



# Beyond the Garden Gate

## Elk Grove Garden Club

Volume 17, Issue 8 March, 2025

### A Message from our Co-Presidents



Maureen Slocum and Mary Anne Strohmaier

Spring is definitely upon us! It's breathtaking to observe all the new growth and vibrant colors that surround us. The signs of life in our gardens and our community are truly rejuvenating. It is a time for planting seeds, both literally and figuratively, for our beautiful gardens and our club. If you suffer from seasonal allergies, please take care to protect yourself while outdoors.

We are incredibly pleased to welcome Marlene Simon back this year to speak to us about house plants.

Additionally, we are excited about our plant sale happening Saturday, April 12. We are grateful for the dedication and all the time and effort our members have put forward to make this fundraiser a huge success. Thank you for being such a dedicated and inspiring group.

Wishing each of you a blooming and beautiful spring season!



###

### Thursday, April 10

10am – social

10:30am – meeting begins

Gil Albiani Recreation Center  
8830 Sharkey Ave.

### April Speaker

Marlene Simon - Houseplants

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### Refreshment Committee

**April** – Margrethe Reed, team leader; Mary Adams-Wiley, Sandra Aldana-Evans Raas, Silvia Boggs, Olinda Cortez, Kate Genato, Jane Olson, Sharon Saint.

**May** – Rita Montez, team leader; Pat Baeta, Inge Biggs, Gina Kan, Kathy Krikorian, Karen Lewis, Annajean Neil, Marilyn Peterson, Denise Robertson & Teena Yee.

###



## April Speaker



Marlene Simon is a UC-educated and blue-collar trained horticulturist from Northern California

Urban farming, succulents, strange edibles, corpse plants, orchids...there is a never-ending as to what Marlene has grown. This on-air gardener with the outdoorsy, natural looks and sharp, cutting wit has even been known to use a chainsaw during a live TV segment. It's no wonder horticulturalist Marlene Simon is a popular contributor to *Good Day Sacramento*, appearing bi-weekly on the highly rated weekend edition. Her fans affectionately know her simply as "The Plant Lady" and are addicted to her entertaining tips on the home-grown green revolution. Marlene draws inspiration from her personal passions, ranging from inside/outside planting to pruning to repurposing old tools and her estate sale "treasures" -- transforming them into clever, rustic home and garden décor.

Her home away from home is the magical UC Davis Botanical Conservatory in Davis, California where she is the staff Horticulturist. Here Marlene grows and cares for over 3,000 species of the world's most exotic/rare plants and flowers. In her spare time between appearing on *Good Day Sacramento* and work at the Conservatory, she guest lectures on all topics of organic gardening. As a fervent animal lover, Marlene donates her expertise to establish a wildlife garden at a regional non-profit wildlife center. When not immersed in the plant world, she can be found training daily for her next adventure, spanning from mountaineering to triathlon.

###

## April Birthday

Martha Bik	4/2
Brenda Hembree	4/4
Annajean Neil	4/12
Maureen Slocum	4/17

###

## April Plant Sale



Final week schedule is as follows:

**Wednesday, April 9**, deliver your plants to Vivian's house between 8am and 4pm. Please have all plants labeled and pots wiped down.

**Thursday, April 10** – EGGC meeting from 10-12, if you were unable to deliver your plants yesterday, you can deliver them to Vivian's house (not to Vivian) after the meeting.

**Friday, April 11** – Sale prep at Vivian's house, 9am till we are done. We will be sorting plants, pricing, arranging tables and general staging.

**Saturday, April 12** – 6am for setting up tables and bringing all plants to front yard. Sale will begin at 8am. No plants will be sold before 8am. EGGC members may purchase plants at 8:10 (no setting plants aside before 8:10).

If you are bringing **food to sell or for workers**, please **deliver by 7am**. Remember, Mary Adams-Wiley has individual bags we can use for sale items. Please contact Mary to get bags.

First shift workers 6am to 10am – set-up and sales

Second shift workers 10 am to 2pm – sales and clean-up.

Don't forget to pass out flyers to all your gardening friends and neighbors. Post the flyer on your area "Next-door Neighbor".



###

# Garden Corner

By: DeAna Melilli, Landscape Committee



## Spring Gardens



Activities play a vital role in promoting good health and participating in a variety of activities ensure we have something to look forward to, increases our sense of belonging and reduces feelings of boredom and loneliness.

Spring is the time when you can smell the fresh air, see the first buds of flowers, and generally enjoy the outside. Like spring cleaning of your home, this is the perfect time to clean up your garden.

**Spring Inspection** is when you put your inspector's hat on with your garden notepad and see what happened to the plants during winter.

**Address Hardscaping** first in early spring before the ground is ready for fresh planning. This is the best time to repair any damage in the garden and build new garden beds.

**Spring Cleanup** is ideally done just before the bulbs start to pop up. Cleaning away debris, garden beds, dead plants or general garden hygiene maintenances.

**Soil Preparation** is recommended, where you test the soil for nutrients, and feed the soil what it needs to help your garden thrive for the year.

**Prune, Divide, and Support** the different plants as needed or plant new ones that are ready to make your garden a place you can relax in and enjoy year-round.

**Fun Spring Facts:** The first day of spring is called the vernal equinox. The term **vernal** is Latin for "spring" and **equinox** is Latin for "equal night". The vernal equinox is when the earth's rotation does not tilt resulting in the day and night being equal at the earth's equator.

## Chicken and Garden Veggies

### Ingredients

- 12 ounces dry pasta
- 2 cups (1-inch) vegetable of choice (asparagus or squash)
- ½ cup butter
- 2 cups half-and-half cream
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 pinch cayenne pepper

- ¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ pound cooked chicken breasts, cut into bite size pieces

### Directions

1. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook for 8 to 10 minutes, or until al dente. Add asparagus during the last 3 to 5 minutes of cooking. Drain, and transfer to a large bowl.
2. In a large saucepan over medium heat, combine butter and half-and-half. Cook until thick and bubbly. Season with garlic powder, black pepper and cayenne pepper. Stir in Parmesan cheese and chicken, and heat through.
3. Pour sauce over pasta and vegetable of choice and toss to coat.



###

## Election of Officers

The Nominating committee has submitted the following slate of officers for the 2025-2026 year:

Ana Weekley and Juanita Zamora for Co-Presidents

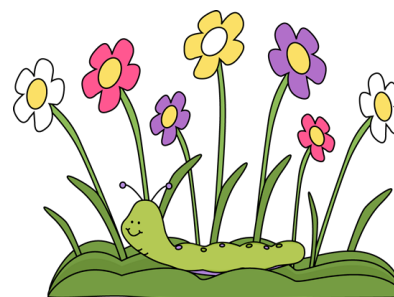
Marilyn Peterson- Vice President

Susan Muckey- Treasurer

Mary Lou Lange- Treasurer

The slate will be submitted at the April meeting. Additional nominations from the floor can be made at that time. An election of officers shall be held at the May meeting. The new officers shall be installed and assume their duties at the end of the June meeting.

###



Spring is here and so are the pests!



## April Garden Checklist ~~~~~

By Jan Fetler



- Work 3 to 4 inches of compost into vegetable and flower beds before planting.
- Plant vegetable seeds outdoors: carrots, spinach, radishes, chard, etc.
- Plant tomato, eggplant and pepper seedlings only if nights are over 55°.
- Plant warm season annual flowers.
- Prune out citrus suckers from the ground and below the graft, as well as frost damaged citrus leaves and branches.
- Thin grape shoots, continue through May. Spray grapes for powdery mildew as leaf buds begin to break open. Continue weekly until daytime temperatures are over 90°F.
- Fertilize brown-in-winter lawns once they are fully green. Fertilize roses according to directions on package.

###

### **You're invited to Ruth's Open Garden Day! Tuesday, April 22 | 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

Once again, Ruth has invited us to wander through her blooming spring garden full of inspiration and color! You'll find a beautiful variety of irises — alongside a vibrant mix of water-wise perennials. Bring a friend and your camera.

**Parking:** If you're able, please follow the signs and park in the pasture. Otherwise, feel free to park in front of the house.

**Ruth Ostroff - 6131 20th Street, Rio Linda, CA 95673 (Two story gray house with 3 rail pasture fence located between E and G Streets.) Ruth's phone: 916-813-9381**



## Calendar Upcoming Events

**April 5** (Wednesday) 9am till noon

Master Gardeners Open Garden  
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center

<https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/?calitem=604923>

**April 12** (Saturday) 8am till?

EGGC Plant Sale  
8609 Brodie Ct., Elk Grove, CA

**May 3** (Saturday) 9:30 am to 3pm  
2025 Gardens Gone Native Tour  
To register:

<https://www.sacvalleycnps.org/gardens-gone-native-tour/>

**May 10** (Saturday) 9am till noon

Master Gardeners Open Garden  
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center

<https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/?calitem=604924>

## Sacramento River Valley District Meetings

**May 13, 2025** (Tuesday) 8:30a till 1:30p

Speaker – Judy Eitzen, Rosarian and Master Gardener

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.

###



Find flowers like these at our plant sale!



Daphne odora (Winter Daphne)

Nancy Baldwin

My sister, a horticulturist and landscape designer, texted me the following: "Doing a little research on Daphne odora for a landscape project. Funniest thing I ever read in the Sunset Western Garden Book. (Sounds exactly like something I would say to someone.)"

Here's an excerpt from the Sunset Garden Book:

So prized for its pervasive floral perfume that it continues to be widely planted despite its unpredictable behavior – it can die despite the most attentive care, or flourish with little attention until you invite all your gardening friends over to admire it, at which point it promptly succumbs without warning just to show you who's in charge. Very neat, handsome plant, usually to about 4 ft. high (occasionally 8-10 ft. high) and 6 ft. wide. Rather narrow, 3 inch long leaves are thick and glossy. Nosegay clusters of charming, intensely fragrant flowers.

I am personally acquainted with a few other plants with similar evil behavior, but Sunset seems to think they are fine.

###



## **Elk Grove Garden Club Leaders**

Co-Presidents – Maureen Slocum and Mary Anne Strohmaier

Vice-President – Ana Weekley

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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