



# Beyond the Garden Gate

## Elk Grove Garden Club

### A Message from our Co-Presidents

Maureen Slocum and Mary Anne Strohmaier



Spring is on the Way!

March is here, finally bringing longer days and the first signs of spring. It's time to shake off the winter chill, begin to dig into our gardens and enjoy the fresh start a new growing season brings. Along with spring's new plant growth we are also happy to see new members in our club. Whether you're planting, pruning, or just soaking up the sunshine, there's plenty to look forward to. Happy gardening!

###

**Please remember to bring your water bottle to our meeting.**



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**Thursday, March 13**

10am – social

10:30am – meeting begins

Gil Albiani Recreation Center

8830 Sharkey Ave.

**March Speaker**

Ecology Gardening – Greg Gayton, Calif. Certified Nursery Professional, Green Acres Nursery

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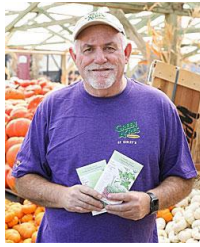
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**Refreshment Committee**

**March** – Ana Weekley, team leader; Mary Adams-Wiley, Leslie Haynes, Gayle Martin, Susan Muckey, Jane Olson, Ines Wright, Juana Zamora

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

## March Speaker



### Greg Gayton

Marketing and Community Outreach  
Green Acres Nursery and Supply

Greg Gayton is a California Certified Nursery Professional with over 40 years of experience in the Sacramento area. He takes his knowledge on the road to educate and connect with local gardeners. Greg produces the popular Green Acres Garden Podcast.

A self-proclaimed garden nerd, he promotes environmentally appropriate plants and techniques that work well in our climate.

Greg will be speaking about Ecology Gardening, including soil and fertilizer.

###

## March Birthday

Gayle Martin	3/1
Inez Wright	3/2
Kris Schoeller	3/14
Katherine Krikorian	3/24
Susan Muckey	3/28
Silvia Boggs	3/29



###

## Did You Know?

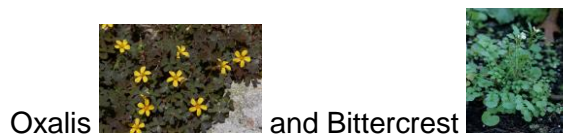
### Weeds

A weed is **any plant** growing where it is not wanted. Weeds can be native or non-native, invasive or non-invasive, and noxious or not noxious.

- Many invasive weeds are non-native plants first introduced in North America as ornamentals (Scotch Broom, Pampas Grass)
- Nearly 250 weed species have developed resistance to the herbicides used to control them.
- Invasive weeds are spreading at a rate of about 4,600 acres per day on federal lands in Western United States
- Weeds can be prolific seed producers. Creeping Oxalis produces clusters of 2 to 5 flowers. Each flower can produce 10-50 seeds. One plant can produce 5000 seeds. When the seedpods are mature, the seeds are forcefully expelled up to 10 feet.
- Some weed seeds have been known still germinate after 130 years (Experiment at Michigan Agricultural College).
- Weed seeds can be spread by birds, animals, water and wind. Seeds can stow away on off-road vehicles and cars. They can hitch a ride with container grown ornamentals. Seed can attach to clothes or animal fur. Earthworms are known to collect weed seeds and move them into their burrows.
- Weeds aren't all bad, some weeds are edible. Examples include borage and dandelions.
- And, after a walk, Swiss engineer George de Mestral observed burs from common burdock stuck to his wool pants and his dog's fur. A few years later, he patented Velcro, an invention inspired by the weed.

The above facts are from Weed Science Society of America (WSSA).

What weeds do you love to hate? Mine are:



Oxalis and Bittercrest

###

# Garden Corner

By: DeAna Melilli, Landscape Committee

## Garden Showers

*The silent joy of gardening in the rain*

Rain is great for plants! Rain helps plants grow by making water adequately available in the ground along with naturally occurring nitrogen in the soil. Plants grow greener, larger, and healthier after a good rain.

Just because it is raining you do not have to give up your gardening time. Give some consideration to these rainy-day garden activities.

**Wash Your Gardening Gear** A raining day is great time to throw your dirty garden gloves, gardening apron, and other washable gear into the washing machine.

**Helping Vining Plants Climb** Once you see those adorable spirals you can start helping your vining plants to climb whatever is available to them. Train your plants to go up fences, trellises, and other structures.

**Check for Drainage** Look for areas where water might be pooling and clear any blockages in your garden beds and pots to prevent root rot. A little maintenance now can save your plants later.

**Work on some Garden Recipes** What could be better on a rainy day than cooking and baking from your garden. Use some of your garden-fresh ingredients to whip up new recipes, make dinner, or make a delicious bake.

### Garden Vegetable Bread

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup milk
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 cup grated zucchini
- ½ cup diced fresh tomatoes
- ½ cup thinly sliced green onions
- 2 TBSP. chopped fresh basil
- 2 tsp. minced garlic
- ¼ cup shredded parmesan cheese

**DIRECTIONS:** Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-inch loaf pan with butter or nonstick cooking spray and set aside. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk, and olive oil. In a

separate bowl or large measuring cup, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the bowl with the wet ones. Stir with a rubber spatula until combined. Fold in the cheddar cheese, followed by the grated zucchini, diced tomatoes, sliced green onions, chopped basil, and minced garlic. Stir with a rubber spatula until everything is incorporated throughout the batter. The batter will be sticky. Pour or spoon the batter into the greased loaf pan. Sprinkle with the parmesan cheese. Bake in the preheated oven for 50 to 60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Slice the bread into pieces. Enjoy!



###

## April Plant Sale

EGGC will provide labels for our plant sale so that all plants will be labelled the same and have all the information needed. A sample will be included with each packet of labels.

In addition, if you need potting soil or pots, contact Vivian Sellers.

We will be passing around sign-up sheets at the March meeting for jobs for the April Plant Sale. Remember, even if you aren't growing plants, there are lots of other jobs you can fill.



###

# Drain After Rain to Prevent Mosquitoes

UCANR: Promoting healthy people and communities

Published on: February 20, 2025

Recent rainfall throughout much of California has created puddles and stagnant water. With the temperature warming up in many parts of the state, this combination can create the perfect situation for mosquitoes to breed. We encourage you to “drain after the rain” to reduce mosquito-breeding sites.

After rainfall, drain standing water from common backyard sources such as buckets, flowerpots, bird baths, old tires and other small containers. Think an item is too small for mosquitoes to breed in? Think again—newer, invasive mosquito species in California need only a bottle cap worth of water to develop in. Clean all gutters and downspouts as leaves, twigs, seeds, and other organic matter can block water flow. Your efforts to eliminate sources of standing water now will mean fewer mosquitoes later in the season!

Mosquitoes are a public health threat because they are capable of transmitting debilitating diseases such as West Nile Virus, Zika, dengue and chikungunya. Protect yourself from mosquitoes by wearing an [effective repellent](#) and staying indoors when they are most active.

Contact your local mosquito and vector control program to inquire about their services and how you can help reduce mosquito populations in your area.



## March Garden Checklist ~ ~ ~

By Jan Fetter

- Test your watering system monthly for leaks, and plugged or broken parts.
- Consider investing in a smart controller that adjusts watering based on the weather.



- Consider watering landscape trees and shrubs if rainfall is below normal.
- Plant vegetable seeds outdoors: lettuce, carrots, chard, radish, cilantro, etc.
- Fertilize blueberries, young fruit trees, and green-in-winter lawns. Consider using a slow-release fertilizer.
- Test soil acidity (pH) for blueberries, add soil sulfur if needed—find it in the fertilizer aisle. Consider testing vegetable garden soil once every 3 to 5 years for pH and nutrients.
- Tie grape vines to wires to help prevent wind breakage.
- Spray grapes for powdery mildew as leaf buds begin to break open. Continue weekly until daytime temperatures are over 90°F.
- Divide and/or transplant summer or fall blooming perennials such as Shasta daisies, daylilies, and asters
- Limit pests and diseases: aphids, and slugs and snails.

###

## Calendar Upcoming Events

**March 8, 2025 (Saturday) 9am till 3pm**  
Perennial Plant Club Sale  
Sheppard Garden & Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

**March 8, (Saturday) 9am to noon**  
Master Gardeners Open Garden  
Fair Oaks Horticulture Center, 11549 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks

**March 15/16 (Saturday & Sunday) 10 am till 4 pm**  
Sheppard Garden & Arts Center Spring Sale  
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA

**March 22 (Saturday) 10 am till 4 pm**  
Cymbidium Show and Sale  
Sheppard Garden & Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA

**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/>

## **Sacramento River Valley District Meetings**

**May 13, 2025** (Tuesday) 8:30a till 1:30p  
Speaker – Judy Eitzen, Rosarian and Master Gardener

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.

## **The Newsletter Team**

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## **This Month's Contributors**

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