

# The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club 🌿 Winter 2024



CHERYL McDONALD

[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:** Lee Perrone  
**Secretary:** Kathy Matsumoto & Linda Monroe  
**Treasurer:** Marcia Leddy

### CONTACTS

**Facebook:** Lili Ann Metzger  
**Gardener's Market:** Lili Ann Metzger  
**Grants Program:** Anita Clevenger  
**Membership:** Linda Monroe  
**Newsletter/E-Blasts:** Cheryl McDonald  
**Plant Sales:** Risë Ryan  
**Propagation Advisors:** Daisy Mah & LaVillie Logan  
**Publicity/Website:** VACANT  
**SG&AC Rep:** Barbara Lane-Piert  
**Speakers:** Noelle Anderson  
**Tour Coordinator:** VACANT

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

### NEWSLETTER

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

### WHEN & WHERE?

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

A busy bee on a mid-February blooming *Chaenomeles speciosa* 'Contorta' in the WPA Rock Garden.  
Photo: Cheryl McDonald

## Coming Up in 2024

**W**E have a full year scheduled featuring interesting monthly speakers, our 19th Annual Gardener's Market, spring/fall plant sales and much more.

In May, we've scheduled a tour of the Bufferlands in Elk Grove. This riparian habitat is an important wildlife area, supporting more than 245 species of birds, 20 species of native mammals and several native fish, amphibians, and reptiles. The Bufferlands is also home to more than 20 species of rare plants and animals. Tour details to come in the spring newsletter and e-blasts.

Then, there's the 2024 Election (*no, not that one... this one → our May election for board officers*). Board officers provide the essential foundation for the club. Without solid leadership, regardless of how much we accomplish, we won't be able to continue as the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club. To give you an idea of what's involved, a brief list of officer duties is below.

Also, in this issue:

- **Barbara Lane-Piert** reminds us, in her article on page 4, of how important it is to keep our plants watered during the winter months.
- **The 2024 membership drive has begun.** We're now able to renew our membership online at [sacplants.org/membership](https://sacplants.org/membership). The printed 2024 Membership Form can still be filled out and submitted by mail or in person at our meetings with dues attached. The form is included in this newsletter on page 7.

—Cheryl McDonald

### SPPC OFFICER DUTIES

It's a privilege to be able to serve as a board officer for the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club. The next two-year term will begin on July 1, 2024.

#### President

Plan agenda for board and general meetings; preside over meetings. Attend club functions. Communicate with board members and committee chairpersons. Be the club contact person for the City of Sacramento and Shepard Garden & Arts Center. Prepare and submit to the City rental/permit applications for meetings and special events.

#### Vice President

Attend board and general meetings. Act as President if the President is not available or is disabled.

#### Secretary (*This can be a shared position*)

Attend board meetings and record proceedings. Refine notes and submit written copies to all board members. Maintain minutes from previous meetings.

#### Treasurer

Prepare monthly report to board. Prepare annual budget. Deposit checks and cash; post the electronic payments received from membership dues, plant sales, donations and tours. Maintain the check register and balance each month. Pay bills. Prepare and e-file: annual CA Sales Tax report and payment, annual IRS and State of CA e-postcards.



# 2024 SPPC Meetings & Events

## JANUARY

GENERAL MEETING

**Amy Chance**

***Native Bees in Your Garden***

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 — 7 PM

## FEBRUARY

GENERAL MEETING

**Saul Wiseman Grants Committee**

***Introduction of the 2024 Saul Wiseman  
Grants Awardees***

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 — 7 PM

## MARCH

**19th Annual Gardener's Market**

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 — 9 AM - 4 PM

*The Gardener's Market takes the place  
of our March meeting.*

## APRIL

**SPPC Spring Plant Sale**

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 12-13 — 9 AM - 1 PM

1911 BANNON CREEK DR.

SACRAMENTO 95833

GENERAL MEETING

**Brian Woods**

***Native Plants, Cactus and Succulents  
Enthusiast***

THURSDAY, APRIL 25 — 7 PM

## MAY

**Bufferlands Tour**

FRIDAY, MAY 3 — 10 AM

8521 LAGUNA STATION RD. • ELK GROVE, CA 95758

GENERAL MEETING

**Charlotte Owendyk & Linda Knowles**  
***Gardens of Southern England***

THURSDAY, MAY 23 — 7 PM

## JUNE

GENERAL MEETING

**Members' Salad Potluck**

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

*Time to be determined*

## SEPTEMBER

GENERAL MEETING

**Roxie Jones**

***Inviting Birds to Your Yard***

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 — 7 PM

## OCTOBER

**SPPC Fall Plant Sale**

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5-6

SATURDAY, 10 AM-4 PM

SUNDAY, 10 AM-3 PM

SHEPARD GARDEN & ARTS CENTER

GENERAL MEETING

**Sue Golden**

***Miniature Table Top Water Gardens***

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 — 7 PM

## DECEMBER

**Holiday Potluck**

*Day and time to be determined*

Meetings are held at the  
Shepard Garden & Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd.  
Sacramento 95816

***Meetings are free and open  
to the public.***



# The Loss of a Majestic Monster

By Barbara Lane-Piert

**The early days of rose growing**—with ‘Color Magic’ my first rose, followed by five of everything that smelled good (‘Double Delight,’ ‘Fragrant Cloud,’ and others). I was delighted with my success. Soooo, when seeing a sign while on a camping trip to Oregon that said “Roses for Sale,” I had to take a look.

**I approached the “sale” bench.** Five dollars sounded good to me. What poor specimens they seemed to be but with the piggy bank stretched, one rose was all I thought I should purchase. The owner suggested a poor, tiny, withered little stick with a few leaves saying that it will grow very tall one day. Hmmm sounded like a sales pitch to me but being unable to say no it came home. I pondered about what to do with this little sprig and finally dug a hole by a tree and conveniently forgot about it. I didn't even pay attention to its name. Fall was upon us and winter soon behind so the baby was cared for by winter rain.

**My rose life became serious.** Books were gathering without dust. I met rosy people, joined a society, and my rose education improved. A couple of years past and as I watered with my wand one day, I saw an unfamiliar sight. Something that had leaves like a mini rose. What could that be? I took a look and realized it was, it really was, a rose. My memory, so better than the memory of today, recalled that day when I planted it. Should I leave it? Should I discard it? Should I move it? Leaving it seemed the better option and so began my rose adventure (one of many). What was its name? I searched the ground beneath with no luck, I racked my rosy brain trying to remember where I bought it. Would they remember? Rather doubtful. Then I remembered the nursery, somewhere I long to return to for my latest quest to buy OGRs.\* They did remember having a sale of five-dollar ramblers and thought it might



\*Old Garden Rose

be the rose 'Kiftsgate'. I scrambled inside and, comfortably seated, opened my favorite books. There it was. Now I have to make changes. Help the poor rose to climb, feed it, mulch it, water it with abandon, and send it love.

**The rose grew and grew.** Up the tree, it went with no help from yours truly. Those prickles did their job. It clung for dear life. I read that this rambler is a once bloomer. A true statement but here in this hot, hot valley most of my roses bloom spectacularly in the spring but are very stingy in summer. 'Kiftsgate' blooms only once but that 'once' is for at least six weeks. It sent its sweetest scent throughout my garden space and looked spectacular in bloom. Masses of huge displays of white hung down in splendor. After blooming, bunches of rose hips adorned the rose. For many years, (maybe 20) early June would arrive and would always surprise. No sign of bloom one day and then a walk in the garden and masses of white adorned my tree.

**It is said that all good things must come to an end.** I am not fond of that statement but unfortunately, this story did have a sad ending. Two winters ago we had very little rain in this valley. We were so neglectful and failed to water occasionally. Winter passed and with spring came a realization that our tree was not up to snuff. What could be wrong? Well-meaning friends were convinced 'Kiftsgate' was to blame. She was killing her support. Rather doubtful, I wasn't convinced. I read about that possibility and there was confusion. Some said it could happen, others not so sure, and some said absolutely not. I waited and waited. More of the tree was giving up the ghost. The rose was poorly (sick). Trying to get some of this massive monster down was close to impossible. The prickles were unrelenting. Sometimes extreme winds helped by blowing down the dead branches of both the rose and the tree. A decision had to be made. The tree was to be eliminated. My lovely shade garden would be no more. Employing a tree removal company was next on my list. They came, they removed the tree and the glorious 'Kiftsgate'. Trotting all over my once fabulous shade plants the plants bit the dust. Finding some potted plants close to the tree that I had long forgotten, I realized that 'Kiftsgate' was not the culprit. It was our sheer neglect. The plants, the tree, the rose, all needed watering in that dry, dry winter. How sad I was. How angry I was. My lovely tree, my beautiful rose, killed by neglect.

**The years have passed there is no more time to grow that beauty.** The only consolation is that now I shall find roses for that sunny spot. The spot that was my very first rose garden. Until the tree grew. My growing passion for OGRs can be realized, I can grow 'Peggy Martin' up the limbless tree parts that remain? Maybe a couple of rugosas. We shall see. I have learned a hard lesson. Water for a garden is essential even when the frost covers the ground. My boots are ready, along with gloves and sweats. Hmmm, I wonder if I fertilize more, and water more, 'Kiftsgate' will once again climb yet another tree.....

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## Funny Lookin' Dog

In addition to the joy of working with smart, witty, dedicated Rock Garden volunteers, is sharing this unique space with all the critters that live here or are just visiting.

You'll see lots of pollinators, lizards and hummers. Plus, on occasion, rabbits, chickens, kitties, wayward turtles needing a lift back to the pond and, most often, dogs pulling their humans behind them.

Awhile back, the newest resident of FairyTale Town paid the garden a visit. His co-workers thought he should get to know the neighborhood and meet the locals.

Pictured above, in a stylish halter, is "Ferdinand," a Kentshire miniature cow with a serious, dried apple slices habit. He's charming, easy-going and well-mannered. Just what you want in a new neighbor!

—Cheryl McDonald

## 2024 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Options for becoming a member:

- Go to [sacplants.org/membership/](https://sacplants.org/membership/). Complete and submit the membership form online.
- Fill out the printed membership form, include it with your dues, and either

**Mail to:** Marcia Leddy, 3145 17th St., Sacramento CA 95818

Or, **drop it off** at the club's January or February general meeting.

Questions? Contact our membership chair, **Linda Monroe** (916-996-9985; [lmonroe1@ymail.com](mailto:lmonroe1@ymail.com)).

## Got Roundup?

Some of you may have Roundup in your pesticide cupboard—probably way in the back where no one will see it. Now, if you do, here is a good use (if there is such a thing) for it. If you have a plant growing among others that you value, you can use an herbicide to kill it. (By the way, if you are one who pronounces the "h" in herbicide, you may cross off the "n" if it makes you feel better.)

*Oh yes, back to the Roundup*—You can see in the photo that I am spraying Roundup into my gloved hand surrounding a plant that I wish to kill. The Roundup soaks the leaves, and as I pull my hand upwards, I squish the liquid into the leaves. This technique prevents the spray from touching the surrounding plants. Now, I know what you are thinking—dummy—why don't you simply pull the weed out. Well, you see, the plant involved here is the Mexican Petunia—a plant with beautiful purple blooms that unfortunately spreads readily by runners. Pulling the plant would just prolong the agony. I, by the way, have used this method to control the spread of Nandina.



If the thought of using Roundup raises your hackles, please don't. The sight of one of my friends approaching me with raised hackles would really be disturbing. You could use another systemic. I have a bottle of Remuda that I use occasionally. Unfortunately, it still contains glyphosate, but somehow, I feel better about it. Shallow-minded, huh.

*Stan, The Shallow-Minded Man*

2024

# Sacramento Perennial Plant Club Membership

**ALL MEMBERS—PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM COMPLETELY  
AND INCLUDE WITH YOUR DUES**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY

STATE

ZIP

## Joint Membership

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

**1. YEARLY DUES:** \_\_\_\_ \$20 Individual \_\_\_\_ \$25 Joint \_\_\_\_ \$5 Student

**2. PAYMENT:** \_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_ Check (Make checks out to PERENNIAL PLANT CLUB)  
Credit card transactions will be available at the general meetings.

**3. INCLUSION IN OUR YEARLY ROSTER?** YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_

**4. SEND** completed form and dues to: Marcia Leddy, 3145 17th St., Sacramento CA 95818

The *Perennial Post* will be e-mailed to members. However, if you wish to receive the newsletter by regular mail, please check here \_\_\_\_.



## The Perennial Post

SPPC Newsletter  
2743 San Luis Court  
Sacramento, CA 95818

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