



Beyond the Garden Gate

Elk Grove Garden Club

A Message from our Co-Presidents



Maureen Slocum and Mary Anne
Strohmaier

As our club's year draws to a close, Maureen and I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you. Your time, energy, and passion have made this season one of growth, success, and joy for our entire community.

Whether you tend to a sprawling garden, a cozy patio container, or a sunny windowsill, we are all united by our shared love of nurturing plants—and friendships—that blossom and thrive with care.

May is a month of vibrant promise, where gardens burst into bloom and remind us of the beauty that comes from patience, dedication, and a little bit of sunshine. We hope you savor this season of color and growth, and we look forward to celebrating all we've accomplished together.



###

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Thursday, May 8

10am – social

10:30am – meeting begins

Gil Albani Recreation Center
8830 Sharkey Ave.

May Speaker

Laura Halpenny – Drought Tolerant Plants and
Landscape Problem-solving

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Refreshment Committee

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

June – Martha Bik, Leslie Haynes, Mary Lou Lange

###

May Speaker

Laura Halpenny has an education in Horticulture as well as a degree in Landscape Design Technology. She's learned a great deal about landscape design techniques, plant identification, soils and sustainable landscaping. She interned with Roberta Walker throughout her studies. She has adopted Roberta's strategy of landscape problem solving and creates low-water designs that provide a beautiful and functional oasis for homeowners' yards. She works closely with clients and listens to design requests to meet their needs and goals. In her free time, she enjoys nature through trail hiking with her husband and dog throughout California.

###

May Birthday



Claudia Horn	5/3
Ellison Cowles	5/8
Rita Montez	5/20
Nancy Baldwin	5/25



May birth month flowers celebrate spring and the coming of summer and have rich meanings in culture and folklore. If you're born in May, you're lucky to be connected to the beauty, color, and scent of lilies of the valley and hawthorn blossoms with their meanings of sweetness, hope and protection.

###

Garden Corner

By: **DeAna Melilli, Landscape Committee**



Happy Mother's Day



Mother's Day is a time to express love and appreciation for mothers. While any flowers may ultimately suffice on Mother's Day, gift givers may want to select flowers for Mom that convey specific messages. My favorite flower I like to think of on Mother's Day as I reflect on my mother, grandmother and other special women is begonias.

Begonias are the perfect pick when looking for plants for Mother's Day. Begonias are perhaps one of the most enduring, traditional, and prettiest houseplants you will come across. Some varieties of begonia houseplants are grown for their flowers while others are grown for their striking foliage.

There are more than 2,000 types of begonias, and the flower symbolizes deep thoughts. Begonias were made famous by French horticulturist Michel Bégon, who thought the blooms looked like beautiful girls.

Begonias can be kept indoors or in a shady and wet section of your yard. I have grown them indoors near windows, watering approx. 1-2x weeks, and they are doing great! The flowers flourish with mist spray watering. In our community homeowners have planted them around the base of trees. Check out a few homes on Granite Park Lane for their beauty.



Berry Delight (Spread, Sauce)

Native American Indian called Wojapi

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup water
- 2 cups of mixed berries of choice (fresh, frozen or canned) experiment
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice (modern for taste)
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon (modern for taste)

Directions:

1. In a saucepan, combine the mixed berries, honey, water, lemon juice, and cinnamon.

2. Bring the mixture to a gentle boil over medium heat.
3. Reduce the heat and let it simmer for about 10-15 minutes, or until the berries have softened and the sauce has thickened.
4. Mash the berries slightly with a fork or potato masher for a chunkier texture, or blend for a smoother consistency.
5. Remove from heat and let it cool before serving.
6. Drizzle this delicious berry spread or sauce over pancakes, waffles, ice cream, toast, or use it as a topping for desserts.



###

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- Secretary

Additional nominations from the floor can be made prior to the election. 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.



###

Did You Know?

Did you know that your backyard, balcony, or community plot is more than just a space for flowers and veggies? It's also a frontline defense against invasive species! As gardeners, we're uniquely positioned to protect local ecosystems, and the good news is—it doesn't take a lot to make a big difference. Here are five easy and powerful ways you can help stop the spread of invasive species and keep your garden (and California!) thriving.

1. Plant Local, Native Plants - Native plants are the unsung heroes of the garden. They're adapted to local conditions, require less water and care, and most importantly—they support native birds, bees, and butterflies. **Pro tip:** Visit your local native plant nursery or use [CalScape](#) to find the best plants for your zip code.

2. Learn to Spot Invasive Species - Get familiar with common invasive troublemakers in your area. From the fast-spreading Yellow Star-



thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) to hitchhiking pests like Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina*



citri), knowing what to look for helps you act fast.

3. Don't Share Your Invasives (Even by Accident!) - Sharing is caring—unless it's invasive! Avoid trading or giving away plants that could be problematic in different environments. Even popular garden favorites (like certain bamboos or ivy) can become invasive when they escape cultivation. **Pro tip:** Follow local quarantine regulations and plant guidelines—some areas restrict the movement of soil, plants, or cuttings to prevent the accidental spread of pests and invasive species. Share your harvest carefully: Invasive pests like the Asian Citrus Psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*) threaten backyard citrus. If you're in a quarantine zone, avoid sharing citrus fruit, leaves, or cuttings to help stop the spread.

4. Compost Carefully - We love compost! But it's important to avoid tossing invasive plant material—like seeds, roots, or cuttings into your compost bin unless you know it gets hot enough to destroy them. **Pro tip:** If in doubt, bag it and bin it instead of composting. Compost with care: Only compost healthy plant material. Invasive seeds, roots, or cuttings should be bagged and trashed to prevent accidental spread.

5. Join Local Efforts and Stay Informed - Many communities host invasive species removal days, weed-pull events, or citizen science projects where you can team up with others who care about healthy landscapes. **Pro tip:** Volunteering is a great way to learn, connect, and make an impact!

You've Got This - Stopping invasive species might sound like a big task, but it starts with small, smart choices in your own garden. Every weed you pull, every native plant you add, and every conversation you spark helps protect California's biodiversity for generations to come. You're not alone; thousands of gardeners across the state are making a difference right alongside you. Together, we can grow a more resilient and thriving California.

By: Lauren L. Snowden – UC Master Gardener Program

###

April Plant Sale

The plant sale was a winner! So many people participated in making the sale successful. Certainly the plant growers who provided a fabulous variety of plants to sell. Thanks also to the people who helped organize the plants on the pre-sale day, worked on the sale day, brought food for the helpers, and made crafts. Thanks to our donors who provided plants and other items for the sale. The people who were on the planning committee were instrumental in lending their ideas and expertise to making the sale go so smoothly. And last but definitely not least, a big thanks to Vivian who provided a wonderful location for our sale. We couldn't have done it without all of you!

Nancy



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.
- 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.
- 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
- Remove dead flowers to get more blooms on flowering plants, including roses.
- Limit pests and diseases: watch for citrus leafminer, leafhoppers, fire blight and powdery mildew.

###



Calendar Upcoming Events

May 3 (Saturday) 9:30am 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://sacmq.ucanr.edu/?calitem=604924>

May 10 (Saturday) 9am till 2pm
Rancho Murieta Garden Stroll/Plant Sale
Tickets on sale Admin Building
7191 Murieta Pkwy, Rancho Cordova
Homes are in Rancho Murieta

May 10 (Saturday) 9am till 3pm
UC Davis Arboretum Plant Sale
<https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant-sales>

June 21 (Saturday) 9am till noon
Master Gardeners Open Garden
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center
<https://sacmq.ucanr.edu/?calitem=604924>

August 2 (Saturday) 8am till noon (a don't miss event!)
Master Gardeners Harvest Day
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center
11549 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks
<https://sacmq.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.

###



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.

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