



The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  Jan/Feb 2021

SPPC Speakers Schedule—2021

In addition to our
January and February
speakers, we have many
interesting speakers
coming up this year.

March 25

Ed Harper

*Meeting the Birds
of Your Garden*

April 22

Bill Maynard

*City of Sacramento's
Community Gardens*

May 27

Jan Fetler

Garden Photography

June 24

David S. Baker

Compost and Climate

September 23

Mae Ferral

Desert Diary

October 28

Genelle Treaster

*California's Biotic
Bounty*

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.

*Join us on Zoom to attend our January and February general meetings.
An e-mail with the Zoom invitation link will be sent to you prior to the meeting.
We start the evening at 6:30 p.m. with "Club Chat Time." The general meeting
starts at 7 p.m. with Club announcements, Daisy's "Half-Dozen"
of currently blooming perennials, then our featured speaker.
The meeting ends at 8 p.m.*

January Speaker

Lorraine Van Kekerix

Highlights of South Patagonia

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021 • 7 PM

Lorraine Van Kekerix studied plants at UC Davis and Utah State University. She worked on a variety of environmental issues for the state and retired as a division chief at CalRecycle. Plants and gardening became her hobbies. She served as President of both the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club (SPPC). Lorraine is currently a Sacramento County Master Gardener and an active member of the SPPC.

Lorraine was hooked on visiting Patagonia at 5 years old. The cause—a children's book about a Patagonian shepherd boy. It took her over 60 years to get there. South Patagonia is a sparsely settled area at the southern tip of South America and includes parts of Chile and Argentina. Pictures of the area's natural beauty, including a few gardens, will be shared.

February Speaker

Sheri Rain

Going with the Flow

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021 • 7 PM

Sheri Rain installed sprinklers in her backyard yard and had fun doing it! Talking to a co-worker she discovered there was a field of study called Landscape Architecture. She applied to UC Davis and was in classes just months after her discovery. Sheri calls herself a late bloomer as she turned 30 the year of her graduation. She has worked for California State Parks as a Landscape Architect for 20 years. She recently discovered vegetable gardening and has been experimenting with integrating low water and edible plants into the landscape. Her talk will explore the dynamics of balancing our expectations with what Mother Nature has in mind.

WWW.SACRAMENTOPERENNIALPLANTCLUB.ORG



Sacramento Perennial Plant Club

OFFICERS

President: VACANT
Vice-President: JoAnne Payan
Secretary: Jane Thompson
Treasurer: Marcia Leddy

CONTACTS

E-Mail: Kirsten Salomon
Gardener's Market/Facebook: Lili Ann Metzger
Grant Program: VACANT
Membership: Carol Meininger
Newsletter: Cheryl McDonald
Plant Propagation: Daisy Mah
Plant Sales: Beverly Shilling & Charlene Durant
Publicity/Website: Linda Hax
SG&AC Rep: Noelle Anderson
Speakers: Noelle Anderson
Tour Coordinator: VACANT
WPA Garden: Daisy Mah

Send questions or comments to:
pres.sppc@gmail.com

BOARD MEETINGS

The next two Zoom board meetings will be held on:

Thursday, January 14—2 p.m.
Thursday, February 11—2 p.m.

To receive an invite link., contact Jane Thompson (artjane7850@sbcglobal.net)

2021 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Dues must be received by March 31, 2021, in order for you to be listed in the upcoming membership roster and be sent the newsletter.

Fill out the membership form completely and include it with your dues. The form is on our [web site](#).

For questions, contact **Carol Meininger** at 916-765-8390 or e-mail: sacppc@sbcglobal.net

Message from the SPPC Board

Looking Ahead

When it comes to club activities, we still face a great deal of uncertainty in 2021. However, one thing is certain, our Zoom general meetings will continue, thanks to a committed team effort. Also, many thanks to Noelle Anderson for scheduling a great line-up of speakers.

This year we have an opportunity to reimagine how we'd like our club to function. The Board welcomes and needs your ideas and thoughts on what you'd like to see. You can send those ideas to pres.sppc@gmail.com. Monthly board meetings are another way to share your suggestions. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. For a Zoom link, send your request to Jane Thompson (artjane7850@sbcglobal.net).

The 2021 Membership Drive has started. To be on the roster and to receive the newsletter, send in your dues by March 31, 2021. On the membership form, be sure to share your interests and skills that you would like to offer the club.

A club president is needed! The Board has endeavored to carry-on without a person at the helm, but this is temporary and a long-term fix is needed. The Board members are a supportive, engaged group and would make a new president's tenure pretty easy and straightforward. Please consider serving the SPPC in this important capacity. Feel free to connect with SPPC vice-president, JoAnne Payan (5jpayan@gmail.com), if you have questions about the role of president.

TOOL OF THE MONTH

For Hole Diggers Only

Recently, LaVille and I transplanted 50 irises from gallon pots into the ground. The transplanting task was accomplished in 3 hours by using a post hole digger. Now I wouldn't expect you to have one of these. But if there was ever the foreseen occasion when you had a large number of irises to move from pot to ground, I would suggest that you consider making a purchase. Most post hole diggers will chop into the ground and make a round hole just the right size for the iris root ball.

Since some of the areas contained hardened soil, it occurred to me that sharpening the two blades would help. So I took time out and used my angle grinder to sharpen the edges. What a difference that made! So, if you are using a shovel to stab into soil, rather than just scooping loose material, you really should take the time to sharpen the cutting edge. You probably don't have an angle grinder, but a metal file would work just fine. Just a reminder: Don't leave your shovel stuck into the ground for an extended period as that will promote rust. Even leaving a significant crust of soil on the shovel blade will cause increased rusting.

Stan, The Tool Man



Gardener Giving Thanks

By Daisy Mah

The Covid-19 lockdown has changed our world in ways unimaginable, many sad and tragic. Even as bad as it has been, I have reason to be thankful. In the safety of our gardens, we can immerse ourselves in nurturing our gardens and souls while practicing social distancing. Our lockdown gardens are looking better than they have in years. Against all odds, we persist to meet the needs of our plants in spite of climate and societal challenges: heat waves, smoky air, drought, racial inequities, social unrest and one tumultuous election.

Starting in June, our club began meeting virtually, venturing into uncharted waters. Though clearly it is no substitute for in-person meetings, it helped satisfy our human need for connection, community and sharing knowledge. Many members and speakers were new to the Zoom platform and bravely gave it their best shot. Despite some awkward moments, our Zoom team should be mighty proud of their successes. Still, we dearly miss being with each other and enjoying our treasured potlucks.

As I step down as the speaker chair and hand the “baton” over to Noelle Anderson, part of me is filled with joy and yet another part is sad. The many duties pushed me to develop skills in writing and organization—not my strong suit—and to meet many great speakers. Since my tenure, the honorarium was upped to \$100 to provide fair compensation. More recently, when I was running out of ideas, others came to my rescue by providing many excellent recommendations. And to top it off, speakers LaVille Logan, Keith Smith and Bryan Young chose not to accept their respective and well-earned honorarium. During trying times, sometimes the best in us comes out.

Lastly, a dedicated group of volunteers, tend the WPA Rock Garden on a weekly basis. However, without much help from the minimally staffed parks department, it has undergone a steady decline since my retirement, over seven years ago. But with a recent hiring of a dedicated employee, there is a newfound sense of hope and renewal. A key component driving this effort was a vote of support from the SPPC board to provide seed money of \$350. The other key component is the opportunity to shop at Cornflower Farms, a wholesale nursery which specializes in California natives, wildlife-friendly and drought-tolerant plants. To my heart-rending surprise and teary-eyed delight, Cornflower Farms waived the bill of \$156.00 for an assortment of native grasses. With help from volunteers, no time was wasted getting these grasses in the ground. It was a post-Thanksgiving present destined to keep giving.



Fun & Educational VIDEOS

When you need a break from pruning and cleaning up your winter garden, sit back and watch these enjoyable and educational videos:

California Native Plant Society (CNPS)

Wreath Masters

CNPS members, botanic gardens and nurseries created over 150 California native plant wreaths for Wreath Masters. To see this friendly competition and be inspired to create your own wreath go to www.cnps.org/wreathmasters

Daisy Mah submitted a gorgeous wreath which was chosen to represent CNPS in the “Most Naturalistic” category. The judges awarded her wreath with an honorable mention. (See the next page for more information.)



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Naturehood Gardening: Dogscaping with California Native Plants

Will a new canine be gracing your backyard in 2021? This video offers some great ideas for safely sharing your garden with your new buddy. www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXzhoehsEHM

UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento County

Check out all the Virtual Harvest Day 2020 speakers and Master Gardener videos: http://sacmg.ucanr.edu/Video_Library/



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Wreath Making with Native Plants

For the Wreath Masters competition, wreaths had to include at least 51% California native plants from cultivated sources.

Ingredients:

Valley Oak
Manzanita
White Sage
Sugar Bush
Buckwheat
Madrone
Blue Grama Grass

Non-natives: Mushrooms (sourced from a Japanese market), kiwi vine

Directions:

Turn your patience up to VERY HIGH.
Shape the base out of kiwi vine.
Figure out how to piece plants together.
(This will take approximately three hours!)
When finished, step back and exhale.
Take a photo and share.

–Daisy Mah



DAISY MAH