



OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Volume 26 Issue 6

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February 2026

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Andrew Carmichael The Future Of Our Forests

My name is Andrew Carmichael and I was forced to labor in my parents' garden nearly 40 years ago. These days I garden willingly and even do it professionally. I work as an arborist for a major utility company, providing support for major Construction projects.

I am a graduate of the University of Washington, where I studied the history of urban planning and landscape architecture. UC Davis and Merritt College provided Master Gardener and Arboriculture training, respectively.

I notice a human world that doesn't do a particularly good job of treating the natural world with dignity. My goal is to bring awareness and understanding to my community so we can effectively cohabitiate with our forests.

My talk is called The Future of our Forests. I will discuss our natural and urban forests, how we value trees, and a vision for healing our relationship with their role in our world.



Nancy Robinson, President

Well, who else is ready for spring and more sunshine? I'm just finished with all this fog and grey! Did everyone get their roses pruned? Now is the time to do it if you haven't. Bring on that first flush of blooms! I can't wait to get my hands in the soil and clean up the winter debris.

Don't forget the Late Bloomer's contest at the February 12th meeting. Look for more information in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing all of the ideas you come up with.

We have a lot of fun activities coming up in the next few months. Keep your eye out for the ones you would like to participate in. Our biggest event of the year is our Spring Garden Tour. Mark your calendar NOW. April 18 is the date. There is always a need for docents. This is a great way to meet new people. The Spring Garden Tour is our main fundraiser which allows us to give \$9000.00 in scholarships. If you would like to be more involved in the club, please let me know and I'll find just the right place for you. Remember, this is YOUR club, so let's make it great!

Happy Gardening
Nancy



Dave Provost, Vice President, Civic Affairs

Hello, fellow Garden Clubbers. So much to do this time of year! Spring is right around the corner. It feels bleak right now with more fog this year than we've seen in decades. Should make for a great fruit year – loads of cherries, peaches, and almonds. If your yard looks like mine, I've been a bit neglectful, not wanting to go play in the garden in the foggy cold.

Don't forget about the plant sale coming up on May 9th. There is still time to start cuttings and divide perennials. Warm weather is coming soon, and with it the trees will be in bloom and then the daffodils to brighten all our spirits. Yay!

Dee Godfrey, Newsletter Editor

It's a new year and new things are on the horizon. There are 36 new members for one thing, and the newsletter has a new editor. Plans are in the works to add summaries of the monthly meetings so if you are unable to attend, you can still know what's going on. There will be articles about the various programs the club is involved in and how you can help. Already added is a News and Notes section for shorter items you'll want to know about. Ultimately, however, this newsletter is for *you!* What would you like to see and read about? What's happening at the district and state levels? Or member profiles? Sister club activities? Letters to the editor? Send an email to

newsrequest@modestogardenclub.org with your ideas and suggestions. After all, the goal of the newsletter is to keep you informed and I welcome your input!

Gerry Yockey, Director, Planters and Groomers

The Christmas holidays are over and we are back to working extremely hard at the Garden club office garden – lots of leaves from our trees and lots of weeds.

Now is the time to prune the Roses, trim the hedges, and start getting the garden ready for the Spring Garden Tour.

Instead of a green lawn in the front yard we installed a stone path. We can't wait to see the Foxgloves blooming in the spring!

Come join "Gerrys girls" on the first and third Tuesday of the month for gardening, a little gossip, and plenty of snacks – SUCH FUN.

Thank you Debbi Perry, Emily Ryslinge, Mary McNicholas, and Shirley Stewart for fantastic lunches at their homes and my annual ornament exchange party at my home.

Thanks also to my two chefs.

Want to join in all the fun? Call Gerry Yockey at 209-484-0359

Have a great year.

Gerry



Janice Garcia, Vice President, Education



"The Gilded Age" series. In the group are Bernie Durossette, Lura Bailey, Janis Perkins, Dolly Ayers, Linda James, and Debbi Perry. Between them, they hold eleven supportive positions within the Garden Club this year.

Bonding friendships, they enjoy thrifting and estate sales, getting together for lunches, movies, and events at the Gallo Center. They collectively helped out with the fall gathering, Valley Lode Meeting, and hosting the last and next New Members Social. All having artistic abilities, they have shown their talents by entering Late Bloomer Contests and hosting tables at Del Rio Country Club.

The Duchesses would like to add, "It's more fun together and we encourage others to start their own Budding Gardener Group. It is extremely rewarding to support the club with your friends."



By Janis Perkins
A newly started Budding Gardener Group signed up August 2025, calling themselves "The Duchesses" because they all enjoyed watching

News and Notes

- ♥ The Modesto Camellia Society Camellia Show will be on March 21, 1 pm – 5 pm and March 22 10:30 am – 4 pm at the Mary Stuart Rodgers Student Learning Center at the Modesto Junior College West Campus.
- ♥ The Stockton Rose Society is holding their annual Rose Stroll on Saturday, April 25. More information to come.
- ♥ If you are interested in working with Erin Aquiar, last month's General Meeting speaker, she can be reached at (209) 614-5850, email: ErinAquiardesigns@gmail.com

@ERINAGUIARDESIGNS



Carla Latimer, Hands-On Workshop Sea Glass Bird Picture Art!

We are making a change to our March workshop class. Instead of "Glass Plate Owls" yard art, we will be making "Sea Glass Birds" picture art!

Date: March 23rd, 2026
Time: 9 to 11 am
Cost: \$30.00 pp

Don't miss this fun workshop!
Enjoy some yummy snacks and have a cup of coffee or tea too!
Sign up and pay at the March Meeting!



Lee Lundigan, Vice President, Fundraising

April 18, 2026, Spring Garden Tour

Join us on **Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 10 am to 4 pm** on this self-guided tour. Tickets are \$25 each while children 11-years-old and under are free.

2026 Modesto gardens include: 1) Kimberly Spina, 6437 Covert Rd.; 2) John & Evangelina Paoluccio, 4801 Quinturn Lane; 3) Troy & Jennifer Wright, 1600 Pristine Court; 4) Garrett Vick, 1114 Brady Avenue; 5) Modesto Garden Club, 622 14th Street.



Most of the self-guided tour takes place outside in the gardens. The first garden invites guests to also tour the ice cream parlor, saloon, and ballroom located on the property while the Garden Club Office and garden are available for all to see.

Our five gardens incorporate an assortment of ideas, plants, and focus. Enthusiastic and knowledgeable home gardeners - maintain them. Prepare to be wowed by an incredible range of sights. Gardens range from a variety of 30 avocado trees, plants with a rock stream, succulents planted in cameras and typewriters, a driveway of persimmons, a garden brimming with unique trees, shrubs, flowers, and a waterfall, plus a classic English cottage garden.

The Master Gardeners will be invited to join us with a booth. Attendees can expect delicious refreshments, fabulous Raffatunity prizes, and super docents! Wait ... that's you!

Calling all Modesto Garden Club members to sign up for a 2-hour opportunity to docent with your friends at one of the five gardens. Each 2-hour docent "slot" requires three to four docents. One of the three will act as "lead docent" who is a good communicator: talks to the home owner, sells tickets at the door, and passes information from the previous team to the next team.

Docent sign-up sheets for 2-hour shifts are available at the Garden Club February, March, and April General Meetings. If you miss a meeting, you can telephone our Docent Lead Atlanta Jordan. Her home number is 209-522-8292; say and spell your name and slowly leave your number. She's also in the Garden Club Year Book.

Club members are welcome to donate Raffatunity items! Last year, generous club members donated sets of antique china, art, and quilts to name a few. Think about items you feel would sell well to support our club.

Want to help out? There are tasks of all sizes for you to help support these Lead persons.

SGT director	Lee Lundigan	Lead Publicity	Sue Hudgens
Asst. Fundraising	Atlanta Jordan	Lead Refreshments	Jeanette Robinson
Lead Docents	Atlanta Jordan	Lead Raffatunity	Lydia Smith
Lead Tickets	Nancy Holmes and Dee Godfrey	Logistics	Lydia & Scott Smith
Lead Photography	MaryLou Rice	Garden Hostess Gift	Dede Heisinger

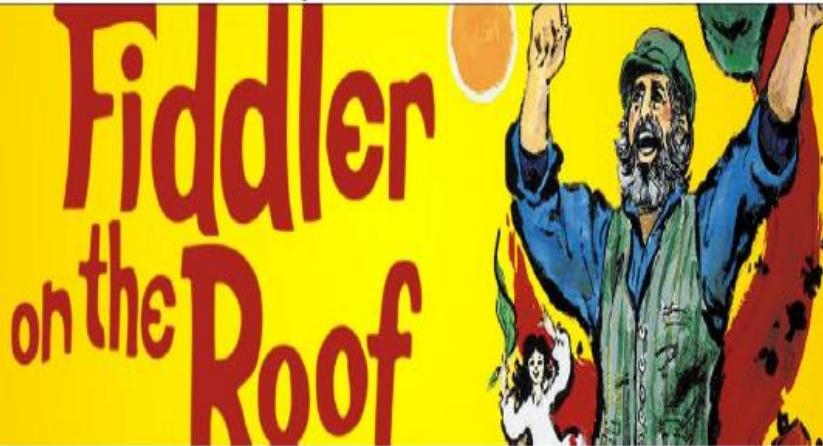
Team meetings are on the second Fridays of the month, 1pm-3pm, on Feb. 13, March 13, and April 10 at the Garden Club Office, 622 14th Street. Call/ text/ email me with questions: Lee Lundigan, 209-303-0011 / Lundigan@bigvalley.net



Modesto Garden Club Out of Town Tour

Sierra Repertory Theatre, Sonora

Saturday, March 14th, 2026



(Trips are Non-Refundable)

Gathering Place: Park & Ride, Vintage Faire Mall

Cost: \$82.00

Date/Time: Saturday, March 14th, 2026

Departure Time: 11:00 am

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

Name _____ Guest _____

Phone _____ Amount Paid _____ NO REFUNDS!!

Make checks payable to: Modesto Garden Club
Send to: Patte' Williams c/o Modesto Garden Club
622 14th Street, Modesto, CA 95354-2505

Over The Garden Gate

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Office: 622 14th Street, Modesto, CA 95354-2505



Chrysanthemum Mirrors



General Meeting





**Music
Themed
Contest**

RULES:

1. Who can enter: any MGC Member
2. DIY Project Requirements are: musical themed, may embellish with store bought items to make it a one of a kind entry.
3. Location Modesto Covenant Church Date: Feb. 10
4. Top 3 winners receive Ribbons
5. Great ideas on Pinterest






Rose Pruning

Spring Garden Tour

Saturday, April 18, 2026
10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Modesto Garden Locations



- #1 6437 Covert Rd
- #2 4801 Quinturn Lane
- #3 1600 Pristine Court
- #4 1114 Brady Ave
- #5 622 14th Street

Tickets \$25

children under 12 years old are free

Tickets May Be Purchased At
 MODESTO Fresh Idea Flower Co / Westurf Nursery
 RIPON Farmers Daughter / The Paper Habit
 RIVERBANK Suite 52 Living / Garden Club Office
 TURLOCK Thompson Building Supply & Nursery
 Morris Nursery
 The Greenery
 at any of the homes on the day of the tour
 or on-line at ModestoGardenClub.org

Refreshments & Raffatunity

Available at the Modesto Garden Club Office & Garden
 Garden #5 622 14th Street
 downtown Modesto, California

Modesto Garden Club, Inc.





622 14th Street
Modesto, CA 95354

Coming Events

February 10 – Valley Lode District Meeting

Chez Shari
305 N. Union, Manteca
9 am – 1:30 pm (approximately)
Multimedia Team Meeting
Modesto Garden Club Office
622 14th Street, Modesto
9 am – 11 am

February 12 – MGCI General Meeting

Modesto Covenant Church
913 Floyd Avenue, Modesto
Hospitality: 10 am – 11:15 am
Business: 11:15 am – 12 noon
Speaker: 12 noon – 1:00 pm
Andrew Carmichael: The Future of Our Forests
Contest: Late Bloomers “Sound of Music”

February 13 – Spring Garden Tour Team Meeting

Modesto Garden Club Office
622 14th Street, Modesto
1 pm – 3 pm

February 26 – MGCI Board Meeting

Modesto Garden Club Office
622 14th Street, Modesto
9 am – 11 am



March 10 – Multimedia Team Meeting

Modesto Garden Club Office
622 14th Street, Modesto
9 am – 11 am

March 12 – General Meeting

Modesto Covenant Church
913 Floyd Avenue, Modesto
Hospitality: 10 am – 11:15 am
Business: 11:15 am – 12 noon
Speaker: 12 noon – 1:00 pm
Pat Logan, School Gardens Program

March 13 – ARBOR DAY Spring Garden Tour Team Meeting

Modesto Garden Club Office
622 14th Street, Modesto
1 pm – 3 pm

March 14 – Out of Town Tour

Sierra Repertory Theater, Sonora
Contact Patté Williams
Fiddler on the Roof; \$82pp

March 23 – Hands On Workshop

Modesto Garden Club Office
622 14th Street, Modesto
9 am – 11 am
Sea Glass Birds Art; \$30pp

April 18 – Spring Garden Tour