

The Perennial Post

Newsletter of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club  Winter 2026



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: OPEN

Vice-President: Cheryl McDonald

Secretary: Catherine Cardozo

Treasurer: Marcia Leddy

CONTACTS

Facebook/Gardener's Market:

Lili Ann Metzger

Grants Program: Anita Clevenger

Member Open Gardens: Lee Perrone

Membership: Linda Monroe

Newsletter: Cheryl McDonald

Plant Sales: Risë Ryan

SG&AC Rep: Barbara Lane

Speakers: Lori Ann Asmus

Propagation Advisors: Daisy Mah & LaVile Logan

Website: Weston Monroe

Send questions or comments to:

president.sppc@gmail.com

PERENNIAL POST

March 6 is the due date to submit a garden-related article for the 2026 spring 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, August and November) 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

Leucorum aestivum, "Summer Snowflake," puts on a spectacular flowering display when naturalized in large drifts.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Board officers for the 2026-28 term will be elected at our May 2026 meeting. Board officers provide the essential foundation for the club. Without these officers, we jeopardize our tax-exempt status and our existence as a club. **Please consider becoming the next president of the SPPC.** (President/Vice-President could act as co-presidents.) Contact Cheryl McDonald (president.sppc@gmail.com) for more information.

SPPC OFFICER DUTIES

President—Plan agenda for board and general meetings; preside over meetings. Attend club functions. Communicate with board members. Be the club contact person for the City of Sacramento and Shepard Garden & Arts Center.

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

Secretary—Attend board meetings and record proceedings. Refine notes and submit written copies to all board members. Maintain minutes from previous meetings. (*This can be a shared position.*)

Treasurer—Prepare monthly report to board. Prepare annual budget. Deposit checks and cash from membership dues and plant sales. 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.



Propagators Are Vital by Risë Ryan

The annual plant sale is the primary source of income for the club. We sell member-grown, high quality plants and organic vegetables and do so with coordinated planning among our handful of growers. Plant sale income allows us to keep dues low, so we all benefit. That income also pays for Saul Wiseman grants, renting the Shepard Center for meetings and events, supplies for propagating plants, and more.

The 2026 plant sale will take place on April 10 and 11—just a few months away.

We are thankful for our current propagators who are already hard at work growing up to 2000 plants to be ready at the same time. **The task is monumental and we are looking for new club members to help with this vital activity to take on part of the plant growing.** One option is to start with a single variety of veggie.

It takes longer to make sure perennials have a good root system and are large enough to sell. In the future, we'd like to have more propagators share in growing perennials and other plants that grow more slowly.

If you are willing to help maintain a healthy club by propagating for the plant sale, please email Lorraine Van Kekerix (lkvk@dcn.org) and Risë Ryan (riseryan7987@gmail.com) to discuss potential for propagating.



Tulipa bakeri 'Lilac Wonder'

JANUARY MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 • 7 PM

Spring Blooming Bulbs that Naturalize Well in Sacramento

Speaker: Lorraine Van Kekerix

Bulbs provide bright, cheerful pops of color in the winter/spring garden, then go dormant and disappear until the next fall/winter. A wide variety of plants are included in the bulb category. Some, but not all, bulbs can grow and thrive with limited water in our area.

Lorraine has 30 years experience growing bulbs in Sacramento limited water gardens. She will identify spring flowering bulbs that reproduce and naturalize in this area. She'll also discuss the kinds of conditions they need to thrive.

Lorraine has degrees from UC Davis and Utah State University. She is a Sacramento County Master Gardener and a past president of the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club (SPPC). She currently helps to organize the SPPC plant sale, propagates plants (including bulbs) for the sale, and volunteers at many SPPC events.

FEBRUARY MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 • 7 PM

Introduction of the 2026 Saul Wiseman Grants Awardees

Saul Wiseman Grants Committee

Since 2015, the Saul Wiseman Grants Program brings us in contact with a host of remarkable people actively engaged in providing greater access to healthy soil and open spaces, increasing the supply of food for the hungry in our community, or creating places of beauty in our neighborhoods. Many are talented educators dedicated to making all manner of gardening experiences available in our school and public places. Our February meeting will focus on celebrating the 2026 Saul Wiseman Grants awardees.

2026 SPPC Meetings

All meetings begin at 7 pm

Shepard Garden & Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd. • Sacramento 95816

JANUARY

Thursday, January 22

FEBRUARY

Thursday, February 26

MARCH

Thursday, March 26

APRIL

Thursday, April 23

MAY

Thursday, May 28

SEPTEMBER

Thursday, September 24

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 22

2026 SPPC Special Events

MARCH

21st Annual Gardener's Market

Saturday, March 7

9 am – 3 pm

Shepard Garden & Arts Center

APRIL

SPPC Annual Plant Sale

Friday & Saturday, April 10-11

9 am – 1 pm

1911 Bannon Creek Dr. • Sacramento

2026 SPPC Potlucks

JUNE

Members' Salad Potluck

Thursday, June 25

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

DECEMBER

Members' Holiday Potluck

Friday, December 11 • 11:30 am – 1:30 pm



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

SET UP

**FRIDAY, MARCH 6
NOON-4 PM**

Bring blooms for our "What's Blooming" display, help with plant labeling; donate used gardening books and magazines for our used book sale; help guide vendors to their booth location, and more!

EVENT

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7
7:30 AM-4:30 PM**

Help guide vendors to their booth location; work a two-hour shift promoting SPPC activities; greet the public; help answer questions in the "What's Blooming" section, and more!

For questions or to volunteer, contact:

Lili Ann Metzger
lmetzger@wavecable.com
or 916-837-3291

21st ANNUAL GARDENER'S MARKET

GROW LOCAL | SHOP LOCAL

SATURDAY

MARCH 7, 2026 • 9 AM – 3 PM

The Perennial Plant Club's annual "Gardener's Market" is a one-day event where we:

SUPPORT small, specialty nurseries and local garden artisans.

EDUCATE the community with our display of blooming perennials, shrubs, trees, and bulbs from our region and by answering the public's questions at "Ask-A-Gardener" sessions.

PROMOTE the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club.

Also . . .

- ◆ Returning and new vendors will bring in some wonderful plants and garden treasures.
- ◆ Proceeds from this event help fund our grants program, our monthly speakers and other club activities.
- ◆ If you use social media, please post the event information and share with your friends.



SHEPARD GARDEN & ARTS CENTER

3330 MCKINLEY BLVD, SACRAMENTO CA 95816

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Community Footprint Continues to Grow

by Cheryl McDonald

For close to forty years the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club (SPPC) has provided Sacramento area gardeners an opportunity to learn about perennials and climate-friendly gardening practices. Attendance at our monthly meetings and events continues to grow.

Over 10 years ago, our connection with local gardeners grew when we established the Saul Wiseman Grants Program. More recently, we joined forces with the City of Sacramento and the Land Park Community Association to renovate the pond in the WPA Rock Garden.

A bit of history and current progress on our expanded community footprint follows:

Saul Wiseman Grants Program

I remember attending a board meeting, many years ago, at Saul Wiseman's home. In those days, our meetings began with a garden tour and potluck dinner at the home of the host. Towards the end of the board meeting, Saul shared his new idea—we should create a gardening grants program. Money accumulated from our plant sales would support community garden projects.

Not long after this meeting, in 2014, the Saul Wiseman Grants Program was established to promote gardening and horticultural activities, with an emphasis on education and service to our diverse community. In 2015, our first grant recipients were each awarded \$500. Since then, the maximum grant amount has increased to \$1200.



School garden project in 2016. Saul Wiseman is third from the right.

By 2025, a total of 52 grant awards went to nonprofit groups, community groups and schools. Initially, the boundary area for the grants did not go beyond the County of Sacramento. Beginning in 2025, the program expanded to include the City of West Sacramento.

Our annual plant sale continues to provide funding for the grants program. Since 2015, a total of \$36,631 has been awarded. We'll be adding to that amount when the 2026 Saul Wiseman Grants awardees are introduced at our upcoming February meeting at the Shepard Center.

WPA Rock Garden

For many years, a dedicated group of SPPC volunteers, led by Daisy Mah, have deadheaded, weeded, and tidied beds in the WPA Rock Garden in William Land Park.

Over the last year, SPPC volunteers organized an effort to renovate a small pond in the garden that had become more mud hole than reflective water feature. After the City Parks Department approved the project and the Land Park Community Association and the SPPC agreed to provide funding, major changes could be made.

A contractor was hired. The base of the pond was sealed and a couple of large, on-site slabs of granite, were relocated and repurposed into benches. Granite rock edging of the planting beds, that wrap around the pond, was reset. A wish list of distinctive grasses, shrubs and succulents will be planted by Daisy.



View of renovated pond in WPA Rock Garden.

Drooping Problem

by Stan Logan

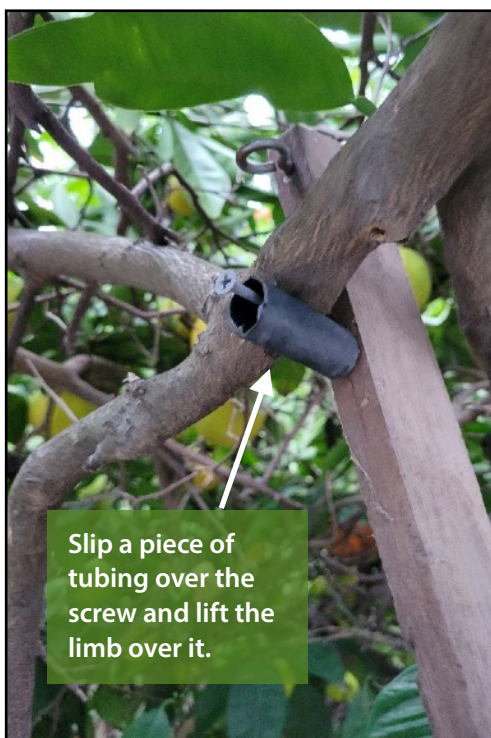
NO... I am not referring to your body parts. It has to do with limbs on your fruit trees that are bending due to an overabundance of fruit. The easy solution is to prop up the limbs with a stick. Now, I used to simply cut a stick to the right length and shove it under the limb. Sometimes, a wind would come up, and the stick would fall. I now use a far better system.

I have leftover 1 x 2s that once covered LaVille's potting shed when we constructed it as a lath house. That structure proved to be unsuccessful, so the lath was removed decades ago. I have found many uses for these boards over the years. One of which is limb support. You probably don't have a collection of lumber around the yard, but if you go to Lowe's (or Home Depot) and select a fairly knot-free redwood fence board, I believe they will rip it into thirds that you can use to prop-up limbs. This will work for supporting limbs up to 6 feet. If you need higher support, select other kinds of boards that they can rip.

Now, place your board vertically by the limb needing support, and mark where support is needed. Insert a screw at an angle. Slip a piece of tubing over the screw and lift the limb over it. What is good about this system, is that if the screw placement isn't right, just move it. Also, when you store the sticks until the next year, you can reinsert a screw wherever you like.

If you are in need of screws or pieces of tubing, just let me know. I have lots.

Stan, The No Droop Man



P.S. Ignore the screw eye—that was for a different project.

2026 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Options for becoming a member:

- Go to <https://sacplants.org/membership/> and 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 one of the club's general meetings.

Questions?

Contact Linda Monroe
(916-996-9985;
lm Monroe1@ymail.com).



2026

Sacramento Perennial Plant Club Membership

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

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

(Please check a box and all that apply.)

☐ **NEW** ☐ **RENEWAL / NO CHANGE** ☐ **RENEWAL / CHANGES**

___ E-Mail
___ Mailing Address
___ Phone

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 ____.

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SPPC Newsletter
2743 San Luis Court
Sacramento, CA 95818

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