



## Beyond the Garden Gate Elk Grove Garden Club

**2023 Winner of the Mayor's Volunteer Award**

**[www.elkgrovegardenclub.org](http://www.elkgrovegardenclub.org) May 2024 Vol 16 Issue 9**

*Tenley Willock, Editor*

*Mary Adams-Wiley, Assistant Editor*

**Meeting May 9th at the Gil Albiani Recreation Center, 8830 Sharkey Ave, Elk Grove. Complimentary brunch is served at 10 am and the meeting is at 10:30. **Bring your cans and ribbons for the Petal Connection as May will be the last time we collect until September.****

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### ***May Meeting Topic — Garden Trends, by Debbie Arrington***



An award-winning journalist and lifelong gardener, Debbie is one of Sacramento's best-known gardening experts. As the Sacramento Bee's home and garden writer, she covered those subjects extensively for almost 10 years as well as entertainment, food, sports, and *other topics*.

The Garden Writers Association honored Debbie with the 2018 National Silver Award for best newspaper article and 2018 Gold Award -- the top national honor -- as best newspaper garden writer. She also won the 2015 GWA Silver Award for best newspaper garden column.

Before becoming a garden columnist in October 2008, she covered a wide range of sports for The Bee from big wave surfing and horse racing to women's basketball and NASCAR. A Southern California native, Debbie worked for the Long Beach Press-Telegram and its sister Knight-Ridder newspapers for 20 years before moving to Sacramento in 1999.

A longtime member of the Sacramento Rose Society, she is a consulting rosarian and has won numerous awards for her roses. She still gardens at both ends of the state. In June, Debbie launched a new blog and gardening website for the Sacramento gardening community: SacDigsGardening. Find it on Facebook under "Sacramento Digs Gardening,"

### ***Message from the Co-Presidents***

Maureen Slocum and Mary Anne Strohmaier

We can hardly believe it is May already. We are grateful for the rain we received this year, which helped fill our lakes and reservoirs, providing much-needed relief from the drought. Spring is in full swing. The spring growth and blooms are breathtakingly beautiful. Stop and smell the roses!

Our club members deserve a special mention for their hard work in making our Spring Plant Sale an enormous success. The knowledge and experience of our club members played a crucial role. Members are indeed the key to success and the backbone of the club. Such a big undertaking requires a village to accomplish. We are grateful for every member who played a part in making it happen. We are proud to have such an incredible group of people in the Elk Grove Garden Club!



### *Happy Birthday!*

Claudia Horn 5/3  
Tammy Rominger 5/4  
Ellison Cowels 5/8  
Bonnie Mischo-Allinger 5/19  
Rita Montez 5/20  
Nancy Baldwin 5/25  
Tenley Willock 5/27  
Joanie Freedman 5/31

*“Sweet May hath come to love us,  
Flowers, trees, their blossoms don;  
And through the blue heavens above us  
The very clouds move on.”*

-Heinrich Hein, Book of Songs

**May birth flowers** Well-known for its bell-shaped white flower heads, Lily of the Valley is often used in wedding bouquets. Another May birth flower is the Hawthorn. It's a small, unique pink or white flower, and the Hawthorn's berries are sometimes used as fillers in bouquets.



*Don't Forget Facebook!*

Check out the great photos of both the recent field trip and the last meeting that have been posted on Facebook. If you need help signing up for the EGGC Facebook page or have questions, contact Maria Schiffler.

### **Reminder** **Elk Grove Garden Club Dues**

It is time to collect the annual dues of just \$25 for the 2024-25 year. Please mail your checks to Elk Grove Garden Club, P. O. Box 385, Elk Grove, CA 95759 or put your checks or cash in an envelope with your name on the outside, and bring them to the May or June meetings. All checks should be payable to the Elk Grove Garden Club.

## **UC Master Gardeners Gardening Guide and Calendar "Into the Wild"**

Vivian Sellers will bring the GG&C to the May meeting for those of you who wish to purchase it. This is the garden guide that Colleen, our April speaker, talked about with information on native plants. The price is \$12 cash or check.

### **Sacramento Valley District (SRVD) Meeting – Tuesday, May 14**

The presenter is Tora Rocha, Cofounder of Pollinator Posse, a non-profit established in Oakland in 2013 around the issue of pollinator survival in an urban setting. It does education, outreach partnerships, and landscape design for pollinators. Tora was the Parks Supervisor for the City of Oakland for many years. She planted 12,000 pollinator-friendly plants at Lake Merritt and put in AirBeeNBee Houses in the gardens there.

We will meet at Burlington Coat Factory at 8:15 am. There is a \$15 charge that includes lunch. The following people have signed up to attend: Maria Schiffler, Vivian Sellers, Maureen Slocum, Mary Anne Strohmaier, and Ana Weekley. If you wish to attend or if you signed up earlier but now find you are not available, please let Maureen know by May 7 as she must send in the lunch count a week prior to the meeting.

### **May Gardening Activities**

It is summer vegetable planting time. Get those tomatoes – and peppers, eggplant, squash, melons, etc. – in the ground. Don't forget to water. Our forecast is not only warm, it's dry. Seedlings need moisture. Deep watering will help build strong roots and healthy plants.

\* When setting out tomato seedlings, pinch off any flowers on new transplants to make them concentrate on establishing roots instead of setting premature fruit.

\* Direct-seed melons, cucumbers, summer squash, corn, radishes, pumpkins and annual herbs such as basil.

\* In the flower garden, direct-seed sunflowers, cosmos, salvia, zinnias, marigolds, celosia and asters. You also can transplant seedlings for many of the same flowers.

\* Plant dahlia tubers. Other perennials to set out include verbena, coreopsis, coneflower and astilbe.

\* Transplant petunias, marigolds and perennial flowers such as astilbe, columbine, coneflowers, coreopsis, dahlias, rudbeckia and verbena.

\* Keep an eye out for slugs, snails, earwigs and aphids that want to dine on tender new growth.

\* Feed summer bloomers with a balanced fertilizer.

\* For continued bloom, cut off spent flowers on roses as well as other flowering plants.

\* Put your veggie garden on a regular diet. Set up a monthly feeding program, and keep track on your calendar. Make sure to water your garden before applying any fertilizer to prevent "burning" your plants.

\* As spring-flowering shrubs finish blooming, give them a little pruning to shape them, removing old and dead wood. Lightly trim azaleas, fuchsias and marguerites for bushier plants.

\* Run the sprinklers early in the morning – before 8 a.m. if possible – to conserve water and minimize plant diseases.

## **Upcoming Events**

We thank Jan Fetler of the Gardeners of the Grove for sharing listings.

### ~~~~~ Garden Tours ~~~~~

**May 5** (Sunday) Noon till 5p, **Pence Gallery Garden Tour, a Davis-wide self-guided tour**, Pence Gallery, Davis. \$25 for members, \$30 non-members or limited number of \$35 day of event tickets <https://pencegallery.org/events/garden-tour/>

**May 5** (Sunday) 10a till 2p, **Colonial Heights Garden Tour**, \$10 Tickets (w/digital program) \$12 Tickets (w/printed program) will include walking map of gardens, virtual program, and access to all vendors and guest speakers. Purchase ahead of time on Eventbrite! <https://www.colonial-heights.org/events-1/2024-colonial-heights-garden-tour>

**May 11/12** (Saturday/Sunday) 10a till 4p Saturday & 11a till 4p Sunday, **East Sac Garden Tour**, Benefits the David Lubin Elementary School; \$25 tickets can be purchased online and \$29 wine garden tickets <https://www.eastsacgardentour.com/>

**May 18** (Saturday) 10a till 3p **Tahoe Park Garden Tour**, \$10 tickets available online <https://www.tahoeParkgardentour.com/>

### ~~~~~ Other Events ~~~~~

**May 11** (Saturday) 9a till Noon, **May Open Garden**, Sacramento Master Gardeners Fair Oaks Horticulture Center <https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/?calitem=572620>

**May 11** (Saturday) 9a till 1p, **Clearance Plant Sale**, UC Davis Arboretum, <https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant-sales>

**June 6** (Thursday Evening) 4p till 7p, **Thursday Evening Open Garden**, Sacramento Master Gardeners, Fair Oaks Horticulture Center <https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/?calitem=572622>

**June 15** (Saturday) 9a till Noon, **June Open Garden**, Sacramento Master Gardeners Fair Oaks Horticulture Center <https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/?calitem=572623>

**August 3** (Saturday) 8a till 2p, **Harvest Day**, Sacramento Master Gardeners Fair Oaks Horticulture Center; details coming soon