



# The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  Mar/Apr 2018

## President's Message

Lorraine Van Kekerix

This winter has been quite spring like with higher temperatures and low rainfall. My flowering plants are blooming even earlier than usual. Which means planning for spring garden tours needs to be underway.

Sharon Patrician has volunteered to advise tour organizers and coordinate tour timing. Thank you, Sharon! Now we need team members to organize tours. See the article on page 4 regarding tours.

Our primary sources of income are the Shepard Garden & Art Center Plant Sales. The Spring Sale is March 17-18, 2018 (more details on page 2). I encourage you to assist with set up, sales and clean up.

What surprises will spring bring?



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

Stan "The Tool Man" Logan  
*Tool Care by the Tool Man*

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER  
THURSDAY — MARCH 22, 2018\* • 7:00 PM

It was during the summers of his youth, while working for his general contractor dad, where Stan "The Tool Man" Logan was instilled with the value of hard work and a life-long reverence for tools. Following in his dad's footsteps, Stan has made extending the life of a tool through proper care an avocation. After graduating from UC Davis, he spent the next 37 years teaching high school science courses. He is an active member of the Sacramento Iris Society as well as our club. At our monthly meetings, he sets up tables of refurbished tools, which then could be yours for a donation; contributes articles to the "Perennial Post" and recently provides hands-on tool sharpening lessons. Stan will demonstrate sharpening tools, as well as share information about their general care and reveal the contents of "The Tool Man's" toolbox that he wouldn't want to live without.

## April Program Speaker

Chet Blackburn  
*The Night Shift*

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER  
THURSDAY — APRIL 26, 2018 • 7:00 PM

While enjoying a career in computers and telecommunication, Chet Blackburn was equally immersed in a deep passion for the natural world. He co-authored "Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer County" and "Trees of Nevada and Placer County" and was a former board member of the Placer Nature Center. He has held many positions, including president of the Redbud Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS); director-at-large, at the state level of CNPS; as well as past president and current treasurer of the Sacramento Bromeliad and Carnivorous Society. His eight acre garden in Auburn is planted with a combination of California natives and 500 rare trees and shrubs. The "Night Shift" will highlight the important role the moth plays in our ecosystem, its impact on foods we eat and other reasons why we should care about these beautiful winged creatures.

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

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



## Sacramento Perennial Plant Club

### OFFICERS

**President:** Lorraine Van Kekerix  
**Vice-President:** Beverly Shilling  
**Secretary:** Bobby Frieze  
**Treasurer:** Pat McKnight

### CONTACTS

**E-Mail:** Kirsten Salomon  
**Grant Program:** Jane Thompson  
**Hamilton Square:** Leslie Hurlburt  
**Membership:** Carol Meininger  
**Newsletter:** Cheryl McDonald  
**Plant Sales:** Deborah Renfrew  
**Publicity/Website:** Linda Hax  
**SG&AC Rep:** Noelle Anderson  
**Speakers:** Daisy Mah  
**Tour Coordinator:** Sharon Patrician  
**Vendor Sale:** Vacant  
**WPA Garden:** Daisy Mah

Send questions or comments to:  
[pres.sppc@gmail.com](mailto:pres.sppc@gmail.com)

### BOARD MEETINGS

All SPPC members are invited to attend monthly board meetings. Potluck dinners begin at 5 p.m. at a board member's home; then followed by the meeting.

#### March 8

RSVP to Marcia Leddy (916-213-7743)

#### April 12

RSVP to Jane Thompson (916-494-9302)

### MEMBERSHIP

Dues must be received by **March 31, 2018** in order to be listed in the upcoming membership roster and be sent the newsletter. The form is on the club's website. **Please sign up for one of the many ways you can help the club.**

### NEWSLETTER

The due date to submit a garden-related article for the **May/June 2018** issue is **April 15**. Please send your article to ([mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net)).

The *Perennial Post* is published bimonthly except for July and August. Archived newsletters can be viewed on the club's website.

## Spring Plant Sale—Member Grown Plants

March 17–18, 2018 • 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Shepard Garden & Arts Center

Mark your calendars and invite a friend  
to come along to our SPPC Spring Plant Sale!

Whether you are looking to add a special new plant in your garden, replace a failing plant, or just start over in an area of your garden, the Plant Sale comes just in time for your new Spring plantings.

You will find a selection of **over 70** varieties of perennial plants, each propagated and grown by our very own club members. We also try very hard to answer your gardening questions and offer advice on the planting and care of your plants. Hoping to see you there!

If you would like to volunteer and for more information, contact **Deborah Renfrew** (916-966-3580) or send an e-mail [odetofoy@gmail.com](mailto:odetofoy@gmail.com).



## Election for Board Officers in May

It's that time again. Every two years, board officer nominations are received and voted on. The election happens at our May general meeting. If becoming a board officer is of interest to you, please submit your name to Lorraine Van Kekerix at [pres.sppc@gmail.com](mailto:pres.sppc@gmail.com).

## Reminders for General Meetings

**Tools & Treasures Table**—Please bring gently used garden-related items for the Tools and Treasures Table. Any money donated goes to fund SPPC activities. If the item you bring does not find a new home, you must take it with you when you leave. SG&AC does not have storage space for anything left behind.

**Tool Sharpening & Container Drilling**—**Stan Logan** will be at the SG&AC at 6:30 p.m. before each meeting to show members how to sharpen their tools. He'll have metal files for you to purchase for \$4. These will be individual lessons, so probably only around five members can be assisted per night. **Jim Thompson** will also be in attendance to drill holes in ceramic, wood, or metal containers.

## 2018 Membership Drive

Dues must be received by **March 31, 2018**, in order for you to be listed in the upcoming membership roster and be sent the newsletter.

The roster will be mailed with the *May/June Perennial Post*. 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. The form is on our web site: [www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org](http://www.sacramentoperennialplantclub.org)

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

# 2018 Saul Wiseman Grant Recipients

## Calendar

### A Note from Jane Thompson

Dear Plant Club friends,

At our February general meeting I had the joy of introducing the 2018 Saul Wiseman Grant Recipients. I was reminded once again of what a wonderful privilege we have as Club members to give back to our community and participate in so many worthwhile endeavors. The grants program has taken me outside of my own little garden space, which by the way, I love and enjoy tending. It involves me, and all of us, in something greater than ourselves.

What a pleasure it is every year to meet the amazing people in our community who are actively engaging others in gardening and horticultural activities. They are providing greater access to healthy soil and spaces for successful cultivation. They are increasing the supply of food for the hungry in our community. And they are creating places of beauty in our neighborhoods.

Many of these heroes are young and talented educators dedicated to making all sorts of garden experiences available in our schools and public places. We find them teaching the wonders and rewards of gardening through "hands on" curriculum. I have seen preschoolers watching little seeds grow, young students studying botany, and teenagers gaining valuable job-skill training.

I do hope our shared commitment to this program gives you a measure of joy and pride knowing that our Club is having an impact.

### Growing Healthy / Growing Knowledge

#### Aldar Academy • Mission Oaks, Sacramento

The school has an intensive gardening program which involves students in the joy of gardening by growing food for cooking and flowers for arranging. Student learning encompasses all aspects of gardening from planting, watering, harvesting, insects, soils, and weather. This year the funding will be used for soil, plants, and materials necessary to rebuild an old raised bed and build one new bed.

### Arlene Hein School Garden

#### Arlene Hein Elementary School • Elk Grove

This gardening program involves over 70 honor students who are responsible for planting, maintaining and harvesting the garden on campus. Their duties also include classroom presentations to spread the news of the rewards of gardening. Grant funds will be used to purchase gardening tools and equipment, new plants and amendments for the garden.

### Community & Preschool Garden

#### Lutheran Church of the Redeemer • Sacramento

This is a large community garden of 25 plots, two of which are ADA accessible beds, two are used by the Mission Oaks Preschool, and two for the local food closet. This is an open garden run by church members and neighborhood gardeners. They intend to purchase materials and tools for constructing several more permanent tomato cage structures in the plots designated for food closet donations.

### Vertical & Edible Garden

#### Leo A. Palmiter Junior/Senior High School Sacramento County Office of Education • Sacramento

This alternative education school provides instruction, support, and career training opportunities. Their horticultural studies curriculum involves students in all aspects of gardening, including maintaining the school garden as well as the gardens on the Cap Public Radio site at Sac State. They intend to construct several upright structures, complete with drip irrigation and hanging containers of various edible plants.

### March 8

SPPC Board Meeting  
RSVP to Marcia Leddy  
(916-213-7743)  
Potluck Dinner—5 p.m.

### March 11

SG&AC Cleanup Day  
Shepard Garden & Arts Center  
9 a.m.–1 p.m.

*Roll up your sleeves to spiff up the Center for its Spring Sale weekend. Enjoy working along side fellow SPPC members and members of the 30 different clubs that use this community gem.*

### March 17–18

SG&AC Annual Spring Plant Sale  
Shepard Garden & Arts Center  
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

### March 22

SPPC General Meeting  
Stan "The Tool Man" Logan  
*Tool Care by the Tool Man*  
7 p.m.

### April 12

SPPC Board Meeting  
RSVP to Jane Thompson  
(916-967-1018)  
Potluck Dinner—5 p.m.

### April 26

SPPC General Meeting  
Chet Smith  
*The Night Shift*  
7 p.m.

### April 28

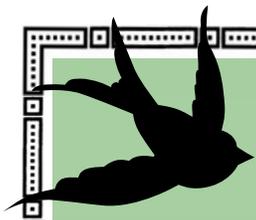
SPPC Bus trip to the Ruth Bancroft Garden & Annie's Annuals  
(See page 4 for details.)

### May 5

Car Trip to Robin Parer's Greenhouse and Garden  
(See page 4 for details.)

## Compost

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.



# SPPC Spring Garden Tours for 2018



**Saturday, April 28**

## **BUS TRIP**

### **The Ruth Bancroft Garden & Annie's Annuals**

**Arrive at SG&AC—8 a.m.  
Depart—8:30 a.m.  
Return by 6:30 p.m.**

Our first stop is the **Ruth Bancroft Garden** in Walnut Creek. (<https://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/>). 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.

Next the bus will take us to a unique park in Richmond which has beautiful views of the bay. The **Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park** (<https://www.nps.gov/rori/index.htm>) is there and it is free, so if you eat quickly you might want to take it in. There is only one picnic table. Most of us will enjoy sitting on the wide concrete steps looking out to the bay. Please bring a sack lunch; the club will provide baked treats and water.

After lunch we proceed a little further north to **Annie's Annuals** (<http://www.anniesannuals.com>), a favorite nursery for many of us. There will be room in the bus storage area for your purchases.

Members may bring a guest. Bus trip form is on page 7; check and form are due April 2.

**Saturday, May 5**

## **CAR TRIP**

### **Robin Parer's Greenhouse & Garden**

**Arrive at SG&AC—8 a.m.  
Depart—8:30 a.m.**

In 1983, Robin Parer started the small nursery called Geraniaceae at her home in Kentfield. The nursery specializes in plants of the Geranium family. Mail orders grew and she now has greenhouses in Richmond.

At 8:30 a.m., we'll depart from the Shepard Garden & Arts Center. Directions will be given to the greenhouse and Robin's garden where we'll enjoy a hosted luncheon. Robin is a long-time supporter of the SPPC and always participates in our vendor sales.

Plants at both the greenhouse and nursery are available for sale. Please contact Sharon Patrician at (916) 455-8166 or [patricianone@att.net](mailto:patricianone@att.net) to RSVP.



# Regional Garden Tours & Events

**Saturday, April 28 & Sunday, April 29**

## **“Gardens of Folsom”**

The 18th Annual Garden Tour  
of the Folsom Garden Club

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

**Need some garden inspiration?** You will see examples of diverse gardens—including both plantings and hardscapes to get your gardening creative juices flowing. This year’s tour features some unique gardens filled with lush textures and colors, patios, swimming pools and fountains, kitchens and outdoor rooms. The beautiful gardens range from functional—where everything is useful, providing food or comfort, to entertaining—where there is not just gardening to do but games to play and things to learn.



Purchase plants at the Guiseppe Murer House and Learning Center. Visit with Club members, artists painting in the gardens and Master Gardeners who are ready to answer any questions.

Tickets are \$20 for attendees 16 and over, and include a descriptive brochure and a map of the tour route.

**The tour will be held “Rain or Shine”** with no refunds. Tour details and tickets can be purchased at [www.folsomgarden.org](http://www.folsomgarden.org), or call 916-205-3720.

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 \$87,000 have been raised and distributed since 2001.

### **“What’s Blooming” Tour**

Historic City Cemetery  
Saturday, March 17, 2018  
Starts at 10 a.m.

Tour led by docent Leslie Hurlburt of the Hamilton Square Garden. Parking is limited.

### **“Spring Beauties Awaken”**

Historic City Cemetery  
Saturday, March 31, 2018  
Starts at 10 a.m.

Tour led by Anita Clevenger in the Historic Rose Garden, featuring early-blooming roses and companion plants. Parking is limited. Rain cancels.

### **San Francisco Flower & Garden Show**

Cow Palace, Daly City  
April 4-8, 2018  
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Celebrate the return of this popular show to the Cow Palace! Discover thousands of flowers and plants, inspiring gardens, seminars for all gardening levels and countless shopping opportunities. <http://www.sfgardenshow.com/>

### **Wildflower Walk**

Tuesday, April 10, 2018  
Meet at Shepard Garden & Arts Center at 9 a.m.

This is a great opportunity to see and learn the names of many wildflowers. Led by Lee Perrone, the walk is along the South Yuba River at Bridgeport. There are plant labels along the trail identifying what is currently flowering. The trail is about one mile in each direction. There is some elevation gain. There are a number of benches along the trail for resting and looking at the river. The trail is very well-maintained with leveled decomposed granite.

The drive from SG&AC to Bridgeport, which is near Grass Valley, is about an hour and a half. Bring water and a snack.

### **8th Annual Gardens Gone Native**

Saturday, April 14, 2018  
9:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

This self-guided tour is free but registration is required. Check the website for details.  
[www.facebook.com/gardensgonenative/](http://www.facebook.com/gardensgonenative/)

### **Open Gardens**

Historic City Cemetery  
**Saturday, April 14, 2018**  
9:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

*Extended Rose Sale*  
Sunday, April 15, 2018  
11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Saturday begins with a sale of rare heritage rose plants and continues with free tours of all the gardens and cemetery. Sunday features an extended rose sale. Parking is limited. Event happens rain or shine.

## Blooms from the Tombs

by Leslie Hurlburt

We had a very mild winter until late February. This gave many plants extended bloom time up until the freezing nights; then left to continue blooming instead of being trimmed for a winter's nap. Here are a couple of the winter bloomers.



Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) with Golden Leaved Pineapple Sage (*Salvia elegans* 'Golden Delicious')



Large Firecracker Plant (*Cuphea* 'Vermillionaire')

All of Hamilton Square Garden photos can be seen on the National Gardening Association's web site. Hamilton Square Garden has been a member since 2014. It's free to join and here is a link to do just that if you're interested. <http://garden.org/users/join/HamiltonSquare/>

## Tools-of-the-Month

### Garden Face Plants

**Y**ou've probably heard of facelifts, face masks, and even face flies, but face plants? Face plants belong to the genus *Slamma*. The most common species is *Slamma downus*—not to be confused with its relative, *Pratt fallus*. Sorry—I couldn't resist.

By definition a face plant is the act of falling on one's face. This generally spectacular performance should be avoided in the garden, where, unfortunately, it is most likely to occur. When are you most vulnerable? I would suggest that the most likely scenario is that you are weeding on your hands and knees, and then attempt to stand up. I don't know about you, but I find scuffling around on my hand and knees rather enjoyable. You are sharing the weight of your body with four limbs, so there is no strain on the back from leaning over. You are close to the ground and you can easily see what you are doing. Then, too, if you get tired, you can just roll over on your side and take a nap.

Now, lowering yourself to the ground is generally easy and goes without complication, but standing up can be tricky. Whether you can't quite get your feet under you, you have a brain drain, or you simply lose your balance, a face plant can occur. If you continue to tempt fate, I have several suggestions for you. First of all, use a sturdy bucket to collect your weeds or debris. I find a 3 1/2 gallon bucket just the right size. A five gallon bucket will hold more, but you have to reach higher to deposit your finds. When you rise, first prop yourself up with the bucket, then get your legs under you.



Another device which may save you from a face plant is the kneeler bench that I have pictured below. It's a seat bench that can be turned upside down and then used as a kneeling pad. Perhaps the best feature is the fact that you have two supports on the sides that will help you get up. An additional feature is that the legs can be folded in for storage.

Whenever you're on your knees, they should be protected. If you are frequently on your knees, get some knee pads that actually attach to your knees. If nothing else, that will give you the appearance of a very serious gardener. Otherwise get one of those pads sold commonly in nurseries—but don't trip on it when you get up.



If you're not concerned for your own well being, consider your plants. They take a real beating when you crash into them.

—Stan, The Tool Man

# SPPC Spring Bus Trip

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**

**The Ruth Bancroft Garden & Annie's Annuals**

**Cost: \$50.00 per person**

(includes bus, driver gratuity, Bancroft admission and docent-led tour)

Members may invite one guest.

**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.

Our first stop is the **Ruth Bancroft Garden** in Walnut Creek. (<https://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/>). 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.

Next, the bus will take us to a unique park in Richmond which has beautiful views of the bay. The **Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park** (<https://www.nps.gov/rori/index.htm>) is there and it is free, so if you eat quickly you might want to take it in. While there is only one picnic table, many of us will enjoy sitting on the wide concrete steps looking out to the bay. Please bring a sack lunch; the club will provide baked treats and water.

After lunch we proceed a little further north to **Annie's Annuals** (<http://www.anniesannuals.com>), a favorite nursery for many of us. There will be room in the bus storage area for your purchases.

**Be sure to pack your own sack lunch.**

**Trip cost: \$50 per person** (includes bus, driver gratuity, Bancroft admission and docent-led tour)

**Bus seating is limited.**

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

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

**Due date for completed form and payment is Monday, April 2.**

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## Bus Trip to The Ruth Bancroft Garden & Annie's Annuals

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

GUEST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



## The Perennial Post

SPPC Newsletter  
2743 San Luis Court  
Sacramento, CA 95818



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*Iris douglasiana*

CHERYL MCDONALD