

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Volume 2025, Issue 9

A Publication of Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

May 2025

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May Speaker — Ron Crump — Bees, Butterflies and Pollinators

Ron Crump is a local beekeeper who got his start in beekeeping 15 years ago when his father-in-law sent for a mail-order package of bees to pollinate his green beans. They soon found out that beans are self-pollinating but the fascination with the little pollinators was born!

After moving to Modesto from Los Angeles in 2012, Ron purchased more hives and began a hobbyist's interest in beekeeping. After a few years of failures (the bees died) and successes (the bees lived), Ron's apiary grew from two hives to four, then exponentially to around one hundred hives. He began renting his beehives to farmers for pollination of their almonds, sunflowers, melons and cucumbers. He also began mentoring other new beekeepers (aka newbees) and educating children and the community on the magic and importance of bees to our world. Ron and his bees, equipment and hands have appeared in two widely seen films about the importance of bees to our ecosystem: David Attenborough's PBS program, "Green Planet" in 2022 and True Food TV's "Almonds How Does It Grow" on YouTube in 2023.

Ron lives with his wife, Rebecca and son Cameron in Modesto, California where his business, Bee Garden Honey, harvests and produces local honey as well as pollinates local crops. His bees have appeared at the Turlock School District's Annual Ag Day for third graders, Modesto Junior College's Wild Planet Days, the La Loma Community Garden Pollinator Festival, and classrooms at Central Catholic High School and Our Lady of Fatima. He has also spoken at various garden club meetings throughout the region.



New to You Table & Plant Sharing — Lydia and Scott Smith

Start gathering your items for the New to You fundraising event which will take place at the May general meeting. Club members can bring in gently used items they no longer need. The idea is that these pre-loved items can become "new" to someone else, encouraging the reuse of resources.

It's a win-win: members will find unique bargains, contributors will declutter while supporting the cause, and the fundraiser helps to make a positive impact. The New to You Table creates a wonderful sense of community engagement and shared purpose.

Don't forget to bring your extra plants to share at this table. Your shared plants bring JOY to new & old gardeners when they bloom in their garden, reminding them of YOU!

Late Bloomers Contest — Janis Perkins

Design anything you can imagine by using a clay pot.

Add live plants or not to your inspiring piece.

Be creative - we can't wait to see what you come up with.

Any size pot(s).

Look online for ideas.

May Meeting Contest

Create your special clay pot(s). Any size and any materials.

Presidents Message—Nancy Robinson

We had a great time at the Pollinator Festival. Thanks to Lydia and Scott Smith for transporting all the supplies and being there with me for the day. I couldn't do these events without them. We sold some painted rocks and promoted the Spring Garden Tour and Vendor Faire/Plant Sale. I also spoke at the Board of Supervisors and City Council meetings in April promoting both of these events. It helps to get the word out about our club and our activities.

Our Spring Garden Tour was a huge success. Congratulations to Lee Lundrigan and her team for a job well done. It was an extremely successful event.

Our next fundraiser will be on May 3rd from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Modesto Covenant Church where we hold our monthly meetings. It is our Vendor Faire / Plant Sale. We have about 20 vendors and lots of plants to sell. I encourage all of you to attend. This is a new endeavor and I'd like to see if we raise enough money to replace our Holiday Home Tour.

Membership renewals begin May 1st. You may renew online, mail a check to the office or pay at the May 8th General Meeting. Dues will be delinquent July 31st.



Spring Garden Tour — Lee Lundrigan — VP Fundraising

The April 12, 2025 Spring Garden Tour was lots of fun. Over 730 attendees joined the tour. **Income reached over \$23,000** and silent auction income continues being collected as this article is written.

MANY THANKS AND RECOGNITION:

~To all who participated including our garden owners, members, raffatunity and refreshment donors and the many members of the public who spent the day with us.

~To the five gardens who wowed us with a tropical paradise, a forest lake, a spacious peaceful retreat, a drought tolerant hybrid garden and a cottage garden. Thank you, Chris and Shawn Gray, John and Dorene Paoluccio, Bruce and Debbie Perry, Larry and Dona Taylor and our very own Groomers and Planters for opening your lovely gardens and inviting a stream of interested garden lovers to visit.

~To the Master Gardeners for your educational booth with gardening tips and information.

~To the committee chairs and their teams who worked to make this a great Spring Garden Tour! Director Lee Lundrigan, Raffatunity Chair Bernie Durossette, Refreshment Chair Jeanette Robinson, Ticket Chair Nancy Holmes, Design and Print Chair Mary Lou Rice, Docent Chair Atlanta Jordan, Publicity Chair Sue Hudgens and for all around support our President Nancy Robinson!

~To each and every docent and their friends who filled more than sixty docent positions. All docents wore the club green cobbler apron with our embroidered Modesto Garden Club logo as they smiled and welcomed our many guests.

~To our golf cart drivers at Garden #4 who shuttled attendees from the garden to the Masonic parking lot next door.

Raffatunity Success:

Over 80 donated raffatunity prizes including gift cards, trees, plants, floral arrangements, sod, wine, home spa treatments, food delicacies, charcuterie boards, lovely Limoge's place settings, art and garden tools were displayed for bidding. MANY tickets were sold! A second area of silent auction items was added this year.

Refreshment Triumph:

We hope you were able to get to Garden #5 at the Modesto Garden Club office to indulge in the yummy refreshment spread all were invited to enjoy. Delicious sweets, savories, wine, and soft drinks were served to hundreds of hungry and thirsty attendees.

It was a magnificent garden tour - hope YOU were there!

Next years' Spring Garden Tour is scheduled Sat. April 18, 2026. The third Saturday in April.

Help Us Round-Up the Club's Green Aprons— Lee Lundrigan

Were you at the Spring Garden Tour? Did you wear one of the green cobbler aprons home? Please take a look around and return them at the next general meeting. We started with 40 aprons last year and now we are down to 27.

Let's all try to find them! Help!

Fall Gathering — Saturday, September 20th — Lee Lundrigan

Circle the date and plan to attend our 2025 Fall Gathering. This years' Modesto Garden Club *Fall Gathering* event is hosted by Brad & Nancy Hawn at their magnificent Modesto property - 231 Magnolia Avenue. Tickets are \$50 each or \$90 per couple. Keep your eye open for the upcoming details.

Call/ text/ email Lee Lundrigan: 209-303-0011 or Lundrigan@bigvalley.net to join the Fall Gathering team and help create this relaxing evening.

Civic Affairs—VP Dave Provost

After the great presentation at April’s meeting by David Lee, I’ve had requests for my favorite hummingbird friendly plants. Here are a few that they love in my garden. Tops would have to be Cuphea ‘Vermillionaire’, Agastache aka ‘Hummingbird mint’, Penstemons, Fuchsias, Abutilon ‘Flowering Maple’, Salvias, especially Autumn sage and ‘Black and Blue’. I have an orange Tiger Lily the little birds really love.

Looking forward to Saturday May 3rd when MGC will hold our first Plant Sale and Vendor Faire at the Modesto Covenant Church. It will be fun to see what plants members donate. We’ll have some great hanging pots as well as member grown veggies and flowers. Nancy has promised vendors with unique crafts. Tell your friends and neighbors.

Please bring your plants to the Office on Wednesday morning, April 30. It would also be great if you could bring them to the church on Saturday morning, the day of the sale. If you cannot transport your plants, please let me know by Tuesday, April 29th.

Take some time to enjoy all the flowers on a beautiful Spring Day.

Planters & Groomers—Gerry Yockey

I have never been so proud of the positive comments about the Office gardens at the Spring Garden Tour.

There were flowers everywhere and the roses were especially beautiful.

The members of the Planters and Groomers take pride in making the garden one of a kind.

If you missed the tour, stop by on Wednesdays from 9 to 12 and share the beauty.

I can't say enough how proud I am of all of the girls and the guys too.

Gerry

Private Garden Tour May 31st —Evie Heron-Olds

After visiting the southern states in the 1990's, two Escalon contractors were inspired by the southern plantation homes. When they came home to Escalon, they decided to build this estate in their hometown based on the grand structures in the south.

This majestic two-story home is unique to the valley area. Front and back yards are filled with glorious plants, trees and flowers all surrounding a resort like pool. Several seating vignettes border the pool area for a relaxing view of the expansive yard. A working vineyard lines the parameters of the property.



Be sure to put this special tour on your list of “events to attend” on May 31 from 10am to 3pm

Flyers with the address for this Private Garden Tour will be distributed at the Garden Club meetings.

Drinks/appetizers will be available at the event.



April General Meeting



Betty Cole Volunteer of month

Summer Luncheon—VP Activities Linda Pedego



Summer Luncheon & Table Viewing

Table Viewing: June 11
1:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
\$10.00 at the door

Luncheon: June 12
10:30 a.m.—11:45 a.m. Viewing
12 Noon Luncheon
\$50 in advance with reservation

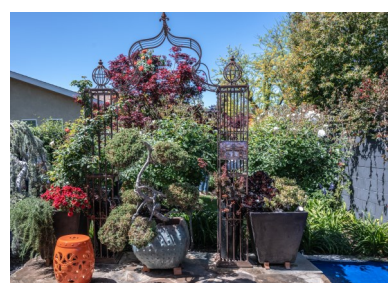
The table viewing is the best way to see all the beautifully decorated tables, in all the splendor, at your leisure. The hostesses spend endless hours planning their flowers, stemware, dishes, and other decorations.

Luncheon tickets are always at a premium so contact a hostess if you can or arrive early at the May General Meeting of MGC and visit the Luncheon table to make your purchase or put your name on the waiting list.

PLANTING OUT



SPRING GARDEN TOUR





Modesto Garden Club Out of Town Tour May 14th, 2025 California State Capitol Gardens PLUS The Leland Stanford Mansion

The Leland Stanford Mansion was built in 1861 for the Stanford family. Today, it is a beautifully restored gilded age historic mansion in downtown Sacramento. The uniqueness of the mansion was the roll it played in the early days of California. It was not just a family home, but became a temporary Capitol building, served as a girls' home and now it services as California's informal meeting/reception office.

Then we will take a guided tour through our State Capitol's Gardens. Our garden's cover 40 acres and spans 12 city blocks. The memorials and monuments are tastefully incorporated into the Capitol Park to remind us of our history and natural beauty. Our park in one of the most beautiful State Capitol Parks in the nation.

Soput on your walking shoes and let's begin an adventure!!

Gathering Place: Park & Ride, Vintage Faire Mall (Trips are Non-Refundable)

SAVE THE DATE - Bouquet to Arts at the De Young Museum June 5, 2025 (More info to come)

COST.....\$50.00

DATE.....Wednesday, May 14, 2025

TIME.....7:30 am- 4:30 pm

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

Name _____ Guest _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Amount Paid _____ ***NO REFUNDS!!*** Make checks payable to: Modesto Garden Club

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

October Valley Lode District Meeting—Nancy Robinson

October 14 the Modesto Garden Club is responsible for hosting the Valley Lode District meeting. I am putting together a committee to organize and host this event. There are many aspects of this meeting and I will need many volunteers to help put this event together. The meeting includes a light breakfast, lunch and dessert as well as several raffaunity baskets, making decorations, taking reservation and signing people in that day. If you would like to help out for this event please call me to sign up. This is an excellent way to get to know people from our club, but also some people from other clubs in our district.

My number is 209-968-6556

Over the Garden Gate

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Newsletter Editor: Mary Lou Rice

Submit articles to: newsletter@modestogardenclub.org (deadline is 15th of the month before)

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NOTICE

THIS IS THE PROPOSED MODESTO GARDEN CLUB, INC. BYLAW CHANGES APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025. PLEASE READ THEM CAREFULLY. THEY WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025, GENERAL MEETING FOR A VOTE OF APPROVAL BY THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AS REQUIRED.

Proposed Bylaws Revisions (04.2025)

**ARTICLE IX
Committees**

Section 1. The Nominating Committee is formed in even numbered years.

- a. It shall consist of five (5) members, one of whom shall be appointed by the President at the September Board Meeting, who shall serve as Chairperson, one of whom shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the September Board Meeting, and three of whom shall be chosen by the Chairperson from the general membership and be presented for approval at the October Board of Directors Meeting in even numbered years.
- b. The Parliamentarian shall provide instructions to the committee members.
- c. The chairperson shall submit its slate of candidates at the March General meeting in odd numbered years.
- d. Election of the slate of candidates shall occur at the April General Meeting. Further nominations from the floor shall be permitted at the April meeting, providing consent of the nominees has been obtained.
- e. Installation of officers shall take place at the May General Meeting.

Section 2. A Budget Committee, consisting of the Treasurer and four other members shall be appointed by the President promptly after the April General Meeting. It shall be the duty of this Committee to prepare a budget for the **next fiscal year, beginning the first day of **July 1 to June 30**, and to submit it to the Board of Directors at the May Board Meeting for approval. Presented to the Club **members** at the General Meeting in September. The Budget Committee may submit amendments to the budget from time to time for the current fiscal year, which may be adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.**

Section 3. An Internal Review Committee consisting of two people **who shall be appointed by the President to review the annual financial statements provided by the Treasurer. These reviewers shall have varied financial experience and be independent, meaning the President, Treasurer and Vice Presidents cannot be members. **A summary report shall be made at the August Board of Directors meeting.** Members may not be paid for consulting or other services provided to the organization.**

Section 4.

- a. A Bylaws Committee, chaired by the Parliamentarian, shall consist of the President, the Immediate Past President and two Vice Presidents. They shall meet at a time called by the Parliamentarian **for review and update of Bylaws and Standing Rules.**
- b. Amendment of Bylaws, these bylaws may be amended at any General Meeting of the Club by a two-thirds vote of the members present, providing such amendment has been approved by the Board of Directors and submitted to the members at least two weeks in advance of said meeting. **(moved from Article XIII)**

Section 5.

- a. The Investment Committee shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors. The investment accounts, Endowment Fund and Savings Fund, shall be managed by the Club Investment Committee. appointed by the President of the Club and approved by the Board of Directors. The committee shall consist of no less than five and no more than nine persons. At least two members of the committee shall be members of the Board of Directors, one of whom shall be the Treasurer, and at least three members shall be drawn from the general membership of the Club who are not members of the Board of Directors. In addition, the President shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of the committee.
- b. The investment accounts, Endowment Fund and Savings Fund, shall be managed by the Club Investment Committee.
- c. The Investment Committee will meet after each **quarterly** report is available for review. **The Chairperson shall give a summary report to the Board of Directors at the next Board meeting (usually in August, October, January and April). Refer to the Investment Policy Statement for more details.**

- d. The Club Budget Committee or Board of Directors shall, as needed, make a request to the Investment Committee to spend investment funds to balance the upcoming fiscal year’s budget and/or to pay for a project.
- e. Removal of funds from either investment fund requires prior authorization of the Club Board of Directors and the Investment Committee. [Refer to Standing Rules, Finances: 3) b) and c).]

Section 6. The Proofreading Committee shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the President. The Chairperson shall select additional members from the Board of Directors and/or the general membership. All publications (including posters, event tickets, pamphlets, yearbook, eblasts etc.) must include the club logo and be proofread prior to publication.

Section 7. The Executive Committee shall consist of five to eleven (5-11) Board of Director members to include President, Immediate Past President, Parliamentarian, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. Additional elected or appointed officers may attend specific meetings at the President’s discretion.

Section 6.

Section 8. Other necessary committees, Standing or Special, shall be appointed by the President, who shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Renumber Article XIV to become Article XIII

Renumber Article XV to become Article XIV

Modesto
Garden Club
 FREE ADMISSION
 Saturday, May 3
 10 - 4
Plant Sale
 &
Vendor Faire
 Modesto Covenant Church
 913 Floyd Avenue

Plenty of Vendors with handcrafted, unique gifts & food items

Flowers, annuals, perennials, vegetables, succulents and much more

Modesto Garden Club
 Est. 1924



622 14th Street
Modesto, CA 95354-2505

Address

Upcoming Calendar of Events

May 1 Time to pay your MGCI dues \$50

May 3 Plant Sale / Vendor Faire
Modesto Covenant Church
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

May 8 MGCI General Meeting
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Modesto Covenant Church

May 10 Turlock Garden Club Spring Garden Tour
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. \$25.00

May 14 Out of Town Tour
California State Capitol Gardens and
Leland Stanford Mansion

May 29 MGCI Board Meeting
9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
MGCI Office.

May 31 Private Garden Tour

June 5 Out of Town Tour
Bouquet to Art
DeYoung Museum

June 11-12 Summer Table Viewing and Luncheon
Del Rio Country Club

July 31 MGCI dues are delinquent! \$50

August 28 MGCI Board Meeting
9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
MGCI Office

September 11 MGCI General Meeting
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Modesto Covenant Church

September 20 Fall Gathering!