



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SANTA ROSA

MAY 2019

OFFICERS:

President - Shirley Juul
Vice Presidents- Wayne Britton / Jack Coulter
Secretary - Patricia Kempton
Treasurer - Dave Berg
Greenhouse Managers – Terry and Robert Breazeale

Yearly Dues – If you haven't paid now is the time \$30 per person - \$40 per household

MAY 2019 MEETING – TUESDAY, MAY 14TH AT 9 AM This is the Luther Burbank District Quarterly Meeting and we are the hosts. This will be a potluck by the members and there will be a silent auction, and prize raffle. If you can contribute anything to either one of these that would be great, i.e.; bottle of wine, garden tools, etc.

PLANT SALE APRIL 6TH AND 7TH

Thanks to everyone who helped out at the plant sale. We sold quite a lot of the tomatoes and plants we made about \$3500.00 from the sale.

NOTES:

- **WORK PARTY EVERY TUES 9-12 AT THE GREENHOUSE**

THINGS HAPPENING AT THE GREENHOUSE:

Greenhouse work continues on Tuesdays, 9 AM to 12 Noon.

We will continue to put together gardens for the upcoming Sonoma Co. Fair, they will be available for sale at the Co-Op Nursery.

Looking for some assistance for watering at the greenhouse – any day that you might be available to come help would be appreciated. A couple hours here and there would be helpful.

Terry gave us a greenhouse report, work continues to clean the greenhouse, plant succulent gardens, the students planted the plugs and separated and repotted several of the other plants.

GARDEN CLUB UPDATES:

Cleanup day at the Luther Burbank Center was Wednesday, April 17th, thanks to all who were available to assist in the cleanup

We will now focus on the Luther Burbank District quarterly luncheon which is May 14th and provided by our club and the upcoming fair flower show theme garden and co-op nursery sale.

We will be putting together planter gardens for this soon, so if you have any decorative pots (not clay) or know of

someone who has some they would like to donate that would be greatly appreciated.

Don Cheek – Updated us about the websites for the club, the info for our website on the CGCI website is up and running, we have received a few inquiries about our upcoming programs and we are also posting the newsletters on the California Garden Club, Inc., website.

We have a **Facebook Page – M.G.C.**

We have asked the Elsie Allen AG students to do the logo for us, and we should have something soon.

Bonnie – Is looking into getting name tags for all with magnetic backs once we get the logo approved. In addition, we are looking at business cards, aprons, t-shirts, bags and pens for the club.

COMPOST MATERIAL AVAILABLE:

Santa Rosa Treatment Ctr on Llano Rd is giving away free compost to all fire victims and also at a nominal price for everyone.

They are open 7AM-2PM weekdays; there seems to be no time limit for the giveaway. This is an ongoing perk that they offer.

FAIR THEME GARDEN -The fair flower show theme for 2019 is Country and Western music “Back to your Roots in your Cowboys Boots”. Our theme garden is “San Antonio Rose” by Bob Wills. So put your thinking caps on, as we will be asking for ideas in the coming weeks.

PENNY PINES UPDATE – The Penny Pines Committee consisting of: Chet Wilson, Chair, Jim Horst, and Patricia Kempton will collect donations at each meeting. The tree committee discussed giving the penny pines money to the various groups that are in charge of their burned areas landscaping eg. Larkfield, Glen Ellen. This would be easier

than trying to research and purchase individual trees and deliver them to the different areas. The Neighborhood Greening Project for Larkfield and Coffey Strong. It was motioned and passed to donate \$250 to each fund by July 2019.

Some items that might be of interest:

California Native Plant Society – Plant Sale
900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa.

UC Davis Plant Sale – Saturday, May 4th 1 Shields Ave, Davis, 95616

The Sonoma County Jail Plant Sale – Saturday, May 11th - 9 to Noon,
2254 Ordinance Rd, Windsor, CA 95492

LUTHER BURBANK GARDENS Mother’s Day Plant Sale & Chosen Spot Expo.
Sunday, May 12th – \$3 adults, kids under 12 free. 11:00-3:00

Compost available at the City of Santa Rosa Treatment facility

- 4301 Llano Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95407 Open from 7 AM to 2 PM Free to Fire Victims \$5.00 per yard to others. Check out their website for more info

<https://srcity.org/1102/WaterSmart-Compost> There is a one day give away of compost on Saturday, May 18th 8AM to 12 Noon

CRACKER BARREL AND BOARD MEETING HOSTS NEEDED: PLEASE LET BONNIE KNOW IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE FOR THESE:

MONTH	CRACKER BARREL	BOARD MEETING
MAY 14 / 28	QUARTERLY LUTHER BURBANK DISTRICT MTG	CHET WILSON
JUNE 11 / 25	JIM AND COLLEEN	DAVE AND LISE
JULY 9 / 23		SAM/RITA-TERRY/ROBERT JULY 23 RD – WEEK EARLY
AUGUST 27TH	NO MEETING	WAYNE AND ZEKE

SEPTEMBER 10 / 24		JIM AND COLLEEN
OCTOBER 8 / 29		PENNY AND JOHN
NOVEMBER 5 / 26		SHIRLEY AND HENNING
DECEMBER 10	CHRISTMAS POTLUCK	NO BOARD MEETING

Please check the Cracker Barrel and Board Meeting info and if the info is incorrect please let me know ASAP

GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY

The end of the spring rains means getting the irrigation system shaken out.

As you start to water your garden this month, use water-conserving methods such as watering in the early morning or evening, using slow irrigation methods such as drip or soaker hoses.

If you didn't trouble-shoot your irrigation system for cracks, leaks and clogs last month, do it now. Dirty filters can wreak havoc, especially if you are on a well. Clean out and replace. Flush out drip systems and make sure all emitters are working. Replace batteries on systems that use battery-operated controllers. Ensure that timers are working.

Continue to fertilize roses and other heavy feeders. If you have amended your soil with compost and are using an organic fertilizer, you do not need to do much else at this point.

Now that bloom is past, prune all of your Spring-flowering trees and shrubs – this will force growth and ensure a good bloom next Spring.

You can still plant/transplant, but watch the sun and heat: when transplanting young plants, use lightweight lawn furniture

propped up here and there to create shade for the plants as they get accustomed to their new location. Try to wait until fall for any big planting/transplanting projects, as your water use will be much less and your plants will fare better.

May is a windy month in most of the County – take care that new plantings, especially trees, are staked properly. Continue to feed your lawn. If the thatch layer is more than ¾" deep, de-thatch, as a deep thatch layer can slow or prevent water absorption. Aeration will relieve compaction and make water and air absorption easier. It is possible to have a beautiful, healthy lawn with minimal reliance on chemical fertilizers and insecticides and lower water use.

Deadhead your Azaleas and Rhododendrons once they've finished blooming. An estimated 70% of a Rhododendron's energy goes into the formation of seed. Use a whisk broom to lightly dislodge the dead blooms of Azaleas. Use pruners, or your two fingers to remove the spent flowers of the Rhododendrons and cut just above the two new leaflets.

The ground is still soft enough to make weed-pulling easy –keep it up and you will have fewer going to seed.

Sow hardy annuals in pots or directly in the garden. Use your bulb planter to dig a hole for those little 6-pack sized annuals. It makes the perfect size hole with just a couple of twists.

Give a little thought to the placement of your compost pile. It will do its best in an area where it will get a little afternoon shade. If you have the space, put the compost pile in an area where you want to plant the next season, and let that beautiful compost work its way into the soil and you'll get a running start on improving that area.

Containers, especially clay pots, tend to dry out and can be rather demanding for

water, particularly if they're in the full sun. So mulch them! You can add a layer of very small bark chips, gravel, decorative stones, or even composted material.

Stay vigilant about aphids – Spring is the worst time for aphids in Sonoma County gardens – the hot Summer weather drives them away. Use insecticidal soap or spray with water from the garden hose as necessary. Wash off spittlebugs.

May is one of the best months to be out in the garden in Sonoma County, before it gets hot. Don't forget to rest in between your chores and simply enjoy the plants and the wildlife.

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6 Great Perennials for Shade

By David Beaulieu

Shady spots are sometimes considered problem areas where beautiful plants cannot grow. In reality, though, there are some wonderful plants for shade, some grown mostly for their lovely leaves, but others that have surprisingly dramatic blooms. These 12 suggested perennial plants will help transform your shaded spot from a problem area to a location you are proud of. All of these perennials can handle cold temperatures.

In addition to these perennials, also consider annuals and some great biennials, such as foxglove (*digitalis*) for the shade garden.



LENTEN ROSE (HELLEBORUS ORIENTALIS)

Sometimes you get lucky and have pretty flowers and nice foliage on the same plant. Such is the case for Lenten rose (*Helleborus orientalis*). The blooms on lenten rose begin with a lovely

bud that resembles a rosebud, which later opens into a flower that will remain through the summer heat.

After the spring color fades, lenten rose continues to add visual appeal through intense, leathery dark-green leaves that retain their beauty throughout the summer.



BLEEDING HEART (DICENTRA)

The common bleeding heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*) is a well-known classic, but there is no need to stop there. Other types of *Dicentra* are worth planting in your landscaping:

Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)

Fringed bleeding hearts (*Dicentra eximia*)

If you are seeking attractive leaves to go along with the interesting blooms, fringed bleeding hearts are a great choice. But *D. spectabilis* "Gold Heart" may turn the most heads with its leaves, which have a bright golden color.



JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT (ARISAEMA TRIPHYLLUM)

Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) is sure to inspire you if you like plants that are a bit out of the ordinary. It is a woodland plant in many areas of North America, so it is a no-brainer for woodland gardens.

This perennial for shade certainly is not grown for its flowers. But Jack-in-the-pulpit rewards those willing to forgive its lack of showy flowers with a brightly-colored bunch of red berries.



BUNCHBERRY (CORNUS CANADENSIS)

Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) is another native plant of North America. It is in the same genus as the dogwood trees, but do not let that fool you. This is a tiny plant, essentially a wildflower. As the name implies, it also features bright red berries in fall.

Bunchberry is ideal for dappled shade and works well in naturalized areas and along shaded walkways.



SPOTTED DEADNETTLE (LAMIUM MACULATUM)

Although the name deadnettle might bring to mind other types of weedy nettles that cause skin irritation, spotted dead nettle (*Lamium maculatum*) is actually a very nice landscape plant that offers color both through its foliage and its flowers. The popular cultivar, *L. maculatum* Purple Dragon, has vibrant purple blooms.

Like other plants with silver foliage, this ground cover can help brighten shady areas and make them seem less gloomy. Be aware that deadnettle can spread aggressively, so plant it only in an area where you seek a true groundcover.

There are some similar perennials related to Purple Dragon deadnettle. One you may wish to avoid is the yellow archangel. It is a lovely plant but tends to be invasive.



HOSTA

Hosta is an obvious choice in picking the best perennials for shade, as long as you can appreciate what foliage plants bring to your landscaping. The list of hosta cultivars that can serve both as specimen plants and groundcovers for shady areas is practically endless. One type of hosta recommended to dress up a shady spot is Halcyon hosta.

Although hostas are known as shade plants, there are some exceptions. Cultivars with golden leaves, for example, need some sunlight to achieve their splendid color.

LOCAL EVENTS - SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

HANDS ON CHEESEMAKING CLASSES

EVERY FRIDAY THROUGH OCTOBER 1:00PM TO 3:00PM

THE EPICUREAN CONNECTION PRESENTS HANDS-ON CHEESEMAKING CLASSES WITH THEIR AWARD-WINNING CHEESEMAKING TEAM. CLASSES ARE HELD ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH...

California Welcome Center

MAY 21ST 5 TO 7 PM Please join us for a short-guided walking tour of Railroad Square and the West End – focusing on history (1890 to 1930) and buildings.

We'll start the tour at 5:00 pm and should be done by 6:30-7:00 pm. Feel free to invite other folks that will enjoy the excursion. Meet at Welcome Ctr at Railroad Square (SMART Train Stop)

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT LOCAL THINGS TO DO GO TO THE WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://WWW.SONOMACOUNTY.COM/SONOMA-EVENT](https://www.sonomacounty.com/sonoma-event)

California Garden Clubs

If anyone is interested in what is happening with other California Garden Clubs you can access the monthly newsletter at:

<http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/Newsletters/GoldenGardens/GG2019May.pdf>

Or go to the website for California Garden Clubs to see more information at:

<http://californiagardenclubs.com>

If anyone is interested in what is happening with other Garden Clubs around the country you can access the website at:

<http://www.gardenclub.org>