

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Volume 2023, Issue 8

A Publication of Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

April 2023

President's Message

Hello everyone;

I can hardly believe that this year's Garden Club year has just two meetings left. That means that I will be turning over the Presidency to the capable hands of our incoming President Nancy Robinson. I know she will do a fantastic job.

Everyone seems to be enjoying our new meeting venue with all the subtle changes each month. We now have 9 tables with table coverings, monthly DIY contests, overhead lighting for the stage, and we can now be comfortable serving food and drinks during the meetings. Additionally, important messages and event information are posted visually on the two screens.

Last month I asked that you support the New to You table as we still have low participation. We need to know from you if we should continue. If you have any comments or ideas that will improve our meetings please text me.

We are still in need of a Vice President of Fundraising. This is probably the most important job within the club. I cannot stress enough that our fundraising supports the many activities we all enjoy. Without sufficient income we will be forced to re-evaluate programs and budgets, and possibly eliminate some programs. Please support the club!!! I know some of our newer members have the skills to head up this important team! If you need information contact Gerry Yockey and she will be glad to assist you Support the Spring Garden Tour April 22.



2022/2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Rhonda Allen ~ April 13th Main Speaker by Bob Taylor

Rhonda Allen is the developer of the La Loma Native Garden located in Modesto at 1805 Encina Ave. She is a Stanislaus County Master Gardener, a member of the California Native Plant Society Northern San Joaquin Valley Chapter, and is a certified California Naturalist!

Rhonda is a Master Gardener speaker for many local garden clubs and other groups. Her topics cover local pollinators, pollinator plants and gardening. She recently led a monarch butterfly workshop for Stanislaus County and coordinated a milkweed seed dispersal program this last fall. As if that weren't enough... she is also an avid California wildflower photographer and is currently working on a wildflower identification book for the Central California Region!

Her work continues at the La Loma Native Garden... planting and maintaining the two acre project. She is involved in planning for the 3rd Annual Modesto Pollinator Festival, which occurs this year on Saturday, April 1st, at the La Loma Native Garden.





Organized: February 12, 1924
 Federated: September 24, 1946
 Incorporated: May 10, 1962

**A MEMBER OF
 THESE
 AFFILIATIONS:**



Roxanne Campbell ~ April 13th Learn and Grow Speaker by Janis Perkins

Maybe a few of us started a propagation venture just like Roxanne. Around the age of eleven, she added pathos stems to a container of water and waited patiently. Then, by nature's miracle, she saw that they produced hardy white roots, and she couldn't wait to plant them! That experiment held wonders for Roxanne, and the magic of propagation produced one of her first crushes.



Growing older, she dove in to gardening, where everyone told her she had a green thumb. Roxanne remained humble but would always cleverly reply, "I have two of them!" Roxanne is passionate about creating landscapes with diverse plants and colorful flowers. She also loves making miniature gardens and is a miniac, which is ironic, given that we just had a members' contest for miniature garden containers! For those who don't know, miniacs are the makers, collectors and fans of diminutive versions of everything.

Growing up in Ceres, Roxanne is a student of Modesto Junior College. Next year, she will graduate, earning her degree in Environmental Horticultural Science. Roxanne is committed to her field and has the desire to educate others on what she has learned. On April 13, she will be speaking to our members and guests about different propagation methods. Join us!

Planters and Groomers ~ By Gerry Yockey



The office garden is really coming alive. The Forget-Me-Nots are in full bloom and they really are striking! Pansies and Snapdragons are starting to bloom. It will take about another week or so before they start showing color. We planted a Weeping Chinese Maple tree and a ground cover called Myoporum that has white flowers. I have to thank the ladies for bringing the snacks for our break that we have around 10:00 o'clock. These gals are such good bakers!

We have around twenty wonderful ladies who have volunteered to work at the office gardens and I am looking for more volunteers. We had a great time and look forward to working the next time. Think about coming...we will welcome you! Call me.....209-521-5619.

Hands-on Workshops



The Zinc Farm is a lovely venue and a new winery in the making. There is a large garden that will be blossoming with both planted and wild flowers. Sprinkled in the garden are various unique pieces of art. There is a small fruit orchard, as well as a fruit stand. The cost to attend this fun event on May 4th is only \$40 and includes a tour of the new winery facilities and natural



herbal garden, plus wine and treats and making your own wreath! There are only four spots left so call Nancy Robinson at 209-968-6556 to reserve your place!

Date: Thursday, May 4th – Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$40.00 – includes making wreath

Location: Zinc House Farms, Hwy 120 just west of Van Allen Road, Escalon

Civic Affairs ~ by Dan Yockey

I am afraid the downtown pots have not fared well this winter. I'm not certain if the reason is too much water, the cold weather, or a combination of both! We are planning a total refurbishing of all the pots. Later this month we will remove all the plants from them.

We have connected with the Love Modesto program and we will meet on Saturday, April 29 to add soil to all of the pots to bring up the level allowing the plants to be more visible. If you wish to participate, log on to the Love Modesto website and scroll to our project and sign up. You must be able to lift the bags of soil that weigh about 35 pounds so be aware of whether you should participate. Replanting of the pots will take place on Saturday, May 6th. You may sign up for this at the April meeting, or contact me at 209.661.6554 if you are unable to attend the meeting.

April DIY Contest ~ Spring or Easter by Janis Perkins

COME & JOIN THE FUN!



SPRING OR EASTER ENTRY
ONLY ONE
ENTRY PER MEMBER

DIY
MEMBERS CONTEST
DESIGN
IT YOURSELF

APRIL 13
REGISTRATION
9:30 TO 10:00

CALL JANIS PERKINS FOR QUESTIONS

March's Miniature Garden Contest Winners!



1st Place
Cheryl Collins



2nd Place
Lura Bailey



3rd Place
Barbara Paige

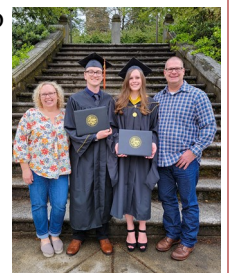
“Whatever Happened to....” ~ by Claire Bardsley Potts

Thanks so much, Judy, for reaching out! I received the Modesto Garden Club Scholarship multiple times while in college. It was one of the contributing factors to being able to pursue my education! I went to Modesto Junior College and graduated with two A.S degrees. I then transferred to University of Idaho to get my B.S. in Agricultural Education and got my teaching credential at the same time!



During my undergraduate years, I completed student teaching at a high school in Middleton, Idaho teaching landscape design, small engines, metal fabrication and agricultural leadership. After student teaching, I was offered an assistantship at the University of Idaho to complete research and get my master's degree (all paid for by the university)! I just graduated with my M.S. in Agricultural Education and am currently looking for a job as the next school year comes around.

Fun fact: my boyfriend at the time proofread my essay questions for my application for the Modesto Garden Club scholarship... and now he's my husband! We got married in October of 2022 (he's in the pictures with me).



Thank you again to the Modesto Garden Club for playing such a significant role in my academic success!
Best, Clair Potts (maiden name Bardsley)

*March
Volunteer
of the Month
Dolly Ayers*



New Member Teas are held at least twice a year to welcome new members to our club. Current members from our board attend as well to talk about their roles. This helps people new to our garden club community become aware of the variety of activities they may want to become involved in.



There will be a New Member Tea on Monday, May 1 at 2:00 pm. If you are a new member you will be receiving a special invitation. If you have never been to a New Member Tea and would like to attend, contact Nancy Robinson, VP of Membership, 209-968-6556.

Pictorial Essay ~ Socializing at the March Meeting



Photos from the Cactus Pots Hands-on Workshop



Do Your Part..... Be a Docent

Call Patte to sign up 209.505.3526

Spring Garden Tour



Saturday
April, 22, 2023
9:00 am ~ 4:00 pm

Tickets \$25

Available at the following locations:

MODESTO: Marcy's Hallmark Shop, McHenry Village, McHenry Mansion Visitor Center and Gift Store, 924 15th Street
Paper Habit, Suite 52, McHenry Village, Westurf Nursery, 1612 Claus Road

RIPON: Park Greenhouse, 12813 West Ripon Road. Thompson Building Materials and Nursery, 460 South Stockton Avenue

RIVERBANK: Morris Nursery, 1837 Patterson Road

TURLOCK: The Greenery Nursery and Garden Shop 742 E. Olive Avenue

ONLINE modestogardenclub.org

THE DAY OF THE TOUR Tickets will be available at each of the homes on the tour

916 Melinda Lane, 918 Sycamore Avenue, 1308 Brady, 922 Valerie Lane, 621 Magnolia Avenue and 622 14th Street



*Tour Proceeds support ongoing club projects
including ~ Scholarships, City beautification and Education*





622 14th Street
Modesto, CA 95354-2505

Return Service Requested

Over the Garden Gate

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Dates to Remember

April 1	April Fool's Day
April 4 9:00 am	Planters and Groomers MGC Office 622 14th Street
April 9	Easter Sunday
April 13 10:00 am	MGC April General Meeting 1600 Carver Road, Modesto
April 18 9:00 am	Planters and Groomers MGC Office 622 14th Street
April 22 9:00 to 4:00	Spring Garden Tour! Get tickets early!
April 27 9:00 am	MGC Board Meeting 622 14th Street, Modesto
April 29	Love Modesto Project
May 1 2:00 pm	New Member Tea MGC Office 622 14th Street