



Beyond the Garden Gate

Elk Grove Garden Club

www.elkgrovegardenclub.org

May 2022 Vol. 14 Issue 9

Monthly Meeting

May 12, 2022
Gil Albani Recreation Center
8830 Sharkey Ave. Elk Grove
Meeting 10:30 am
Coffee and social 10:00 am

May Program

Growing Cut Flowers and Herbs
w/o Breaking the Irrigation Bank -
Maria Schiffler and Julie Sutphin.
Wholehearted Blooms, Inc.

Acting President's Message

Mary Adams-Wiley

The week beginning April 17 was an unusual one indeed. That Sunday I was the Vice President of our club to serve through the June meeting, but with Linda Rivera's resignation Monday evening suddenly I had a new title, Acting President. I hope you all saw Linda's email shortly after that time. Having had a difficult few days I was delighted to wrap up the week on Saturday with friends from Oakdale and Sacramento enjoying a wonderful garden tour sponsored by the River Park Garden Club in Sacramento that included the home of one of our mutual friends. We could hardly believe that our tickets were only \$5, we saw some great gardens, and if you wish to view the biggest and most spectacular garden and outdoor entertainment center, go to EGGC's Facebook Page and check out my post. While you are there, how about posting photos of what is blooming in your garden this Spring?

I was quite surprised to have the opportunity to network with officers of the sponsoring club plus the Sacramento Perennial Plant Club that had 2 big tables of plants for sale. It was fun meeting the gardeners who actually propagated all those plants. This was River Park's second garden tour, and I hope they do it again next year. Perhaps our club will be interested in carpooling to their neighborhood in the Spring of 2023. The photo shows the garden art made from various sizes and kinds of plates all done by one individual who was there selling her goods.



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Mary Willis	5/27
Tenley Willock	5/27

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Everything You Need to Know about the EGGC Meeting, Thursday, May 12

Growing Cut Flowers and Herbs without Breaking the Irrigation Bank

The featured presenters are **Julie Sutphin and Maria Schiffler** of Wholehearted Blooms, Inc. Their topic is Growing Cut Flowers and Herbs without Breaking the Irrigation Bank. We will not only learn about water wise flowers and herbs for the garden, but also the best time to harvest, and how to create a long-lasting flower arrangement.

Julie is the founder of Wholehearted Blooms, Inc., a Sacramento based boutique urban flower farm specializing in growing and selling local seasonal flowers.

While in treatment for breast cancer, Julie's love of gardening led her back to school to pursue a degree in horticulture. During this process she was hired as a Horticultural Assistant at American River College. It was there that she decided to follow her passion of growing flowers. The growing and sharing of flowers is what continues to help her heal from the trauma and loss of cancer.

Julie and Maria met through the Sacramento County Master Gardener Program as volunteers teaching the public how to garden. Their love of flowers and herbs forged a friendship that eventually led to Maria's involvement on the farm.

After 24 years of working in an office setting, Maria decided to leave the corporate world to follow her passion of growing herbs, teaching classes and connecting with nature. Maria is the floriculture assistant on the farm. Her specialty is seed sowing, propagation, transplanting and harvesting.

They will have a plant sale with prices ranging from \$3 to \$10 for a variety of herbs, flower bouquets, and sunflower seed mix.

Payment method is cash only. Don't forget to go to the ATM. The sunflower seeds are a mix of 5 different varieties of sunflowers that are pollenless (perfect for a flower arrangement) with a variety of unusual colors. Also see the flyer appended to the cover email.

Quote for this month:

"I'm not sure how many plants it takes to be happy, but so far it is not 57."

Following a brief break, the meeting will continue with a business session including an update on CSD activities by **Steve Sims**, Director of Parks and Neighborhood Services. He has been with the CSD for 16 years and has spent over 32 years in the Park Operations profession. He is a certified Arborist, Pest Control Advisor, Certified Parks and Recreation Professional, and has a BS in Public Administration. When he is not overseeing our vast park system he enjoys being in the outdoors fishing, boating, camping and of course gardening. His favorite gardening activity is caring for the ten varieties of roses he has in his backyard.



Casual Tea with Proper Head Gear

Everyone, please wear a gardening hat, baseball cap, or similar head attire to go along with our food theme of a Casual Tea. Those who want to may compete in the Decorated Garden Hat (or Cap) Contest to earn prizes of Green Acres Nursery gift cards for first, second, and third place. Judging will be by the entire club through a secret ballot. There will be no rules or guidelines to get in the way of your creativity or our fun.



Are you bringing a guest to the May 12 meeting?

It really helps when the Membership Committee has the names of all expected guests ahead of time. If you have invited someone please email Mary – adamswiley@me.com by Tuesday, May 10. Better yet, stop right now and just do it.



VOTE !

May is election month. The candidates for the 2022-23 year are:

President – Mary Adams-Wiley
Vice-President – Susan Muckey
Secretary – Christine Burnett
Treasurer – Scott Nicholas



Tips and Techniques

Vivian Sellers will provide all the information needed to propagate succulents for the project with CSD at the Pumpkin Festival in October. She even knows where to go to get free succulents should you not have them in your garden.



Botanical Arts and Crafts

This group, in part due to covid restrictions, has not been active in recent months. Donna Williams, the group leader, has volunteered to restart the group by scheduling a meeting in her home soon. She invites all members to consider attending in order to be part of the rejuvenation process and share ideas on how to operate in the 2022-23 year. To be added to the email list, please contact Donna at gma9933@hotmail.com or speak with her at the coming meeting. In the past the mission has been to work independently using media of the artist's choice to develop individual projects, and determine how they are shared. This is not intended to be a teaching group.

Dues are due for 2022-23 – Still only \$25

According to Article V, Section 1 of our bylaws, "Income shall ordinarily be from annual dues and will be payable on or before the June meeting for the following fiscal year. The fiscal year shall begin July 1 and end June 30. You have a choice: pay now (May Meeting) for the "before" option or pay at the June 9 meeting if you select the "on" option.



Carpool trip to the Estate Gardens, Empire Mine State Historic Park, Grass Valley leaves from Burlington Coat Factory, 9175 E Stockton Blvd, May 16 at 8:30 am sharp.

If you haven't signed up yet, you still can do so by giving Mary Anne Strohmaier a \$10 check or cash for the entrance fee at the meeting. The \$15 for the driver should be paid before departure.

District Meeting – Tuesday, May 17, 9:30 am–1 pm at the Shepard Garden Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento. Speaker is Yasmin Spiegel, Ikebana Master. RSVP by May 10, \$15 fee includes lunch, pay at the door. Vivian Sellers will take our 30 unusual plants for their plant sale.

June 9 Endless Pizza Party at Chicago Fire Pizza

Buy your tickets at the meeting for \$20 cash or check if you are doing the Pizza option that includes 3 kinds of pizza, 2 kinds of salad, soft drinks, water and iced tea. If you prefer to order off the menu to have a salad, sandwich or pasta dish, do not pay in advance, but do sign up so you have a place at the table! Servers will take your order during the 10-10:30 am social time, and you will pay them directly for your meal, drink, tip, and tax.

Other Meetings and Events

Horton Iris Garden – Through the month of May on Friday–Monday, 10 am–5 pm, 7440 King Rd, Loomis. See and select from over 1200 iris varieties. For more info: <http://hortonirsgarden.com/>

Master Gardeners Open Garden – Saturday, May 14, 9 am-noon, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks. <https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/?calitem=521773>

Master Gardeners Open Garden – Wednesday Evening, May 18, 4-7 pm, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks. <https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/?calitem=522008>

Sacramento Fuchsia Society Show and Sale – Saturday, June 4, 10am-4 pm, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento. Many heat tolerant varieties for sale, member plants on exhibit, and helpful advisors.

Master Gardeners Open Garden – Saturday, June 18, 9 am-noon, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks. <https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/?calitem=521777>

Sacramento Bromeliad & Carnivorous Plant Society 52nd Annual Plant Show & Sale – Saturday & Sunday, June 18 & 19, 9 am-4 pm, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento. Bromeliad, Sundew, Butterwort, Tillandsia, Pitcher Plants & many more.



New Book Club

The first book discussion is scheduled at 10:30 am on Tuesday, June 7 at Cafe Elk Grove District 56, 8230 Civic Center Dr, Elk Grove. The book is **The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate**, by Peter Wohlleben. Are trees social beings? The author convincingly makes the case that, yes, the forest is a social network. He draws on groundbreaking scientific discoveries to describe how trees are like human families: tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, support them as they grow, share nutrients with those who are sick or struggling, and even warn each other of impending dangers. Wohlleben also shares his deep love of woods and forests, explaining the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration that he has observed in his woodland.

Peter Wohlleben spent over twenty years working for the forestry commission in Germany before leaving to put his ideas of ecology into practice. He now runs an environmentally-friendly woodland in Germany, where he is working for the return of primeval forests. He is the author of numerous books about the natural world.

A New York Times, Washington Post, and Wall Street Journal Bestseller. . . . After reading this book, a walk in the woods will never be the same again. Named one of the best books of the year by Brainpickings, honorable mention; SEJ Rachel Carson Environment Book Award; shortlisted: Audible International Book of the Year Award; Books for a Better Life Award; Indie Choice Award–Nonfiction Book of the Year.

What's Up with the Pollinator Plants Garden at the Nicolaus Dairy? – Five Photos Tell the Story



Master Gardener and candidate for VP of EGGC, Susan Muckey, leads the Pollinator Plant Group. Life is good in the boxes thanks to a bit of renovating to control thug-like behavior of certain plants that are aggressively trying to take over their neighbor's territory. Susan can spot a 1" high sprig of mint from 5' feet away.

TIP

Listen to Libby While you Garden

Submitted by Mary Adams-Wiley

If you are a person who loves to hold a book in your hands and turn pages, this article possibly isn't for you, but take a look anyway. Libby is a service through our Sacramento County Library System that operates somewhat like Audible but it is **free**, and you can get our book selection for June, **the Hidden Life of Trees** on Libby. I know this because I just borrowed it for 3 weeks. Download the App from the App Store. Look for "Libby, by OverDrive", find a book, put your headphones or AirPods on, and be ready to listen while you garden. You will likely find yourself pulling more weeds, deadheading more flowers, and looking for plants to feed because you don't want to stop listening to your book, especially if it is a beautiful Spring day. Don't forget your gardening hat and sunscreen. Most sunscreens last for only 2 hours, but some of us find that's how long our energy lasts too.

If you need to do a Green Acres or Home Depot run, well just hop in the car and keep listening. Should you feel you might need help getting started, take your smart phone to the library and have a librarian download the app for you and tell you in detail what to expect. You must have a library card, but I'll bet you all do. BTW Librarians can often answer computer questions too so keep that in mind. The Information Librarian of long ago has been replaced with a Technology Librarian

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Links to Like

Interesting article dated May 2: Millions of Bees were Dying on a Tarmac. Local beekeepers ran to help.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2022/05/02/atlanta-beekeepers-honeybees-delta-stranded/>

10 Common Tomato Plant Diseases to Watch Out for This Summer

<https://www.bhg.com/gardening/vegetable/vegetables/tomato-plant-diseases/?did=775501-20220504&fh=>

New Cascade Blueberry Bushes Are Perfect for Hanging Baskets and Small Gardens

https://www.bhg.com/gardening/vegetable/fruit/blueberry-for-hanging-baskets/?did=775501-20220504&cmp=bhgdailyinspiration_050422&utm_campaign=bhg-daily-inspiration_newsletter&utm_source=bhg.com&utm_medium=email&utm_content=050422&cid=775501&mid=86404349230&lctg=142061572

How to Plant a Beautiful Container Garden in 6 Easy Steps

https://www.bhg.com/gardening/container/basics/how-to-plant-a-container-garden/?did=775501-20220504&cmp=bhgdailyinspiration_050422&utm_campaign=bhg-daily-inspiration_newsletter&utm_source=bhg.com&utm_medium=email&utm_content=050422&cid=775501&mid=86404349230&lctg=142061572

If you have trouble opening any of the links, just cut and paste them into your browser.



Chris Duane's front yard a couple of weeks ago. She has BIG ideas.

We invite you to share pictures of whatever is unique or special in your garden. Call your President, and she will send out a club photographer or snap the photos herself.

The Last Words

Post on Facebook. Wear a hat at the May meeting. Send items to Silvia Boggs or Olinda Cortez, by May 27 for the June Newsletter.

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