



# Beyond the Garden Gate Elk Grove Garden Club

Volume 18, Issue 9, May 2026

## A Message from our Co-Presidents

Ana Weekley

I was hoping against hope that it would not rain, but when I got up at 5am I could see that it was going to be a wet one. Rain or not, we had a wonderfully successful garden club plant sale, and I couldn't be more proud of every single one of you.

Everyone contributed their grain of sand, and it was so rewarding to see what we accomplished together. My main concern leading up to the day was, "Is anyone actually going to leave their warm home?!" But true gardeners are not put off by a little weather, and come you did. We all got wet, and it was absolutely great.

I could not close this letter without offering our most heartfelt thank you to Vivian for all of her hard work and for so generously allowing us to use her home. And of course, we were treated to wonderful food, a warm thank you to all the cooks who kept us fed and happy through the drizzle.

We also enjoyed a beautiful presentation on Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging. Every time I have visited Japan, I have found myself standing in front of the most breathtaking arrangements, thinking with great confidence, "Oh, I can do that." That is, until I actually tried and ended up with several sorry-looking twigs pointing in completely different directions. It was a very humbling "Oh no, I absolutely cannot" moment. It most definitely takes a special eye, and we were lucky to witness a master at work.

Thank you all for making this such a memorable month.

Have a flowering May!

Ana



**Thursday, May 14**

10am – social

10:30am – meeting begins

Gil Albiani Recreation Center

8830 Sharkey Ave.

**May Speaker**

Julia Oldfield, Owner & grower at Big Oak Nursery  
Garden Highlights: Today's Blooming Beauties

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**Refreshment Committee**

**May** – Tami Leise, team leader - Inge Biggs, Linda Brett, Gina Kan, Karen Lewis, Brenda Price, Vivian Sellers and Mary Lee Trimmer.

**June** – Potluck Picnic at the home of Gayle Martin, hostess. Sign-up sheet for help with food will be at the May meeting.

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## May Speaker

Julia Oldfield, owner and grower at Big Oak Nursery  
Today's Blooming Beauties - Join us as we view the plants that are putting on their best show right now. We will explore seasonal blooms, learn a few facts, and get inspired to bring more beauty into your own garden.



###

## May Field Trips

**Lichtenberger Park Rose Garden** – Thursday, May 14, at the conclusion of the monthly meeting. The garden is located in Lichtenberger Park. Use the address 6508 Lennox in your GPS. You can see the rose garden from there.



**Home Vineyard and Winery Tour** – Thursday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m.

Nancy Baldwin will be taking club members for a walk through their vineyard followed by an explanation of their home winemaking process and a tour of their winery. Discover how home winemaking differs from commercial-scale winemaking. Following the tour, there will be a tasting of some of their wines. Meet at Nancy's farm at 10:00. Parking is available, and carpooling is encouraged.



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## May Birthdays



|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Susan Hernandez | 5/1  |
| Ellison Cowles  | 5/8  |
| Anne Padilla    | 5/11 |
| Rita Montez     | 5/20 |
| Nancy Baldwin   | 5/25 |
| Kathy Howard    | 5/29 |



**Lily of the valley** (*Convallaria majalis*) is a dainty perennial plant native to the cool regions. We can grow in a shady area. Characterized by its bell-shaped, white flowers that hang delicately from slender stems, this plant exudes a sweet, intoxicating fragrance that heralds the arrival of spring.

**The hawthorn** (*Crataegus*) is a deciduous shrub or small tree that belongs to the rose family (*Rosaceae*). Known for its clusters of fragrant white or pink flowers and thorny branches, the hawthorn is commonly found in and around hedgerows, woodlands, and gardens.

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## Help in the Rose Garden

Come and Smell the Roses!

Like roses? Want to learn more about how to grow roses? Come and help in the Lichtenberger Rose Garden on Wednesdays at 9am. All you need is gloves, pruner and a bucket.

The Rose Garden is in need of helpers. Interested? Contact Mary Anne Strohmaier at 209-747-8330.



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## April Plant Sale was a Success!



Despite the drizzly weather, our plant sale was a great success. Customers arrived steadily throughout the day - gardeners are tough and not afraid to get wet! We couldn't have done it without our club members who grew the huge variety of plants we had to offer and without the volunteers who helped during our preparations, on our Friday work day and all day on the Saturday sale day. A big thanks to everyone who participated.

And a **special thank you** to the following businesses for their donations to our Plant Sale:

- Big Oak Nursery
- Green Acres Garden & Supply
- Nugget Market
- Trader Joe's

All plants left over from the plant sale were donated to the David Lubin Elementary School fundraiser plant sale in conjunction with the East Sac Garden Tour on May 9.

**Special Note:** Jan Fetler posted photos of the plant sale on her Facebook page. She made them public so people who aren't her "friends" on Facebook can see them.

<https://www.facebook.com/jan.fetler/>



## Dues are Due!!

May and June are the months that our dues are collected for the following year. Early collection helps the board on the local, district and state level to plan for the following year.

I will be receiving dues at the May and June meetings. The amount is the same- \$25.00. If you prefer to mail your dues, please send the checks (not cash) to my home address

Susan Muckey  
10324 Spiva Road  
Sacramento, CA 95829

All cash payments should be placed in an envelope with your name on.

Thanks-Susan

Do Be Do Be DO  
Gentle Reminder:  
Dues DUE

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## Recipe Corner

Karen Lewis shared her recipe for the Rosemary-Lemon Cookies she shared at the MorningSun Herb Farm Field Trip. They are delicious...

### Karen's Rosemary-Lemon Sandwich Cookies

**Prep:** 30 min. **Bake:** 8 min. per batch **Cool:** 1 minute per batch **Oven:** 400°

1 cup butter, softened  
¾ cup (150 g.)  
2 tsp. snipped fresh rosemary  
2 tsp. finely shredded lemon peel  
½ tsp. baking powder  
¼ tsp. salt  
1 tsp. vanilla  
2 ¼ (281 g.) flour  
½ cup lemon curd  
½ cup mascarpone cheese  
1 TBSP. powdered sugar (optional)

**Preheat oven to 400°.** Line cookie sheets with parchment paper and set aside.

In large bowl, beat butter with electric mixer on medium speed for 30 seconds. Add sugar, rosemary, lemon peel, baking powder and salt. Beat until combined, scraping side of bowl occasionally. Beat in vanilla. Beat in as much of the flour as you can with mixer. Using a wooden spoon, stir in any remaining flour.

Shape dough into 1 inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on prepared cookie sheets. With bottom of glass dipped in granulated sugar, flatten each ball to ½ inch thickness. Cool on cookie sheets for 1 minute. Transfer to wire rack to cool.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl combine lemon curd and mascarpone cheese. Spread on bottom sides of half of cookies. Top with remaining cookies, bottom side down to make sandwiches. If desired, sprinkle with powdered sugar. **Makes about 20 cookies.**

To store: Layer sandwich cookies between sheets of waxed paper in an airtight container; cover. Store in the refrigerator for up to 24 hours. Let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes before serving.



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## May Garden Checklist ~ ~ ~ ~

By Jan Fetler

- Develop a garden watering plan.
- Water early in the day or later at night to increase water available to plants and avoid evaporation.
- Plant vegetable seeds outdoors: chard, cucumbers, melons, summer and winter squash, pumpkins, beans, corn, etc.
- Plant eggplant, pepper and tomato seedlings.
- Citrus fruit drop is normal in May through June.
- Continue thinning fruit on fruit trees, grape shoots and grape clusters.
- Support fruit tree branches to help prevent breakage.
- Start fruit tree summer pruning in late May.



- Paint exposed fruit tree branches to prevent sunburn. Use a mix of half light-colored interior latex paint and half water.
- Harvest blueberries in May through July; wait 1 week after they turn blue to increase sweetness.
- Adjust your lawn mower to keep grass tall. Tall grass needs less water.
- Remove dead flowers to get more blooms on flowering plants, including roses.
- Limit pests and diseases: citrus leafminer, leafhoppers, fire blight and powdery mildew.

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## Calendar Upcoming Events

**May 9** (Sat.) 9am till Noon  
**Master Gardeners Open Garden**  
 Fair Oaks Horticulture Center  
 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks  
<https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/?calitem=604924>

**May 9** (Sat.) 9am till 3pm  
**Chrysanthemum Plant Sale**  
 Sacramento Garden & Arts Center  
 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

**May 9/10** (Sat. & Sun.) 9am till 3pm  
**East Sac Garden Tour**  
 David Lubin Elementary Fundraiser  
 Tickets now on sale  
<https://www.eastsacgardentour.com>

**June 6/7** (Sat. & Sun.) 10 am till 3pm  
**Bromeliad Show & Sale**  
 Sacramento Garden & Arts Center  
 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

**June 13** (Sat.) 9am till Noon  
**Master Gardeners Open Garden**  
 Fair Oaks Horticulture Center  
 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks  
<https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/?calitem=604924>

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## ***Sacramento River Valley District Meetings***

Meetings held at the Shepard Garden Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento Open to all members. Cost is \$15.00 for meeting which includes lunch. A clipboard will be passed around at meeting for those who are interested in attending SRVD meeting.

**May 19, 2026** – Laura Halpenny, Landscape Designer – “From Blah to Fabulous”.

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### ***Elk Grove Garden Club Leaders***

Co-Presidents – Ana Weekley and Juana Zamora

Vice-President – Marilyn Peterson

Secretary – Mary Lou Lange

Treasurer – Susan Muckey

<https://www.elkgrovegardenclub.org/>

**Elk Grove Garden Club is a member of:**

Sacramento River Valley District

California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

National Garden Clubs Inc.

### ***The Newsletter Team***

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Ana Weekley, Juana Zamora, Karen Lewis, Nancy Baldwin, Susan Muckey and Jan Fetler.