



# Beyond the Garden Gate

## Elk Grove Garden Club

www.elkgrovegardenclub.org

March 2023 Vol. 15 Issue 7

### Monthly Meeting

March 9, 2023

Gil Albani Recreation Center  
8830 Sharkey Avenue, Elk Grove  
Continental Breakfast 10 am  
Meeting 10:30 am

### Bring your cans and ribbons for the Petal Connection.

See page 4 for details.



Cathy Jow	3/8
Susan Muckey	3/8
Donna Williams	3/13
Kris Schoeller	3/14
Silvia Boggs	3/29



### Next Book Club Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, at 10:30 am

See page 4 for a review of

**The Indigo Girl** by Natasha Boyd.

### Editors:

Silvia Boggs  
Olinda Cortez



### Our March Meeting will feature two familiar faces- Master Gardeners Vivian Sellers and Jan Fetler.

They will give a presentation on helpful hints and suggestions to make gardening easier.

Vivian Sellers has been gardening “forever.” She has a picture of herself watering her grandmother’s vegetable garden with an aluminum tea kettle when she was about 5 (she still waters with that same tea kettle).

She became a Master Gardener in 2013, working at the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center with the Compost and Herb groups. She was President of the Elk Grove Garden Club from 2014-2016.

Jan Fetler has been a Master Gardener since 2011. We see her photographs in the Gardening Guide and Calendar and on Facebook. She also manages the Master Gardener Website. With a small orchard and an ample vegetable garden, Jan has earned the self-proclaimed “Jam Queen” title. In 2018 she added another certification to her badge when she joined the UCCE Master Food Preserver program.



Join us to hear how Vivian and Jan simplify gardening chores and keep your body happy.



### We will also hear from Mackenzie Wieser

Mackenzie Wieser has been CEO of Splash since 2019. Splash is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping local children understand and value their natural world through science education and outdoor exploration.

Mackenzie will speak to us about the educational programs offered at the Nicolaus Dairy Farm and its plans for future projects.

For the last few years the Elk Grove Garden Club has partnered with Splash and the Nicolaus Dairy Farm, developing and maintaining 2 dahlia beds and 2 pollinator beds. We look forward to all of the upcoming changes as the project continues to thrive and grow.



## Amazing Tour of the Elk Grove Food Bank Services

By Maria Schiffler

Last month 14 members toured the Elk Grove Food Bank Services facility and brought donations. It was an amazing tour lead by Valerie Erwin, Community Outreach Manager of the Food Bank.

Valerie walked us through the different operations of the Food Bank - from accepting donations to distributing food - and everything in between. Our last stop was Cathy's Clothes Closet and the Children's Bookstore, which is also located at the Food Bank.

Here are some interesting facts about the Food Bank:

- The Food Bank has been serving the community since 1974.
- They serve approximately 8,200 people each month.
- Area they cover: Elk Grove region, South Sacramento, and surrounding areas of South County.
- 94% of every dollar donated to the Food Bank goes directly to programs and services.
- Every \$1 provides up to 4 meals.
- In 2020, they distributed over 1.1 million meals.

The Food Bank provides the following services:

- Emergency food distribution
- USDA Food and Commodity Supplemental Food Program for Seniors (CSFP)
- Mobile food distribution to senior sites
- Mobile food distribution to subsidized housing sites for families
- Mobile food distribution to migrant farm workers
- Wellness bag delivery to people who are housebound and medically fragile
- Clothes Closet for individuals, families, and children
- Veterans assistance
- CalFresh (food stamps) application assistance
- Pet Pantry
- Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drive

To learn more about the Food Bank and how you can help, go to their website at [elkgrovefoodbank.org](http://elkgrovefoodbank.org) or follow them on social media (Facebook and Instagram).

Seeing the Food Bank and their volunteers in person gave us a much better understanding of the depth and breadth of the work that is being done in our community for those in need.

Afterwards, we enjoyed a delicious lunch at El Jardin Mexican Restaurant. What a way to spend a beautiful day!



**Trellis International Seminar: Horticulture Healing  
Featuring the Lichtenberger Park Rose Garden,  
a Healing Garden**

By Barbara Gumbs

You are invited to join a free Zoom seminar on Tuesday, March 7 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. Elk Grove's Lichtenberger Park Rose Garden, one of the gardens that we manage, may be featured during this seminar.

At The Trellis International Seminar, Wilma Charles, Past President of The Eastern Horticultural Club (EHC is our sister club) will be a joint presenter with Dr. Sandra Celestine, Counselor and Coordinator for the Health and Wellness Program at the University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago. Their joint presentation is entitled Horticultural Healing at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. Wilma is expected to mention EHC's connection with EGGC and the healing benefits of Elk Grove's Lichtenberger Park Rose Garden - its wide range of colors and the calming effect of the rose aroma.

To register for this free seminar, go to Trellis Seminar Series 2023 -

Trinidad and Tobago: Horticultural Healing at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email containing a link to the Zoom seminar.

To ensure that the seminar runs smoothly, we are asked to:

- Click on the zoom link 10 minutes before the starting time of the seminar.
- Please display your first and last name on the zoom screen so that your name can be recognized from the list of participants that registered.
- Ensure your broadband connection is working and the volume is turned up.
- If you are not using zoom in gallery view, please turn off your video to conserve bandwidth.

To view a full list of the seminars hosted by Trellis, go to [trellisScotland.org.uk/content/seminar-series-2023](http://trellisScotland.org.uk/content/seminar-series-2023).

## Tomato Time! ~~~~~

By Jan Fetler

By tomato time, I mean seeds not plants! I saw baby tomato plants at Green Acres in mid-February. Unless you have a greenhouse or a very good place to grow them with plenty of direct sun in your home, DON'T BUY PLANTS YET! It's just too cold overnight for them to grow and there is some research that indicates planting members of the nightshade family (including peppers and eggplants) in cold soil can damage them permanently. They definitely don't produce fruit any faster than waiting till the weather warms up. The soil should be at least **65 degrees** before they will be happy living in it. Patience!

Okay, enough Master Gardener soap box. 😊

Plant seeds now if you want to grow a variety not commonly grown in nurseries. I love one called 'Black Prince' (an heirloom that enthusiastically grows clusters of 2-inch fruits), and 'Grandeur' (a hybrid slicing red tomato from Japan).

I'll wait to buy plants of 'Juliet' (great for dehydrating) till the weather and soil warm up by the end of April.

*'Black Prince'*



I started with 'Black Prince' by getting it as a small plant one year with the wrong label—this really isn't a 'Green Zebra!' During the ID process, I learned that tomatoes with "green shoulders," (ripening fruit remains green at the stem end until it is fully ripe) are heirlooms. Not all heirloom tomatoes have green shoulders, but the green indicates it is an heirloom. Tomato hybridizers got rid of this trait because consumers wanted solid red tomatoes!



*'Grandeur'*

A note on Kitazawa Seed Company. They are a bay area company recently purchased by a larger company. You can still find their Asian plant seeds if you Google Kitazawa. They also have a great Japanese eggplant I grow from seed called 'Shoya.'

## Evolution Coneflowers

We miss seeing Mary Tolan-Davi, but she is still thinking of us, and wants to share a bit of plant shopping news.



Evolution™ Colorific™  
Coneflower

The Evolution Coneflower series is a new, long blooming coneflower that features 5 bright colors that draw pollinators in like a magnet. These easy-to-grow perennials sail through summer's heat and drought, and they are a cutting garden essential. See all 5 at [monrovia.com](http://monrovia.com).

## Propagation Class

Vivian Sellers

Come to the class on Thursday, March 16th and learn how to propagate your favorite plants or plants from your friends. I will share how to propagate from cuttings and divisions. This will be a hands on class with all attendees actually making cuttings to take home. Please bring small 2" pots if you have them, cuttings to share (in water please).

In addition, Susan Muckey, seed grower extraordinaire, will share her tips and techniques for growing from seeds. Class will be at Vivian's home at 8609 Brodie Ct beginning at 10AM until we run out of things to talk about.

## Petal Connection — March is a collection month

Got cans? And ribbon?

Bring your 14-15 oz cans with wrappers removed, and any ribbon you wish to donate to the Petal Connection next Thursday. Remember: ribbon should be 1/4 to 1-1/2" in width (not curly ribbon or Christmas ribbon). There will also be collections at the May, September and December meetings.

## Book Club Pick for Spring

### The Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd

Recommended by Olinda Cortez and Mary Tolan-Davi

Set on South Carolina's plantations beginning in 1739, this excellent historical novel is based on the true story of Eliza Lucas Pinckney (1722–1793). Sixteen-year-old Eliza Lucas is charged with running her father's three heavily-mortgaged plantations while he pursues a military career in the Caribbean. He has trained Eliza well

in business, agriculture, and plantation management, and she is bright, considerate, and ambitious.

Eliza sees the production of indigo dye as the family's financial salvation, but indigo is risky to grow, and dye-making is a valuable but well-kept secret so she must approach her new assignment with caution. Kindhearted Eliza is independent and forward-thinking. She defies the Negro Act of 1740 and teaches her slaves to read, seeks their advice, and banishes the lash.

As a marriageable young woman she rejects all suitors and expects to be a spinster, but as the plantation booms and her public stature grows, so does her affection for a married gentleman friend. Add threats of war with Spain and the strict social and cultural codes for Southern women, and Boyd has crafted a captivating novel of Southern colonial history.

Discussion will be Tuesday, April 18 at 10:30 am at the home of Mary Adams-Wiley.

## The Last Word with the President

Mary Adams-Wiley

This month instead of a message upfront I decided I prefer the last word. I want to tell you how much I enjoyed going to the District Meeting along with Linda Brett, Silvia Boggs, and Olinda Cortez on Valentines Day which sounds a little strange, but it worked because I have never seen so many Valentines Day cookies in one place, ever. Lunch was delicious, dessert was awesome, and the price was \$5.

I need to back up; we did not have lunch first, in fact it was last. There were business items of course, and I did you all the favor of not taking any notes. The person charged with providing inspiration read the delightful William Wordsworth poem, Daffodills, and I whispered to Silvia that she should put it in the March newsletter, and she did. You just haven't gotten to it yet.

The speaker was Debbie Arrington, she was fabulous of course, speaking about trends in gardening, what's hot (the color purple), what won flower of the year (Orchids), color of the year (Magenta)— fun stuff. I wrote down 2 pages of notes and now I'll try to give you the most interesting items, well, to me anyway. Here's one of my strings of words: Tapestry Garden, less water, bees, butterflies and birds. Yes that makes sense, and I'm happy to know that bees, butterflies and birds are trending. House plants are hot, and I loved the photo of a Rattlesnake plant. Debbie says any flower that makes you smile is hot, and she used Sunflowers as her example.

She touched on easy care roses. I wrote down 1-2” rose, self cleaning, no deadheading, flowers fall off, and no rose hips; sounds great. Debbie says that Julia Child had the privilege of selecting the rose she wanted to bear her name, and she picked a yellow floribunda because it was the color of butter.

She covered hydrangea mania, and recommended Lace Cap Dolly Diva Ballerina. My favorite plant picture was near the end, a fairly small grass called Little Blue Stem. It is stunning.

## Daffodils

by William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A poet could not be but gay,  
In such a jocund company:  
I gazed'and gazed'but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,

And dances with the daffodils.

The Last Word is **Daffodils**.



# FROM PANSIES TO PITCHFORKS

After a stormy winter the ACS Discovery Shop of Elk Grove looks forward to a bountiful Spring and its annual "Yard & Garden" event on April 14. At this time we look to the community for donations of new or used items for resale: garden decor , tools, pots, live plants, outdoor furniture and accessories.

Every donation will receive a tax receipt and the gratitude of the ACS and those who rely on its support.

For information to arrange pickup of a donation, please call Diana at  
916.685.7449





**River Park Garden Club's**  
**Third Annual**  
**Seven Special Garden Spaces**  
**Garden Tour**

**Saturday, April 22, 10 am to 2pm**  
**Tickets available on tour day at**  
**5457 Carlson Dr, Sacramento**

**A \$5 ticket includes:**  
**Viewing of the 7 gardens**

**Plant sale by Sacramento's**  
**Perennial Plant Club**

**Art for and of the Garden**

**Sneak Peak**  
**of just some of what you will see**

**a very special secret garden complete with**  
**a life-size dragon and a huge checker board**

**a seriously meticulous landscape comprising**  
**sculpted shrubbery and trees**

**a friendly family garden with vegetable and**  
**fruit areas, plus a pool and space for games**

**[riverparkgardenclub.yolosite.com](http://riverparkgardenclub.yolosite.com)**