

# The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club ✨ Spring 2023



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



## Sacramento Perennial Plant Club

### MISSION STATEMENT

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.

### OFFICERS

**President:** Cheryl McDonald  
**Vice-President:** Linda Hax  
**Secretary:** VACANT  
**Treasurer:** Marcia Leddy

### CONTACTS

**E-Mail:** Kirsten Salomon  
**Grant Program:** Anita Clevenger  
**Membership:** Carol Meininger  
**Newsletter:** Cheryl McDonald  
**Plant Sales:** Risë Ryan  
**Publicity/Website:** Linda Hax  
**SG&AC Rep:** Barbara Lane-Piert  
**Speakers:** Noelle Anderson & Terri Young  
**Tour Coordinator:** VACANT  
**Gardener's Market:** Lili Ann Metzger  
**Propagation Advisors:** Daisy Mah & LaVille Logan

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

### NEWSLETTER

June 10 is the due date to submit a garden-related article for the summer issue of *The Perennial Post*. Please send your article to Cheryl McDonald: ([mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net)).

### WHEN & WHERE?

Club meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month (except Mar, July, Aug, Nov and Dec) at 7 p.m. at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center in McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento. Meetings are free and open to the public.

### ON THE COVER

South African bulb, *Ferraria crispa*, blooms in a container surrounded by *Crassula* "Campfire."  
Photo: Cheryl McDonald

**PREZ MESSAGE** Please, enough rain already! Let's go outside and play in the dirt. The plants we all purchased at our recent Gardener's Market need transplanting along with a multitude of delayed garden chores to take care of. But, the soil is too wet and cold. Patience is needed while we look forward to our Spring Plant Sale & Celebration, in collaboration with the Natomas Garden & Arts Collective on April 14-15. Then, a week later, we'll have another pop-up plant sale at one of the lovely gardens on the River Park Garden Club's garden tour. More plants to add to a, hopefully, drier garden!

—Cheryl McDonald

## Spring General Meetings

Meetings are held at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center,  
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento CA 95816.  
*Meetings are free and open to the public.*

### APRIL

Anne Fenkner

**More Than Nice: Our Tree Rx**

THURSDAY—APRIL 27, 2023 • 7 P.M.

Anne Fenkner, a project developer with the Davey Resource Group, is responsible for the sales and business development of urban forestry related projects in the western United States. She presents twenty years of experience in community engagement in urban forestry. Anne considers herself a practitioner of green infrastructure and believes healthy trees and a robust urban forest play a significant role in our health, well-being and prosperity. She often remarks, "Trees are more than just nice. They are an important aspect to our infrastructure. Trees are infrastructure." She is proud to represent urban forestry and is delighted to work with local communities to help them understand the value and extended benefits of a healthy urban forest.

### MAY

Tora Rocha

**Fostering Appreciation of Our Local Ecosystems**

THURSDAY—MAY 25, 2023 • 7 P.M.

Tora Rocha is one of two co-founders of the "Pollinator Posse" which creates pollinator-friendly landscaping and fosters appreciation of local ecosystems through outreach and education. With eco-friendly landscape techniques at the heart of their work, they teach respect for the creatures which keep Northern California blooming. They envision a day when life-enhancing green spaces will grace every corner of Northern California and the world.

Tora was the parks supervisor at the City of Oakland for many years, responsible for all the landscaping on public facilities in the district. While working at the Gardens of Lake Merritt she realized that her own landscaping was adversely affecting the pollinators in the Gardens and planted 12,000 pollinator-friendly plants. She also installed AirBeeNBee Houses at the Gardens, showing children how to make bee condos or bee hotels for native bees.

## PLANT SALES

We'll be partnering with other community garden groups—the Natomas Garden & Arts Collective and the River Park Garden Club—to celebrate the spring planting season. Loads of gratitude for our enthusiastic sale organizers and propagators, along with many SPPC members who signed up to contribute their time to make this new endeavor a success.

# Spring Plant Sale & Celebration

Friday & Saturday, April 14-15  
9 a.m.–1 p.m.

## HISTORIC AZEVEDO-MOLL TANK HOUSE

1911 Bannon Creek Dr.  
Sacramento (South Natomas area)

Presented by the  
**Natomas Garden & Arts Collective**  
**Sacramento Perennial Plant Club**

## CELEBRATE!

Help us celebrate spring by growing your garden and nourishing your creativity at this family-oriented event:

- ★ Purchase perennials, natives, veggies, succulents, and more at great prices
- ★ Tool sharpening/pot drilling
- ★ Ikebana floral arranging demonstration at 11 a.m. both days
- ★ Make tissue paper flowers
- ★ Browse glass and yard art

## PLUS...

- ★ Free tours of the Tank House
- ★ Snacks and drinks for sale

## Information Tables

- ★ Audubon Society
- ★ CA Native Plant Society
- ★ Friends of Bannon Creek Parkway
- ★ Grassland Garden Shine Pollinator Project
- ★ Xerces Society



## “Seven Special Garden Spaces”

Saturday, April 22 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Caleb Greenwood School

5457 Carlson Drive, Sacramento 95819

A fantasy garden complete with its own dragon; a made-in-the-shade garden with a koi pond and specimen Japanese maples, plus a garden tended by an inveterate plant junkie, will all be on the River Park Garden Club's third neighborhood garden tour, “Seven Special Garden Spaces.”

The self-guided tour will present seven diverse neighborhood backyard gardens. Tickets are \$5 per person. Children under 15, free.

Tickets may be purchased on the day of the tour, beginning at 9:45 a.m. at the ticket table in front of Caleb-Greenwood School in River Park and may be reserved ahead by calling 916-451-4658 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In addition to the tour, a Master Gardener will be on hand to answer visitors' gardening questions from 11 a.m. to Noon. A boutique will feature a special plant sale by the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club, plus garden-oriented art and crafts. For more information, go to: [www.riverparkgardenclub.yolasite.com](http://www.riverparkgardenclub.yolasite.com)

For more spring garden tours, see page 5.



## 2023 Saul Wiseman Grant Awards

**Thank you to everyone for making the 2023 Saul Wiseman Grant Awards Celebration a success!** Our well-attended February meeting gave us a chance to hear updates from some of last year's recipients: Root Cellar Community Garden, Earl Warren School Garden and Growing Healthy at Floyd Farms. We then had the opportunity to meet and learn about the exciting projects from the 2023 recipients listed below. The committee is already working on improvements for the 2024 grants program, which will be funded by our plants sales.

### **Bowling Green Elementary–McCoy Academy Pollinator Hill**

This project adds a pollinator garden to a hill beyond the existing Butterfly/ Pollinator Garden near the classrooms.

### **Cameron Ranch Elementary School**

This project will add a small pollinator garden to a barren spot at the edge of its existing school garden.

### **Fern Bacon Middle School**

This school has a garden elective and after-school garden club. They will use the funds to add native plants and to purchase needed tools.

### **Grassland Garden at Ninos Parkway**

Funds will help purchase seeds for fall planting, supplementing the 2,400 native plants planted in 2022. This project creates habitat, beautifies the parkway and offers opportunity for education and celebration.

### **Project AWE Youth Farm**

Funds will help establish a 1,600 sq. ft. Youth Farm to expand current educational programs offered at the restored Nicolaus Dairy site in Elk Grove and to purchase plants, seeds, materials and tools.

### **Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association Community Garden**

This project replaces three raised herb beds, adds irrigation supplies, purchases plants and seeds, and buys supplies for building three compost bins made from recycled pallets.

### **Will C. Wood Middle School Garden Club**

This project helps to rebuild neglected garden beds and growing areas. The funds will primarily be used to repair a broken irrigation system and to buy plants that support native bees.

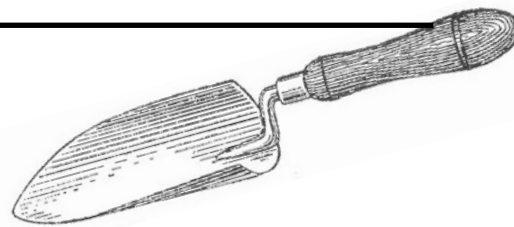
The Grants committee members are **Caru Bowns, Robin Fogel-Shrive, JoAnn Payan, Risë Ryan, Dylan Wiseman** and **Anita Clevenger**, chair.

# 18th Annual Gardener's Market

This year's Gardener's Market was filled with sunshine and lots of happy attendees. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the Market a success. Flower arranging, making bloom display labels, taking photographs, helping vendors unload, selling drawing tickets, setting up signage, sharpening tools/drilling pots, tech support, were just a few of the many ways SPPC members stepped up. A special thank you to event organizer, **Lili Metzger!** We are so grateful you are willing to share your expertise.



# Spring Garden Tours



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## CURTIS PARK HOME & GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, April 22  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[Website](#)

Enjoy strolls under leafy canopies while viewing five homes constructed between 1910 and 1940 including Streamline Moderne, Mediterranean and Craftsman styles. Interiors range from classic to contemporary. Featured gardens include entertaining spaces, English cottage designs and drought tolerant landscapes.

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## GARDENS GONE NATIVE

Saturday, April 29  
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[Website](#)

The Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is sponsoring a free, in-person, self-guided native garden tour. Approximately 25 gardens will be on display featuring California native plants; garden designs; plants for sun, shade, or a combination; and small spaces, large lots, and everything in between. **Registration required.**

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## GARDENS OF FOLSOM

Saturday & Sunday, April 29-30  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[Website](#)

The 21st Annual Folsom Garden Club's Garden Tour features eight beautiful and unique private gardens. Throughout the gardens, you'll find Master Gardeners on hand to answer your gardening questions and artists painting in the gardens. A plant sale loaded with horticultural treasures, at bargain prices, will be at the Murer House (1125 Murer Ct., Folsom).

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## PENCE GALLERY GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, May 7  
Noon to 5 p.m.

[Website](#)

Enjoy a self-guided tour through five charming private gardens in Davis on the 30th Annual Pence Gallery Garden Tour. Learning about plant selection and landscaping from Yolo County Master Gardeners. An "Art in the Garden" sale will take place in the Pence's courtyard behind the gallery. Purchase whimsical figures, totems, fountains, steppingstones, and hand-crafted gift items by local artists, perfect for Mother's Day!

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## ECO-FRIENDLY GARDEN TOUR

*Sponsored by the Sonoma-Marin  
Saving Water Partnership*

Saturday, May 13  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[Website](#)

The Eco-Friendly Garden Tour is a public outreach and education program that promotes sustainable landscaping practices by showcasing inspiring gardens throughout Sonoma and Marin counties. The tour of 17 gardens is self-guided and is FREE, but **registration is required.** Check their website for regular updates.

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## EAST SAC GARDEN TOUR

Saturday & Sunday, May 13-14  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[Website](#)

This two-day event produced by David Lubin Elementary parents and volunteers is an incredible opportunity for the Sacramento community to tour stunning homes and gardens in East Sacramento. Visit the on-campus boutique, cafe and art show; participate in unique raffles and silent auctions.

# Through the Years

## Tending the WPA Rock Garden

by Daisy Mah



The WPA Rock Garden in Sacramento's, William Land Park, was created in 1940 by the federal government's Works Progress Administration. By the mid-1980s, it had been reduced to ivy and weeds.

In 1986, when supervisor, Leonard Fuson, hired me as a rookie lead person, he emphasized my primary responsibility was overseeing staff that kept bathrooms and park clean, litter and leaf free and lawns green. The operative word was maintenance, not garden beautification. Although his expectations were met, the siren call of the acre site of meandering paths and terraced beds, faced with granite rocks and cobbles, was irresistible.

With no budget for restoration, Warren Roberts, then UC Davis Arboretum Superintendent, suggested that I join the newly formed Sacramento Perennial Plant Club for a source of plants, a community of gardeners and possibly volunteers. During good economic times, plants were budgeted, but without help, progress went slowly. Aloes and Lily of the Niles were rescued from green waste piles, most plants were seed grown; the easy ones often turned out to be weedy. After relying on a newly installed automatic irrigation system, plants with high water needs did not survive. The ongoing drought and staffing shortages made it clear its survival depended on low water and low care plants. Water needy hydrangeas and Japanese maples made way for the likes of Cleveland sage, yarrows and ceanothus. Visits from charismatic UC Berkeley researcher on native bees, Gordon Frankie, steered plantings towards white sage, St. Catherine's lace and other pollinator-friendly plants.



At a particularly low point, I recall gazing wistfully across the water at the park's boat island and deciding to terminate its care. Limited time and resources were then focused solely upon the Rock Garden. However, through the years, with the help of many volunteers, the garden and island have survived and thrived. Today, visitors are drawn to the garden's informal design that offers a serene, nature experience in the city.

*At left: Daisy Mah, with her "nose to the grindstone," tending the WPA Rock Garden in William Land Park.*



PHOTOS: CHERYL McDONALD

# FRIENDS OF THE WPA ROCK GARDEN

**T**HE “Friends of the WPA Rock Garden” t-shirt, designed by Daisy Mah, can be worn with pride, reflecting a collective appreciation and concern for the garden’s long-term survival and an awareness for this hidden gem. The lizard, birds and pollinators featured on the shirt are commonly seen animals in the garden. The shirts are made of high-quality organic cotton and produced sustainably to ensure years of enjoyment. The Sacramento Perennial Plant Club sponsors this project with proceeds going towards garden improvements that sustain wildlife. The t-shirt will be for sale at SPPC plant sales and monthly meetings. For more information, contact **Risë Ryan** ([riseryan7987@gmail.com](mailto:riseryan7987@gmail.com)) or call her at 610-331-1610).



## Make a Difference! by Stan Logan

**C**URRENTLY, Daisy has a faithful group of volunteers to maintain the garden that meets on Thursday mornings, weather permitting. I asked her if she could use more help. She said “yes,” but she doesn’t expect anyone to put in the work week after week. Instead, she welcomes anyone willing to learn a different approach to gardening—that of a public garden—someone willing to deadhead, weed and tidy beds.

Daisy provides needed instruction. Participants always bring their own tools to supplement those provided by the City. Rewards are huge—kinship with others who have a strong sense of community and service. Volunteers, part of a collective effort, magically transform a neglected garden into something more beautiful, wildlife friendly and sustainable.

Please consider joining Daisy’s group. Every person who helps out makes a difference in creating a garden of which Sacramento can be proud. If you have never been to the Rock Garden, why don’t you visit and decide if you would like to contribute your time and effort in maintaining this City treasure.

Volunteers meet at the WPA Rock Garden on Thursday mornings. Bring your gardening tools (i.e., trowel, gloves, bucket). The Garden is located in William Land Park next to the amphitheater and across from FairyTale Town.



This fun, creative display pays homage to the flora and fauna of the WPA Rock Garden. Thank you to garden volunteers Fred, Paul and Risë for sharing their artistic skills and humor to promote a special place we all love.

RISE RYAN



## The Perennial Post

SPPC Newsletter  
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Make a Difference!



*Euphorbia characias* bursting with spring color  
in WPA Rock Garden

CHERYL MCDONALD