



The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  May/June 2018

President's Message

Lorraine Van Kekerix

I hope you will take advantage of the many upcoming club activities in late spring and summer. We are always looking for volunteers to help organize the tours and events club members enjoy.

See information on page 3 about upcoming May garden tours. Garden Conservancy Open Days ticket sales to support our grants program have been brisk—a very limited number are left! The Garden Conservancy Open Days visits are on your own. If our fundraising tickets are sold out, you can purchase tickets at the open gardens, or visit gardenconservancy.org to order tickets in advance (allow at least two weeks for tickets to be mailed to you.)

Our June Salad Potluck is always a hit. Hope to see you there!

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.

May Program Speaker

Phyllis Wilburn

Iris, the Goddess of the Garden

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER
THURSDAY — MAY 24, 2018* • 7:00 PM

A love of the iris, named for the Greek goddess of the rainbow, was genetically imprinted on Phyllis Wilburn by both her grandmother and mother. This lifelong passion was fueled by early friendships, shared divisions, and garden visits. Phyllis has been the regional vice-president of the American Iris Society, editor for the Sacramento Iris Society, keeper of an iris database and an iris judge. Planted in her home garden are 800 varieties, including Louisiana, Japanese, Arilbred and bearded. In addition, Phyllis travels widely on birdwatching expeditions and has sighted an astounding 5,800 birds sometimes by their song. Her presentation will focus on cultural tips and historical overview of the iris.

June Program Speaker & Salad Potluck

Anne Evans

The Power of Plants on the Plate

SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER
THURSDAY — JUNE 28, 2018 • 7:00 PM

Since age 25, when a cousin loaned Anne Evans a copy of “Let’s Have Healthy Children,” Anne has been passionate about the benefits of eating health building foods. She is a retired English teacher who has never stopped educating. Her free classes, “Creating a Healthy Kitchen” are presented through the Renaissance Society. Anne has read more than 100 books on nutrition and disease prevention. She has attended numerous seminars, including the International Plantrician Conference designed for doctors and other healthcare professionals who want disease prevention to be part of their practice. Anne is a lively and well-organized speaker who will inspire you to grow and eat more plants, just as she has done for decades. Recipes and recommended books will be available to support her presentation, “The Power of Plants on the Plate.”

We’ll have a special “end-of-season” salad potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by Anne’s presentation. Everyone is asked to bring a salad to share. Drinks, rolls and dessert will be provided.

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

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

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.

May 10

RSVP to Noelle Anderson (916-731-4648)

June 14

Potluck Brunch
RSVP to Beverly Shilling (916-452-4762)

NEWSLETTER

The due date to submit a garden-related article for the **Sept/Oct 2018** issue is **August 15**. Please send your article to mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net.

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



2018 Spring Plant Sale— A Huge Success!

A great big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped contribute their time to the Spring Plant Sale. The two-day event was a huge success and it was all because of you. I couldn't have done it alone, that's for sure. You all were real troopers.

—Deborah Renfrew

CHERYL MCDONALD

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.

Membership News

2018 Membership Roster

When you receive the roster, check that your contact information has been listed correctly. 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 Meininger** (916-967-1018) or send an e-mail to sacppc@sbcglobal.net.

Welcome to New Members

Michele Chouinard
Charles Donaldson
Ann Fox-Morgan
Lili Ann Metzger
Masoud Tabatal
Deborah Weber

Next Meeting and Newsletter

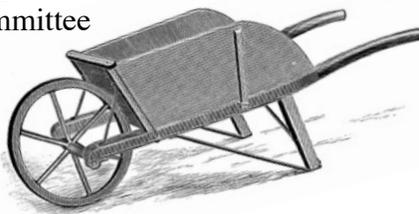
The next general meeting is Thursday, September 27. The next newsletter will be the September/October issue. If you have suggestions for newsletter articles please send your ideas to **Cheryl McDonald** (mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net).

A Great Spring Clean-Up Day

On Sunday, March 11 our club was once again well-represented as the Shepard Center hosted another successful clean-up day. **Noelle Anderson, Chuck Donaldson, Mae Ferral, Bobby Frieze, Marcia Leddy, Stan Logan, Cheryl McDonald, Lonnie Ratzlaff, Lee & Therese Ruth, and Lorraine Van Kekerix** worked hard to prepare the Center for the Spring Sale which occurred a week later.

Most of us worked on the landscaping outside the walls of the courtyard, where we got a start on taking out overgrown ivy, ferreting out the poor buried azaleas and camellias, removing human trash, and digging out weeds. Much remains to be done on these outside gardens.

Noelle Anderson is going to head up a committee which will contact all the Shepard Center clubs, asking for their help in an extensive renovation of these gardens. If you are interested in this project, give her a call at 916-731-4648.



Support the Saul Wiseman Grants Program

Garden Conservancy Open Days Tickets

Each year the Garden Conservancy organizes “Open Days” garden visits to give the public access to outstanding regional gardens across the country. Many are private gardens that are only open to the public on these days. Past gardens have been amazing. Open Days gardens in Northern California are scheduled on specific weekend days in the months of May and June.

Reduced price tickets are available to SPPC members for \$5. Regular priced tickets are available to non-SPPC members for \$7. The proceeds from sales will benefit the Saul Wiseman Grants Program. These tickets are **not dated** and **will not expire**, so you may use them at Open Days now or in the future. **There are only a few tickets left.** They will be for sale until May 31st.

Check out the Garden Conservancy web site for further details on California Open Days gardens, directions, hours and any added gardens:
www.gardenconservancy.org/open-days.

To purchase tickets to support our grant program contact: **Jane Thompson** at sppcgrants@gmail.com or (916) 494-9302. If any tickets remain, they will be available at the May 24th SPPC meeting.

Jean Travis, a founding member of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club and the Historic Rose Garden at the Old City Cemetery, recently passed away a few weeks before her 97th birthday. She lived in Portland, Oregon for many years, but is remembered by many in Sacramento for her dedication to establishing the Historic Rose Garden and contributions to the Perennial Plant Club. A memorial service occurred in the Historic Rose Garden at the Old City Cemetery.

Calendar

May 10

SPPC Board Meeting
Noelle Anderson (916-731-4648)
Potluck Dinner—5 p.m.

May 24

SPPC General Meeting
Phyllis Wilburn
Iris, the Goddess of the Garden
7 p.m.

June 14

SPPC Board Meeting
Beverly Shilling (916-452-4762)
Potluck Brunch—10 a.m.

June 28

SPPC General Meeting & Salad Potluck
Anne Evans
The Power of Plants on the Plate
7 p.m.

July 14-15

Iris Rhizome Sale
SG&AC
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

August 4

Harvest Day
8 a.m.–2 p.m.
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center
(Details on page 6)

MAY GARDEN TOURS

EAST SAC GARDEN TOUR

**Saturday, May 12 and
Sunday, May 13
10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

For more information and ticket prices:
www.eastsacgardentour.com

33RD ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY GARDEN TOUR

Sunday, May 13 • 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Hosted by the UC Master Gardeners
of Placer County

For more information and ticket prices:
<http://pcmg.ucanr.org>

CAPAY VALLEY MOTHER'S DAY GARDEN TOUR

Sunday, May 13 • 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

For more information and ticket prices:
www.thecapayvalleygardentour.com

SIERRA FOOTHILLS SPRING GARDEN TOUR

**Saturday, May 12 and
Sunday, May 13
10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

For more information and ticket prices:
www.sierrasoptimist.org/2018-garden-tour

Reminders for General Meetings

Tools & Treasures Table

At the next general meeting, please bring gently used garden-related items for the Tools & 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.

On a separate, but related note, if any members have aluminum mini-blinds they no longer need, bring them to the meeting and a donation will be given to the club for each blind contributed.

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.

If you have a 2" x 5" trowel, Stan is offering to grind knife edges on it. Let him know ahead of time so he can bring his bench grinder to the meeting (laville@sbcglobal.net).

Sacramento Geranium Club Annual Sale & Show

Shepard Garden & Arts Center
Saturday, May 12 • 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Geraniums from *Geroniaceae*, Robin Parer's nursery will be for sale. Also, cuttings from members will be available at a nominal cost.

Tools-of-the-Month

Words Not Said

Here are comments I would like to add to the program I presented at the March meeting. If you need another copy of "Tools for the Gardener," I will have more at the next meeting.

Thinning shear—These used to be common in nurseries, but seem to be replaced by shears with much thinner blades. I think you should order the stronger model from Amazon.

Grabber—The suction cup grabber can pick up almost anything easily, except magnolia leaves because they are generally lying flat against the ground. I would suggest that you use a "poker" for these large, tough, everlasting leaves. Bring a broom stick or dowel to me and I will insert a large galvanized nail in the end to create a simple, but very effective tool.

Collinear hoe—I don't have one of these so couldn't display it at the program. This tool was recommended to me by Mary Ann Horton of Horten Iris Garden. If you have a large garden with soaker hoses or T-tape, this may be the tool for you—the blade can easily slip under your drip lines to eliminate adjacent weeds.

Leaf blower—I mentioned that if your garden requires more than 15 minutes to blow, you would need a corded blower. It used to be that portable batteries would last only 15 minutes when using full power. I would suggest that newer batteries probably last longer nowadays. Be aware if you use a gas-powered blower, you will first have to mix oil in with your gas. So if you have a lawn mower and a gas-powered leaf blower, you will have to have two separate gasoline containers. Also be aware that these blowers should be considered good seed dispersal units. This is why baby tears, lobelia and alyssum have spread throughout our garden. Don't forget that this is the best tool for cleaning the inside of your car. Simply open all the doors and blow everything out the other side. You might be surprised to find what was hidden under the seats.

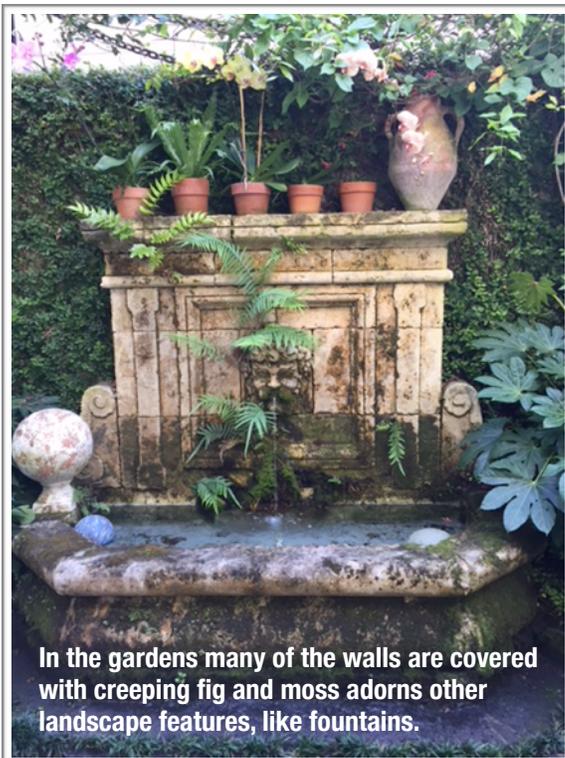
Power washer—I didn't display this device because it's a pain to haul around. If you like to clean things, this is the tool for you. You can remove the algae from pavement or pavers that accumulates over the winter. Wash the kids' outside toys like wagons and bikes. Clean fountains and bird baths. Wash the car and clean the house windows. Clean flower pots (beware of blow back). My favorite use is spraying outdoor furniture and then using a leaf blower to remove the remaining water. My power washer is used weekly to clean the filter for the koi pond so I just leave it attached to a hose bib all the time. Unfortunately, my power washer just stopped working. After shopping around, I think I'll go for the Sun Jo model on Amazon prime for \$130. Remember to keep your hand away from the spray nozzle. I found it creates an interesting patch of tiny blood blisters when you hit your skin.

Stan, The Tool Man

Southern Tranquility

by Roberta Hopkins

In late March my sister and I traveled to Georgia and participated in a Road Scholar program featuring the annual “Savannah Home and Garden Tour.” The Historic Preservation Society of Savannah sponsors the home tour, which raises funds to preserve historic buildings.



In the gardens many of the walls are covered with creeping fig and moss adorns other landscape features, like fountains.

We toured over twenty homes, museums, and other historic sites over a four-day period.

The home gardens on the tour were small, with little or no turf. The soil is sandy. The gardens, mostly long rectangles, were enclosed, paved with brick or stone, and featured fountains and some yard art. I was struck by the limited use of color, so dominant in our California landscapes. Instead, the gardens were green on green, with emphasis on texture, and green shade variations. The effect of the green on green theme is so tranquil! Most of the gardens had shade trees, so the plant selections included ferns and aspidistra. The predominant tree

in Savannah is the southern live oak, or *Quercus virginiana*. Other favorite trees are crape myrtle and magnolia.

In addition to the compact home gardens, Savannah has 22 small parks, called squares, in the historic area. These squares, part of the original city plan developed by its colonial governor, James Edward Oglethorpe, are the foundations of neighborhoods or wards. Oglethorpe determined lot size (mostly long and narrow), with corner lots having more stately homes. The squares provide beautiful, calm open spaces in areas with high-density housing. There are no stoplights at intersections around the squares and pedestrians have the right of way at all square intersections. Cars cannot drive through the squares, and instead go around them. Walkways are paved with brick; there are mature shade trees with the famous Spanish moss, benches and statues of historic figures. Again, the effect is tranquil.

Since returning home and viewing my bright perennial garden (where I favor bright yellow and red bloomers) I had some thoughts about infusing more green on green tranquility in my small space.



Gardening Grants

The 2019 Grant Application is now on our web site!

The purpose of the *Saul Wiseman Grants* is to promote gardening and horticultural activities with an emphasis on education, service, and enhancement to our community. Non-profit groups and schools within the County of Sacramento are encouraged to apply.

To download the 2019 Grants Application, simply go to the SPPC web site and click on the GRANTS Program.

Grant Application deadline is January 15, 2019. Funding is awarded in February 2019, just in time for Spring planting and gardening activities.

For more information, contact Jane Thompson at: sppcgrants@gmail.com

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.

ROBERTA HOPKINS



JANE THOMPSON

SPPC members, left to right: Day Mar, Leslie Hurlburt and Beverly Shilling

Open Gardens Day at Historic City Cemetery

The SPPC banner made it's first appearance and a big impression on Open Gardens Day along with stunning bouquets picked from Hamilton Square Garden. There were also many SPPC members to take shifts at the club's table, passing out info on upcoming meetings and speakers. The traffic to Hamilton Square Garden was up thanks to this new approach and the many volunteers from the club. Assembling and dismantling the banner was **Jim Thompson**. Chatting with visitors were **Jane Thompson, Beverly Shilling, Pat McKnight, Linda Hax, Marcia Leddy, Cheryl McDonald** and, of course, **Day Mar** who arranged the bouquets and has volunteered in the garden for many years. Thank you all!

—Leslie Hurlburt

Harvest Day

Saturday, August 4, 2018

8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Fair Oaks Horticulture Center

11549 Fair Oaks Boulevard • Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Sponsored by the Sacramento County Master Gardeners, *Harvest Day* is Sacramento's biggest one-day gardening event featuring speakers, demonstrations, educational booths, open gardens, produce tasting, a plant clinic and more. Bring your questions to the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center and enjoy!

Volunteers needed for the SPPC booth.

Sign-ups at the June meeting.

Blooms from the Tombs

by **Leslie Hurlburt**

Sun Rose

The photos below are cultivars of the Sun Rose—*Helianthemum nummularium*, from the Rock Rose family Cistaceae, growing in Hamilton Square Garden. They have a wide range of flower color and the foliage on these trailing plants is either green or grey-green to silver. They are considered a subshrub so are low-growing with some mounding. Some spread like a ground cover like 'Ben Nevis.' Drought tolerant once established and best in full sun with soil that has good drainage. The species range is throughout Europe. They're excellent for tucking in at the front of the garden. Mostly maintenance-free except for the occasional trimming in fall/winter to refresh it's good looks for spring. Top left is 'Belgravia Rose' to the right is 'Ben Nevis' and bottom left to right is 'Rodanthe Carneum' and 'Henfield Brilliant.'



LESLIE HURLBURT

"What's Blooming" Tours

One hour guided tour of Hamilton Square Garden at the Historic City Cemetery on the last Saturday of the month. Rain or shine.

1000 Broadway, Sacramento

Starts at 10 a.m.

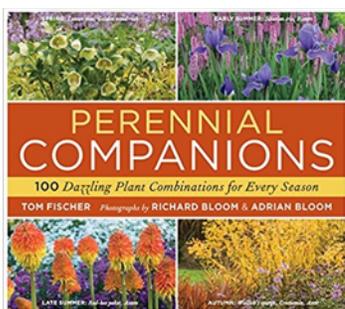
May 26 • June 30 • July 28 • August 25

Gardening by the Book

by Diana Morris

Reviewing *Perennial Companions* by Tom Fischer
Photography by Richard Bloom/Adrian Bloom

Here are one hundred examples of “friendly” perennial plants with fine photography on each page. If you have trouble visualizing gardens before you begin to plant an area, this little gem will give you many different combinations.



Sections of the book are divided by seasons from early spring (includes late winter, think lenten rose) through winter. Only one winter suggestion—leaving spent stalks of summer blooming perennials through the winter for birds.

Easier said than done because plants often look fairly sad. However, the remaining seasonal sections have plenty of examples for inspiration.

Each plant is referenced with its common name and Latin name along with blooming seasons, light, and water requirements, height, spread, and hardiness zones. There are lots of colorful bloomer suggestions from single or monochromatic colors to wild shades and hues. Each two page spread offers anywhere from two to five combinations. Fischer covers many different perennials but also includes ornamental grasses, bulbs and plants grown for colorful foliage.

This is an enjoyable book for gardeners if for no other reason than the outstanding photography. Fischer’s comments on each page are light but at the same time informative.

Author Tom Fischer was previously the editor of *Horticulture* magazine and was editor-in-chief of Timber Press at the time of publishing this book (2009).

NOTE: We hope to make *Gardening by the Book* a regular column in our newsletter. Suggestions on books you would like to see reviewed are greatly appreciated. Send your ideas to Diana Morris (dinowata@sbcglobal.net).



Shown above—a relaxing rest and lunch spot along the South Yuba River at Bridgeport. Many thanks to Lee Perrone for organizing the “Wildflower Walk.”

LEE PERRONE

NEW ON OUR WEB SITE!

Heads Up SPPC Members—Debuting in May on our web site will be: “**Garden Talk**,” a blog by SPPC members. First up is **Stan Logan**. You have enjoyed Logan’s writing in *The Perennial Post* as “Stan, The Tool Man.” Check out more of his garden talk as he dons a new hat as “Stan, The Blog Man.” If you would like to take a turn at writing a garden-related article for the blog, then contact Cheryl McDonald (mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net) and let her know.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Yard Art Sale

This year our annual Fall Plant Sale will also include a creative “Yard Art” section. Mark your calendars now for the first weekend in October! It will be a great opportunity to get your new fall plantings AND add a clever yard, fence or gate decor to your garden. You might even find a few items for your holiday gift giving!

If you’re cleaning out your garage or shed and find garden supplies or items to repurpose for yard art, please contact **Jane Thompson**, artjane7850@sbcglobal.net or (916-494-9302).





The Perennial Post

SPPC Newsletter
2743 San Luis Court
Sacramento, CA 95818



Inside this issue ...

**Speakers for May
and June**

Salad Potluck

Spring Clean-up

Tools-of-the-Month

**Southern
Tranquility**

**Blooms from
the Tombs**

**Gardening by
the Book**

“Garden Talk”

Donations for Yard Art



Blooming caper bush in the WPA Rock Garden.

MARCIA LEDDY