



OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Volume 2024, Issue 1

A Publication of Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

September, 2023

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President's Message

Welcome back everyone. I'm excited for this new year for our Garden Club. We are really looking forward to our Centennial this fiscal year, actually 2024. Dan Yockey will be leading all of the events for the Centennial. Your Board of Directors have lots of fun activities, workshops, tours, and luncheons planned for this year. We also have some new speakers for our monthly meetings. Notice the change in the meeting schedule listed in this newsletter. We will be going over all of the changes during our General Meeting on September 14.



I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming meetings and activities. Remember, this is YOUR club. Get involved and enjoy everything available to you. The first activity is our Fall Gathering, which will be held at the home of Emily Ryslinge, on Sunday, September 17. See information in this newsletter. It's going to be a fun evening and a time to reconnect after our summer break. Hope to see you then!

Happy Gardening, Nancy

Nice to Meet You ~ by Emily Ryslinge



I would like to introduce myself as your new vice-president of fundraising for the Modesto Garden Club. I have been a member since 2021 and enjoy being a part of the Planters and Groomers, being a docent for the Spring and Christmas tours, and helping with the display garden for the Stanislaus County Fair.

I have been a real estate broker since 2001 and when I'm not selling residential real estate, you can find me riding my horses, working in my large gardens, and painting watercolor and acrylic paintings with many flower, bird, and beach themes. I have a teenage daughter who also loves flowers, 2 horses, 2 dogs, and 3 cats!

The Fall Gathering will be Sunday September 17th at my house in the La Loma neighborhood of Modesto. We will be enjoying live music by Jake of Welcome To Babbylon (Instagram: Welcometobabylon) and wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Tickets will be \$40- and are limited to the first 80 people. Tickets are required and must be purchased in advance.

Continued on page 3

FALL

Gathering

LIVE MUSIC BY

Jake

of Welcome Babylon



WE WILL BE SERVING
WINE
 &
HEAVY
HORS D' OEUVRES

Sunday September 17th

6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm

at the home of Emily Ryslingle in
 La Loma neighborhood.

Her home features multiple garden
 areas : perennial & annual flowers,
 vegetables, and a water garden.

She also has specimen cactus, orchids
 and bromeliads.

Tickets are \$40
 and are limited to the first 80
 people.

Tickets are required and must be
 purchased in advance.
 either online at
modestogardenclub.org,
 at the September General Meeting
 or at the Garden Club Office any
 Wednesday morning.





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

**A MEMBER OF
 THESE
 AFFILIATIONS:**



Mike Azevedo ~ September 14th Speaker by Bob Taylor

Mike Azevedo has been the County Coordinator for Santa Clara County for the California Bluebird Recovery Program since 2009. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management and has been a wildlife enthusiast for four decades...serving as a naturalist, park ranger, and even a BSA merit badge counselor for seven nature related merit badges!



Mike is compiler of the San Jose Audubon Christmas Bird Count and works with Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and their nest box monitors. Additionally, he works with Sequoia Audubon Society on a project to save the Western Purple Martin, a bird species of special concern that is battling habitat loss, deadly competition with the introduced European starling and food source crash due to the rampant use of neonicotinoid pesticides. Mike is also involved with the California Native Plant Society, and gives presentations on birds and nest boxes, habitat gardening in your backyard and the importance of native plants to a variety of groups and organizations.

Together with Georgette Howington, Mike is an editor of the CBRP Facebook Page and is currently working on books and videos with Georgette to encourage the use of native plants, nest boxes and habitat improvement in general.

Attend our first meeting of the year on September 14th to hear Mike Azevedo talk about "Wild Birds Nesting in Your Backyard".

Emily Ryslinge ~ continued from Page 1

The spring garden tour will be Saturday April 20th 2024. I am looking for members who are interested in volunteering to help make this event a continued success... people who are interested in helping with ticket sales, advertising, set up, and helping with the raffle.

This is the garden club's largest fundraiser and it's critical that it continues to be a success. This needs to be a group effort and I'm looking for people to help make this spring garden tour the best one yet! If you know of anyone in the La Loma neighborhood (or surrounding areas) who would be interested in having their home on the tour please reach out to me. While people have opened up the inside of their homes for the tour in the past, it is not a requirement and is totally at the discretion of the home owner. My own personal home will be on the tour and I'm looking forward to having more gardens in the La Loma neighborhood. The gardens do not need to be large formal affairs. Although we would love to have those, we are looking for people to share their love of gardening by allowing us to showcase their flower and vegetable gardens.

The Christmas Tour is scheduled for Saturday December 16th. I am looking for garden members to help with this event... as well as garden club members who are interested in having their home on the Christmas tour. Reach out to me at: (209) 609-0461 or ryslinge@me.com. Thank you!

Civic Affairs ~ by Dan Yockey

All is quiet this summer and not much is happening with our projects. The downtown pots are stunning! We have had many compliments on them from the community. The Victims' Garden at the courthouse is



having issues with the water system. It seems the controller for the sprinklers is having problems and is a safety issue. Meanwhile, that area is being watered by hand. Enjoy the beauty of your own plants as well as the ones we nurture in our community.



Modesto Garden Club takes pride in its care of the iconic Aileen Gallo Memorial Flower Clock on K



Street at Modesto Center Plaza. It's unique design and beauty is noted countrywide. We have an immediate need for a couple of folks—or your own fun team—to plant new flowers twice a year and provide occasional maintenance at the site. There is also a need for someone to care for the George Lucas Plaza “American Graffiti” statue. This is a small task. If either of these



sound exciting and you are in a position to help your club, please call me at 209.661.6554



Private Garden Tours ~ by Lela Harrington

Hello! Are all of you enjoying these opportunities to see even more lovely gardens in our area? We have great photos from recent tours.

I'm putting together a Private Garden Tour committee and I would appreciate having you join my team! Your talents are needed, especially if you could docent a tour and help in general when needed.

Also, if you know someone with a beautiful garden that you think I could contact to host a Private Garden Tour at their property that would be amazing, and would really help our club!

Call me at 209.380.8050.



DIY Contest ~ by Janis Perkins

DIY has a new name, "*Late Bloomers Contest!*"



It is because I would hear over and over again from our contestants, "I never thought I could do that!" And I began to think of them as just being *late bloomers* who truly never imagined that they could craft something so beautiful and creative. Next year, we will be only doing three contests. All members are encouraged to participate. A big thank you to all of the previous year's participants. You knocked it out of the park!

October meeting: Create a Scarecrow 3 feet or taller must be free standing.

February meeting: Any self made Framed Art Medium Picture of Nature. Example: birds, leaves, landscapes, etc. Medium Examples: Paint Collages, Pen, etc.

April Meeting: Ornamental Bird House (does not need to be functional)

Again, there will be ribbons for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. The contests will have more detailed information the month before the contest or upon request.

Planter and Groomers & Turlock Fair ~ by Gerry Yockey



Boy - has it ever been hot! We have been coming early and leaving early. The flowers at the office are holding their own though. Since we cut down the tree, the back patio has been super hot. We will be planting another tree in the fall to shade the area. Thanks to all the ladies who come down twice a month to work in our lovely garden.

It has been another year that we decided to enter the Floriculture Garden Club division at the Stanislaus County Fair out in Turlock. This year's theme was "The days of Wine and Roses". I painted the background and the girls planted the flowers and put down the slate patio. Our hard work was rewarded with a First Place win! Many of our Planters and Groomers worked on this project and include: Mary Helen Alonzo, Martha Anaya, Norma Barron, Judy Crisp, Mary McNicholas, Joanne Meinhardt, Josie Parra, Emily Ryslinge, Sharon Searls, Shirley Stewart, Pat Williams, and Dan Yockey. Thank you all for your contribution to this fun and rewarding project!



New-2 -You Table ~ by Bob an Sharon Searls

The New 2 You table is condensing the program to two meetings only. We are able to bring in our gently used but amazing items and plant clippings for others to purchase for a donation. At the November meeting we can bring Christmas related items, special treasures, and plants. At the April meeting we can bring yard art, plants, and cuttings. These are the only two meetings where there will be a New 2 You table set up. Of course, home grown fruits and vegetable are always welcome. Plan ahead to share your goodies!



September Hands-on Workshop ~ by Ginger Ratto



There are many exciting hands-on workshops being planned for our enjoyment this year! Look for our table at the General Meetings so you don't miss out! This month is no exception. Look what a great program we have *carved* out for you. On Tuesday, September 26th there is a Pumpkin Workshop. We meet at the Modesto Garden Club Office at 10 am until 1:00 pm. Bring your own pumpkin (the Cinderella style is recommended). The workshop provides an

assortment of succulents and fall foliage and décor. Bring your check or cash payment of \$12 to the September meeting and sign up..... There are only 15 Spots.



Budding Gardeners ~ by Janice Garcia



Budding Gardeners are smaller groups of members who enjoy sharing gardening knowledge, socializing, and visiting their homes and gardens. They consist of five to twelve like minded members . Each group creates a garden related name for themselves. My own fantastic group is the Gardenettes. We formed our group over 20 years ago and have enjoyed one another's company ever since! Here is a photo from a Mother's Day outing we went on in 2017.

I invite all existing Budding Gardener groups to send me the story about the name of your group and how it got started... even some photos of your adventures. If you think you'd like to start a group of your own, I'm here to help you coordinate it. These groups have been a source of joy for all who are in them! Call me 209-521-0501.

NEW THIS YEAR ~ MEETING TIMES & AGENDA:

Hospitality—10:00 to 11:15

This is the time to bring your Late Bloomers projects, visit with friends, enjoy snacks, sign up for upcoming events, get your Raffatunity tickets, and visit the Lavender Library.

Business Agenda—11:15 to 12:00

Greeting, Pledge of Allegiance, Approval of minutes, Thought for the day, Announcements,

Speaker—12:00 to 1:00



622 14th Street
Modesto, CA 95354-2505

Return Service Requested

OUT OF TOWN TOURS:

Be watching for more info on these upcoming adventures!
 Saturday, October 28 is a Tour of Sacramento Underground.
 Saturday, December 9th is a Holiday Tour of Filoli Gardens
 and Shopping at Stanford Shopping Center.
 Information and Sign-up with Patte at the September meeting.

FROM YOUR MGC PRESIDENT:

Two other areas our club could use some help...
 We need a Digital Historian who can help organize our files and photos.... We need and appreciate your computer expertise!
 The other area I would like to consider is doing a Vendor Faire somehow - somewhere. I would just like to explore some possibilities.
Please contact me, Nancy Robinson, 209-968-6556 if you are interested and have ideas!

Over the Garden Gate

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To Use QR Code: Open the camera on your cell phone. Aim at the QR code. This will open up the garden club website!

Dates to Remember

September 4	Labor Day
September 5 9:00 am	Planters and Groomers MGC Office 622 14th Street
September 14 10:00 am	MGC General Meeting
September 17 6:00-9:00 pm	Fall Gathering 329 Buena Vista Drive
September 19 9:00 am	Planters and Groomers MGC Office 622 14th Street
September 26 10:00 am	Pumpkin Workshop MGC Office 622 14th Street
September 28 8:30 a.m.	MGC Board Meeting Club Office - 622 14th St.