



Member of CGCI

A Publication of Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

Valley Lode District – Pacific Region

October Speaker: Linda Looper, Garden Girl And Pill Box Gardener

In 2019 HER LIFE magazine ran a beautiful article which describes Linda's path to where she is now. Some highlights are summarized below:

Growing up, Linda's family enjoyed, and sustained themselves, with fresh fruits and vegetables from their family farm. She believes this is what gave her the love of gardening and growing. Later, living on a farm she was involved in 4-H, selling family pumpkins and making dried fruits of all assortments. This country-living grounded her soul and took root.

In her adult life, Linda learned to love chickens. The win, win happened when she discovered the worms multiplying under the chicken coop exposing all the enriched soil. Eggs for Linda and her neighbors, and worms for the garden. After a friend suggested she should build boxes, Linda ended up with a new job she enjoyed. Building garden boxes utilizing her enriched soil and sprinkling in some organic seeds. Through word-of-mouth referrals, Linda was kept busy and in time, her business bloomed into residential and commercial landscaping. One of her commercial clients referred to Linda in this way:

"Linda, alias the Garden Fairy, not only keeps the landscape at the Klinker Brick Winery Tasting Room looking beautiful, always adding new flowers and plants, but has created inviting garden areas for our patrons and wine club members to sip our wines, relax and watch the magnificent sunsets from our courtyard. Linda is also a wonderful ambassador for the winery, greeting guests from all over the world as they visit the tasting room, taking them on short tours, talking about the gardens, different flowers and trees, and the signature Old Vine Sculpture created by local artist Roland Cheney, in our courtyard. Klinker Brick would not be the same without the Garden Fairy." – Steve Felton, owner and president of Klinker Brick Winery.

Her business is called Pill Box Gardener, meaning "my pill box is a garden." The best medicine is the nutritional value of homemade versus pre-packaged. "So, eat your way to better health from your own yard!" she related. She is inspired daily as her mission statement has become "Sharing my enthusiasm of growing organically, eating healthy and living sustainably."



Civic Affairs

By Dan Yockey

Fall is in the air, and it means cooler weather and time to replant our downtown pots.

We plan to do the planting in late October or early November depending on when the plants we have ordered are mature enough to transplant. I will pass around a sign-up sheet for those who wish to participate.

Last month I announced that we had selected the small garden at the end of K Steet. as our project for 2021-2022. Great news, we have been approved by the City Parks to renovate the Garden.

I am so happy that we have gained the support of the Downtown Improvement District and Don Lee Properties not only in enthusiasm, but financial as well

A landscape plan has been drawn up by Jadwiga Hoffman from Morris Nursery and the plan is for the area to be a meadow.

We will be renovating the park in October and November and a sign up will go around at the October Meeting.

Here is your chance to get down and dirty and learn how to plant and maintain different plants one on one with Jadwiga Hoffman.

President's Message

By Dan Yockey

Good morning, Garden Club members.

It seems that we just start to feel things are returning to normal when another roadblock appears. It is with sadness that I have to announce that our Elegant Christmas Luncheon will have to be cancelled again this year. This was caused by increased concern over indoor activities related to the Covid 19 virus and the protection of our members.

On a lighter note, I want to thank all of you who attended the Fall Gathering at the Wistow residence and experienced a wonderful evening.

This Spring elections will be held for Officers and Directors of the Garden Club for 2022-2023. In order for our Club to continue with all of our past success new people need to step in and take the place of retiring Board positions.

Next month I will announce open positions that will be available. If you feel you would like to accept any position let me know right away so that you can train with the current officer.

YOU KNOW YOU CAN DO IT JUST STEP UP AND SAY YES.

Yours in Gardening,
Dan



Please Note ~ Handbook Date Corrections

- September 9, MGCI General Meeting
- October 14, MGCI General Meeting
- November 11, MGCI General Meeting
- January 13, MGCI General Meeting

Holiday Home Tour ~ December 11th

By Gerry Yockey

Please, put this on your calendar so you won't miss out!

I am very excited about this tour that will be in December. There will be so many things to see and get ideas for Christmas. We will sell tickets at the October and November meetings and at the door on the day of the tour. We will also have them online beginning later this month.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- October 5 – Planters and Groomers, MGC Office 9:00 a.m.
- October 12 – Hackers and Whackers, Senior Center 9:00 a.m.
- October 12 – Multimedia, MGC Office 9:30 a.m.
- October 14 – 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, Ed Perry, Master Gardener; Meeting: 11:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Linda Looper, *“The reason I know all I know, is because I have made more mistakes than anyone else”* . . . A forum.
- October 19 – Planters and Groomers, MGC Office 9:00 a.m.
- October 26 – Hackers and Whackers, Senior Center 9:00 a.m.
- October 28 – MGCI Board Meeting, MGC Office 9:00 a.m.
- November 6 – Out of Town Tour, Depart : Park & Ride in front of JC Penney @ 7:45 a.m. Ruth Bancroft Gardens, Orchard Nursery Plus Alden Lane Nursery!
- November 11 – 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; Meeting: 11:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Ryan Garrett ~ 2014 Scholarship Recipient

Hi Judy,

I apologize for taking a little while to get back to you. To answer your questions:

I did complete my education! I graduated from Modesto Junior College in 2016 with an associate degree in Philosophy with Honors. Considering I earned the Modesto Garden Club Scholarship, this may seem odd, but I formally studied environmental ethics. I became entranced in college by questions centered on the human-nature relationship: How should we value nature? As a resource to be maintained and used for recreational reasons, aesthetic reasons, or consumption reasons? Or as something worthy in and of itself without regard for human enjoyment? Moreover, I grappled with questions surrounding ecosystem maintenance. When is an “invasive” plant or animal considered “endemic” to the landscape? Is removing invasive species environmentally beneficial or harmful? Are we stopping natural processes when we remove “invasive” species?

With these questions in mind, I transferred to Whitman College. In 2018, I graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in Philosophy with Honors, specializing in environmental ethics. I then headed to Canada to study at the University of Alberta. I earned my Master’s in Philosophy in 2020, with one of my specializations being environmental ethics.

It was wanting to put the theory I learned into practice that led me to my current job as a Project Specialist for the Mono Lake Committee. The Mono Lake Committee is a member-supported nonprofit dedicated to protecting and restoring California’s Mono Basin. I’ve loved being a part of the Mono Lake Committee because I do something new every day. Some days I lead tours and educate people about the history surrounding Mono Lake. Other days I aid in restorative ecosystem practices. And on others, I take part in research going on in Mono Basin.

My current job and my academic journey were made possible in part because of the Modesto Garden Club scholarship. It paid for nearly all my studies at Modesto Junior College. And because of my efforts at MJC, I was fortunate enough to earn scholarships that made the rest of my undergraduate and graduate degrees possible. The Modesto Garden Club scholarship jump-started my academic and professional journey.

So, thank you, Judy, and thank you Modesto Garden Club,

Sincerely,

Ryan Garrett 2014 Recipient



Over the Garden Gate

*Published 10 times a year, September-June,
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(Open Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-noon)

Fall Gathering

Bu Gerry Yockey

There is nothing like sitting in Brian and Denniz Wistow's yard enjoying the evening under the stars. The weather was beautiful, and the band was excellent!

The food was everything that I wanted it to be. Such a variety of food and I owe it all to the Garden Club members. I thank you so much for all the work you put into it!

The Fall Gathering was such a success. We made \$3,160. I can't thank the members enough for buying tickets!

Some of the memories I have of that night are Josephine Parra, Mary Helen Alonzo, Leah Meedom, Roni DeLeon and Shirley Miller out by the pool dancing up a storm. They said they have not danced in years. Good Times!!!!

I do want to thank Bob and Sharon Searls for all the hard work they did for the club. Bob helped Dan bring in the chairs and Mary Lou Rice helped with the table cloths and setting up the back yard! Sharon helped at the food table and made sure everything was fresh. Mary Ann Uyeno and her husband, Keith, were at the bar and so was Bob Searls. I want to thank Dan Yockey for his wonderful job of helping me put the food and tables, etc. together. Judy Spencer for cleaning up the next day with me.

That brings me to my committee. I am so proud of the way they all came together in helping make this event successful! Mary Lou Rice, Judy Spencer, Mary Ann Uyeno, Jean Davis, Patté Williams and Dan Yockey. Thank you all so much!

Before I close this article, I really want to thank our Host and Hostess Brian and Denniz Wistow. They have always been so generous with their time and sharing their beautiful home. We, the committee, thanks you both for your commitment to the Garden Club. ***If you weren't able to make it to the Fall Gathering (or just want to reminisce), the photos on these two pages give you an idea of what a great time everyone who attended had!***







September Meeting

Photos from top left, Dan and Gerry Yockey; Mary McNicholas; below, left, Patté Williams, and Dede Heisinger, right. Left corner, below, Sharon Searles.



Learn and Grow

By Beverly Schlegel

Learn and Grow speaker's topics will be varied and enjoyable in 2021-2022. To date speakers have been scheduled for October to April; speaker/topics are Best Shade Trees, Creating a More Sustainable and Low Maintenance Front Yard, Spring Vegetable Gardening, Bees, and Spring Flower and Plant Projects with/for Children.

Speakers are needed for January and May. If you have a suggestion or wish to speak about a gardening related topic, contact Beverly, 209-549-1664.

Come to the church sanctuary on meeting days for Learn and Grow, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Enjoy!



The Legacy of Ruth Bancroft: *"I never met a plant too big or too mean for me."*

Modesto Garden Club Out of Town Tour The Menagerie Tours~ A diverse Collection of FUN

November 6th- Ruth Bancroft Gardens & Orchard Nursery Plus Alden Lane Nursery!

We will start our morning off at the Bagel Street Café for bagels, coffee and other goodies then off to Ruth Bancroft Garden and Nursery . It features succulents, cacti and water wise plants on 2.5 acres. Next stop is Orchard

Nursery in Lafayette where we will shop plants, pots and be filled with ideas around every corner. This is the kickoff for Christmas Décor here & everywhere we go! Our third stop is Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore. Christmas in November fun, plus a great array of plants and their famous magnificent oak trees! There could be a surprise...

Cost: \$45.00 **NO REFUNDS!!**

Time: Leave at 7:45 a.m.

Departure Location: Park & Ride in front of JC Penney

November 13th- "Murder on the Orient Express", Sierra Repertory Theatre, Sonora

Come spend the day with us shopping the awesome, one-of-a-kind shops filled with Christmas and unusual things (like the Rusty Rose). Or eating delicious food that you can only find on Main Street, Sonora. We will end the day enjoying theatre moments watching "Murder on the Orient Express" at the quaint theatre in Sonora.

November 13th - "Murder on the Orient Express"

Cost: \$64.00 **NO REFUNDS!!**

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Departure Location: Park & Ride in front of JC Penney



For more information, call Patté Williams at (209) 505-3526

Name _____ Guest _____

Address _____ Phone _____

R.B. Garden \$45.00 Amount Paid _____ NO REFUNDS!!

Sierra Repertory \$64.00

Make checks payable to: Modesto Garden Club

Send to: Patté Williams, c/o Modesto Garden Club, 622 14th Street, Modesto, CA 95354-2505

Current Covid-19 rules apply in all venues. Masks will be required while on the bus.



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Planters and Groomers

By Gerry Yockey

Next month we will be planting new flowers for the Spring Garden Tour. I know the girls are looking forward to seeing something new in the garden.....also cooler weather.

We spent most of our time cleaning the flower beds and weeding. Our grass still looks green and the Impatiens are still blooming. You can see that Fall is in the air.



*Modesto Garden Club
Volunteer of the Month
Denniz Wistow*

I want to take this time to thank all my ladies for making finger foods for Denniz and Brian's Fall Gathering Event. They always do a great job.

If anyone wants to join the Planters and Groomers, please let me know. We would love to have you. My phone number is: 521-5619.

Sign up for a Budding Gardener Group

A new Budding Gardener group will be formed on Thursday, November 6, 2021, at 1:00 pm at my home. This group will be comprised of new or existing members. These groups meet monthly for friendship and the particular interests of that group. If you are interested call or text me by November 1, 2021.

Ginger Ratto
412 River Oaks Drive
Modesto, CA 95356
209-484-8485 or 209-545-3243



Learn and Grow Speaker ~ Ed Perry

By Beverly Schlegal

Ed Perry was the Horticulture Advisor for University of California Cooperative Extension, Stanislaus County for over 35 years. Since retirement in 2010, he spends his free time assisting the Master Gardener Program, gardening in his yard, and spending time with his grandkids.