

The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club 🌿 Summer 2023



DAISY MAH

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: VACANT
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

NEWSLETTER

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

WHEN & WHERE?

Club meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month (except 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

Impressive entrance to the WPA Rock Garden in William Land Park, Sacramento. Photo credit: Daisy Mah

PREZ SEZ . . . STAY HYDRATED!

Our summer break is here. Weather-wise we've moved on from "June Gloom" to "July We Fry"! So when you work in your garden, be sure to stay hydrated and take plenty of time to rest and relax.

Looking Ahead

- In addition to our September and October general meetings, our fall plant sale is coming up on Saturday and Sunday, October 7-8, with set up on Friday, October 6. This sale will be held at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m.–3 p.m. on Sunday. Volunteers will be needed.
- We hope to have a Holiday Potluck this year. At this time, it's scheduled for 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. on Friday, December 15. Yea, that's right—a DAYTIME potluck!
- A new slate of board officers will be elected at our May 2024 general meeting. Currently, the SPPC board is without a VP and secretary. To fill a vacancy midway through the term of office does not, according to our by-laws, require a vote by the membership. The board may approve officers serving a partial term of office.

The board meets the second Thursday of the month from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. The location varies, with most meetings happening at William Land Park near the WPA Rock Garden. SPPC members are always welcome to attend. If you are interested in learning more about the vacant officer positions, please attend the next board meeting on **September 14**. For details, please send an email to Cheryl at mcdonald4214@sbcglobal.net.

See you in September!

–Cheryl McDonald



Beautiful June Potluck!

Our June salad potluck was stunning—a sensory delight with lovely blooms forming a sparkling centerpiece on each row of tables. Lavender wands, made by **Risë Ryan**, graced each place setting. The salads and desserts were delicious. Many thanks to everyone who helped set up and cleaned up. Special thanks to Risë for taking the lead, planning and recruiting volunteers. **Daisy Mah** brought the lovely paper that covered the tables. Plant and t-shirt sales were well received.



Saul Wiseman Grants Program Update

Earlier this year, grants were awarded to seven recipients. Two of those recipients have finished their projects—Project AWE Youth Farm and Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association Community Garden. Below are photos from recent site visits.

Project AWE Youth Farm

Funds helped establish a 1600 sq. ft. Youth Farm, expanding current educational programs offered at the restored Nicolaus Dairy site in Elk Grove and to purchase plants, seeds, materials and tools.

At right, is the expanded planting for the farm beds, including irrigation. The children planted sunflower seeds and will return in the fall to see the progress.



Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association Community Garden

This project replaced three raised herb beds, added irrigation supplies, purchased plants and seeds, and bought supplies for building three compost bins made from recycled pallets.

After completing their project, the community gardeners had enough extra grant money to put in decomposed granite pathways and new veggie and herb planters to attract pollinators.



PHOTOS: RISE RYAN

Summer Reflections

SUMMER HAS ARRIVED!

By Barbara Lane-Piert

NOT LONG AGO I LOOKED THROUGH MY WINDOW AT GREY SKIES.

Where was the sun? Our gardens responded joyfully to the earlier rain-filled, cooler days with abundant new growth.

Our Central Valley is heating up. Time now to take a stroll, sit in the shade and enjoy our garden beauty.

As I walk around I think of how the beauty of our gardens lends itself to the health of the earth. Our lush growth of plants, shrubs, and trees clears the air, reduces pollution, and creates a healthier environment. Yes, I know, I overuse water but at least this year I feel no guilt. Not sure my bank account agrees. My passion for plants for the past many years has been the love of roses. The beauty and the fragrance have filled my personal space. They are surrounded by perennials, shrubs, ferns and many invasive plants as groundcovers (they work for me). I know that many consider the rose as a problematic plant but I find it one of the easiest and recently was reminded of its contribution to the health of our planet. While deadheading I saw a movement in a flower. It was a bee having their lunch. Almost a disaster for both the bee and me.

What is missing in my garden is a veggie patch. The bloom on the tomatoes is finally deciding to be a tomato. I have found a place where basil will not be dinner for the snails (on top of a metal bunny cage). That pretty much amounts to my edible veggie spot. Fruit is abundant this year (thank you rain). Cherries on small trees, a huge crop of figs. I noticed a large murder of crows stalking the tree. They were waiting for the feast. I don't mind. They quickly devour the figs that can't be reached, even with a ladder. As the year progresses the other fruit trees should bear heavily. Too bad I don't like to cook.

Last year a tree was to be removed. Only part of it was. I rushed to the garden shop to buy sun-loving plants since my shade garden was eliminated. Now the tree has decided to grow back and shade is taking over once again. Ferns still stand tall but I know that the plants that glow only in the sun will soon be history. The garden center is waiting. We gardeners really need to be patient. I find it so difficult and want instant beauty but gardens just do not appear overnight. Trial and error constantly haunt us all. I must remember that patience is a virtue.



PHOTOS: BARBARA LANE-PIERT

Save the Date

AUGUST

HARVEST DAY 2023

SATURDAY—AUGUST 5, 2023
8 A.M.— 2 P.M.

FAIR OAKS HORTICULTURE CENTER
11549 FAIR OAKS BOULEVARD
FAIR OAKS, CA 95628

Experience, imagine, learn and have fun at this popular gardening event. See a variety of water-wise plants, listen to knowledgeable speakers and engage with the local gardening community.

[Visit the Harvest Day website.](#)

PATRICIA CARPENTER'S SEASONAL SUMMER RAMBLE

SUNDAY—AUGUST 6, 2023
7 A.M.— 11 A.M.

RSVP REQUIRED
SIGN UP [HERE](#)

Enjoy Patricia's native garden on a typical hot summer day. The garden, a secluded 1-acre wild escape on the slough, is located west of Davis. Started in 2005, it now features about 400 species and cultivars of California native plants.

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

GENERAL MEETINGS

SHEPARD GARDEN & ARTS CENTER
3330 MCKINLEY BLVD.
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816

Pat Smith
Mughal Gardens
on Two Continents

THURSDAY—SEPTEMBER 28, 2023
7 P.M.

Kevin Marini
Nurturing Healthy Soil
THURSDAY—OCTOBER 26, 2023
7 P.M.

My patience is beginning to pay off with plans for a 'white garden' or as some prefer a 'moon garden'. For so long the shade under the massive fig tree and the persimmon tree has only been filled with the lovely, variegated liriopie and invasive wild white violets. Now that space



is beginning to take shape: white azaleas (in pots) are between spaces in the liriopie, variegated acanthus is planted (the darn snails are enjoying that lovely plant), some white lilies are now evident along with some other white plants that may be annuals (we shall see). Since time and patience is needed I decided to use many gifts given over the years. Sprayed white or silver they glow in the

shade. Lots of whimsy out there with a giraffe, a peacock, an elephant, a frog and a few more. A reminder here for those that have only a small garden space: If you love invasive plants keep them in pots and watch the roots don't go down too deep. My garden full of wild violets started with a friendly PPC member giving me a small clump many years ago and now.....yikes! They are everywhere (good thing I like them or I would need a plow.)

Abutilons are becoming another passion for me and they seem to like my space...mostly in semi-shade. Fuschia loves a shady spot in this Central Valley and seems to thrive. Grow what makes you happy and what works for you. When I last wrote some 'reflections' I talked of a place I wanted to return to. I went, it was wonderful and now to plan another spot....gardens and travel works for me. Whatever works for you make it happen.... May your summer make all your garden and other dreams come true.....Barbara.



Relax in Your Garden

In Barbara's "Summer Reflections" article on the previous page, she suggests taking the time to stroll through the garden, sit in the shade and enjoy its beauty. Below, a few members have shared their special garden spaces.



When temperatures are sizzling, the faux bois concrete bench nestled amongst the ferns is a cool perch from which to survey the garden, often serenaded by birdsong.

DAISY MAH



On New Years Eve, the violent storm that hit Sacramento uprooted a 70 year-old pine tree in my yard. The tree fell directly into my naturalistic, in-ground fish pond, destroying it. I decided I wanted to replace it with an above-ground, easier to maintain feature. The fountain sculpture of the original pond survived and fit in to the new design very nicely, and I now have the lovely sound of trickling water restored, and happy fish.

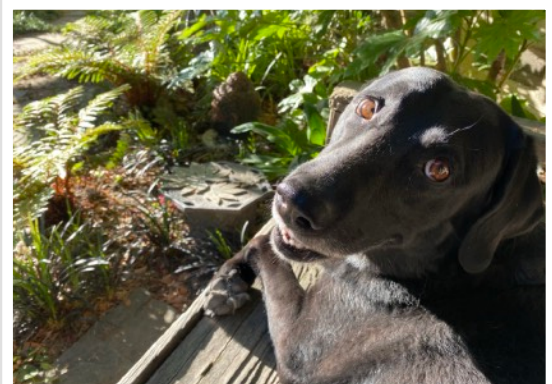
SHARON KOWALL



Sitting on my front patio, with a cup of tea, looking out on our street. The foliage is just enough to create some shady privacy but not so much I can't enjoy the passersby—walkers, strollers and happy pups.

It's even better when a neighbor or friend drops by to sit a spell, too.

KAREN MARTIN



Morning coffee, sharing the start of the day with my best bench buddy, Ella. Enjoying the sunlight shining through the garden foliage.

CHERYL MCDONALD

GARDEN LESSONS

SUMMER POT WATERING You know the rule about watering potted plants—water until the water runs through. I watered the plant that LaVille is holding just last night. Well, water did run through, but look at the dry section she is pointing out. I was surprised at how quickly the passion vines had been wilting. It is obvious the water was just channeling through without soaking the soil. We thought the rapid wilting was due to the pot being too small, so LaVille started repotting into 2 gallon pots. As soon as the first gallon pot was emptied, it was obvious what the problem was. She decided to go ahead and repot all 12 passion vines anyway. We then soaked the new pots into the tubs shown in the second photo.

So, I guess the lesson for you is this: If you let a potted plant get really dry, watering so that the water passes through may not insure thorough soil dampening. You might try lifting the pot after watering so see if the weight indicates water retention. I suppose you could insert a moisture probe deeply into the pot to check moisture at different levels. And, of course, if you choose soaking the pot, don't forget to remove it. A drip pan would be another solution.

Stan, The Soaker Man



PHOTOS: STANI LOGAN

CAT SCAT MAT HELP Have you experienced the frustration of planting a new treasure for your garden, perhaps something grown by one of your fellow SPPC members, only to discover the next day your plant had been uprooted by nocturnal critters? I've tried cutting up chicken wire, anchoring with drip irrigation pins, but recently learned from a neighbor of an easier solution: cat scat mats.

These plastic grids have half-inch plastic spikes designed to deter cats. Happily, they also deter squirrels. A variety of scat mat products are available on Amazon. Initially, I bought placemat-sized mats in black; then switched to a [scat mat product which comes in a 6.5-foot roll in bright green or black](#). I ordered green, at once regretting how much it contrasted with the soil. However, I've come to appreciate the green color as it peeks from beneath a bark or lava rock layer, reminding me not to lean in with my hands or bare feet.

Both cat scat products were easy to cut with scissors to the size and shape needed. I save any trimmings to place in pots—another place squirrels love to dig.

Linda Hax



LINDA HAX



The Perennial Post

SPPC Newsletter
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Sacramento, CA 95818



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Fragrant trumpet lily in Daisy Mah's backyard