



OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Member of CGCI

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Valley Lode District – Pacific Region

February Speaker -- Heidi Aufdermaur Talks About Vegetables: “Tomatoes, From Seed to Shining Seed”



Spring is on the way so it's a wonderful time for vegetable gardeners to begin to think about what they will plant this year. Of all the produce that can be grown here in the Central Valley, the tomato may be the most popular crop grown in the back yard garden. Heidi Aufdermaur is a longtime gardener who joined the UCCE Stanislaus County Master Gardener Program in 2019. She has written a number of gardening articles for the Stanislaus Sprout and hosted a Zoom class on Tomatoes in 2021. Aside from tending her plants, she enjoys knitting, crocheting, quilting, and spending time with her grandkids.

Learn and Grow: Spring Vegetable Gardening

It's almost time to start your vegetable garden! Join Master Gardener Johnny Mullins to learn tips for getting your garden started, what vegetables to plant, and how to care for them until harvest.

Johnny Mullins is a longtime gardener who joined the University of California Cooperative Extension Stanislaus County Master Gardener Program in 2020. In his garden he grows vegetables, native plants, and succulents. Aside from gardening, he enjoys brewing beer and spending as much time as possible building model airplanes with his grandkids.

Planters and Groomers

By Gerry Yockey

It was so cold in the morning when I arrived at the Modesto Garden Club. I could hardly wait for my first cup of coffee. We have so much to do, and I hate being cold.

Pat Williams was the first to arrive and it didn't take long before the rest of the ladies showed up. The Snapdragons and Pansies are starting to grow larger and show some color. So are the weeds! Pat Williams, Mary McNicholas pruned the roses in the backyard and Sharon Searls, Joanne Meinhardt pruned the roses in the front yard. Shirley Stewart also helped with the roses. Leah Meedom, Josephine Parra, Mary Helen Alonzo and Jean Seeley were busy cleaning up and pulling more weeds.

I have two new members who joined our group. Their names are Emily and Susie Ryslinge. They are a mother and daughter team. Talk about working! They were doing so many things; I could not keep up with them. They are going to be such a good asset and I welcome them.

President's Message

By Dan Yockey

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had a great holiday season.

January started with anticipation and hope that we would finally be able to see some normalcy with our club activities. Unfortunately, a new variant came along and disrupted our plans for a great January meeting. Because of it we had the lowest turnout at any meeting in recent history.

The members who attended were treated to an informative presentation by Cheryl Carmichael. Never saw so many ugly plants and shrubs. Our main speaker was Noreen Porath who showed us tips on how to prepare for a Flower Show presentation.

The Garden Club needs your support. Even if we have a low attendance our cost for the Church remains the same. Since we have been limited to what events we can have, your attendance is needed now. I know some of you are reluctant to be in gatherings where you might come in contact with the virus, or where mask wearing, and social distancing are recommended. If you feel comfortable going to a restaurant and not wearing a mask, then you should feel comfortable attending meetings. The club is planning on at least three bus tours this Spring as well as the Spring Garden Tour and our Summer Luncheon.

February is the month we celebrate Valentine's Day, so wear your best pink ensemble.

And finally, a special thanks goes to Edith Burchell who is retiring from the fantastic job she has performed at the food table for the last 9 years. We will miss her.

Yours in gardening
Dan.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **February 1 – Planters and Groomers, MGC Office 9:00 a.m.**
- **February 8 – Hackers and Whackers, Senior Center 9:00 a.m.**
- **February 10 – MGCI General Meeting Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver Road. Sign in: 10 a.m.–11:20 a.m. Learn and Grow: 10:30 – 11:15 – *Spring Vegetable Gardening*, Johnny Mullins; Meeting: 11:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m. February Speaker -- Heidi Aufdermaur, “Tomatoes, From Seed to Shining Seed”**
- **February 15 – Planters and Groomers, MGC Office 9:00 a.m.**
- **February 22 – Hackers and Whackers, Senior Center 9:00 a.m.**
- **March 1 – Planters and Groomers, MGC Office 9:00 a.m.**
- **March 8 – Hackers and Whackers, Senior Center 9:00 a.m.**
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Virginia Corridor Rose Pruning



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**Snapshots
of
January's
MGC
Meeting**