chrysantha or lady tulip is a member of *Liliaceae* or lily family. The outside of the petals is rose carmine while the inside is yellow. Unlike most tulips that thrive only in the first season, these dainty and charming flowers seem to persist and multiply with good drainage, full sun to light shade, moisture during growing season and minimal water in summer. The small leaves are not unsightly when going dormant and shriveling away. They are native from Iran to the Himalayas.



DUANE GOOSEN

What's New in Your Garden?

Great Deal Greenhouse

by Terralee Ginther

A couple of years ago, I found a plastic greenhouse covering on sale at Raley's at a huge discount. I bought it even though, at that time, I didn't have a greenhouse frame that would fit it. I figured I would eventually have a use for it. The wooden shelves were free. Found at Sprouts, they were a plant display no longer needed. Recently, my husband, Vance, finished building the greenhouse frame from PVC pipes and elbows. I think it turned out pretty cool!



Terralee, now retired, has renewed her membership in the SPPC after an eight-year absence. During her previous membership she served on the board by collecting plants from nurseries for the club's monthly drawings. Welcome back, Terralee!

Do you have something new in your garden that you'd like to share? Send a description and photos to the *Perennial Post* editor, mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net

It's that time of year when summer vacation plans start to germinate. Here are some travel ideas, both near and far, to begin dreaming about.

Art and Drama in the Garden

by Noelle Anderson

While visiting relatives in Pennsylvania and Denver last summer, my husband and I were able to see some unusual and exciting gardens. At Winterthur, the original estate of the du Pont family near Philadelphia, an exhibit drew attention to the similarities between the grand lifestyles of the du Ponts and the family represented in the BBC show, *Downton Abbey*. In the gorgeous gardens surrounding the du Pont mansion, people strolled, wearing costumes like the characters in the popular series.

In Denver, the glass sculptures of Dale Chihuly were incorporated into the Denver Botanic Gardens. The combinations of large architectural plants, water features, and bright-colored glass works were truly spectacular.

The same large Chihuly glass sculptures can now be seen near the Space Needle in Seattle.

Winterthur

5105 Kennett Pike (Route 52)
Winterthur, DE 19735
www.winterthur.org

Denver Botanic Gardens

1007 York Street
Denver, CO 80206
www.botanicgardens.org



PHOTOS: RON ANDERSON



While not a summertime destination, this springtime event is a must see.

Bouquets to Art

April 14, 2015–April 19, 2015

de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
Now in its 31st year, this popular event generates a record number of flower and art-loving attendees. Floral designers from around the region artfully arrange flowers and sculptural items to reflect the color and shapes of art pieces from the de Young's permanent collections. All proceeds support special exhibitions, art acquisitions, educational programs and special projects at the Legion of Honor and the de Young.



JANE THOMPSON

Hours: Tuesday through Sunday; 9:30 am – 5:15 pm • 415-750-3600
deyoung.famsf.org



PHOTO COURTESY OF ENCHANTING SWEET PEAS

Annual Open House Enchanting Sweet Peas

Sunday, June 7, 2015

900 North Gravenstein Hwy, Sebastopol, CA
(behind the gate at Analy Veterinary Clinic)

You're invited to enjoy a field of "Enchanting Sweet Peas," in row after row of trellised blooming fragrant flowers! This eagerly anticipated one-day event features seed sales, self-guided tours, bouquets of sweet peas to win and discounted garden products.

Hours: 10:30 am – 4:00 pm • 707-829-5284
enchantingsweetpeas.com

21st Annual Sculpture in the Garden

June 19, 2015–July 19, 2015

The Ruth Bancroft Garden

1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA

Love succulents? Love art? Then don't miss the *21st Annual Sculpture in the Garden* at The Ruth Bancroft Garden. Starting June 19 and running through July 19, the Bancroft's world-class collection of succulent and drought-tolerant plants transforms into a month-long outdoor art gallery. This 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.

Hours: Tuesday through Sunday; 10 am – 4 pm • 925-944-9352
ruthbancroftgarden.org



CHERYL McDONALD

If you would like to share a special garden destination that you've visited, please send a description and photos to the *Perennial Post* editor, mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net

Local Garden Tours

5th Annual Gardens Gone Native

April 11, 2015

This self-guided tour is free but registration is required. Check the website for details.
sacvalleycnps.org

Open Garden Day

Old City Historic Cemetery

April 18, 2015

9:30 am–2 pm

The day begins with a sale of rare heritage rose plants and continues with free tours of the gardens and cemetery.
cemeteryrose.org

Elk Grove Greener Gardens DIY Expo and Garden Tour

April 25, 2015

10 am–3 pm

Free. Registration required.
elkgrovegreenergardens.org

15th Annual Gardens of Folsom

April 25–26, 2015

11 am–4 pm

Check the website for ticket price and details.
folsomgarden.ipage.com/
ftp.ipage.com/

17th Annual Land Park Garden Tour

May 2, 2015

10 am–4 pm

Benefits the Holy Spirit Parish School art program and local charities. Check the website for ticket prices and details.
hs-ps.com/
land_park_garden_tour_tea

17th Annual East Sacramento Garden Tour

May 9–10, 2015

10 am–4 pm

Supports enrichment and academic programs at David Lubin Elementary School. SPPC member, **Nancy Griffith's**, garden will be on the tour. Check the website for ticket prices and details.
davidlubingardentour.com



The Perennial Post

SPPC Newsletter
2743 San Luis Court
Sacramento, CA 95818



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