



Volume 27 Issue 1

A Publication of Modesto Garden Club Inc.

September 2026

September Speaker Anne Schellman

President

Nancy Robinson

Vice President Activities

Linda Pedego

Director Out of Town Tours

Patté Williams Moore

Vice President Civic Affairs

Dave Provost

Director Planters & Groomers

Gerry Yockey

Vice President Communications

Dee Godfrey

Vice President of Donations

Dan Yockey

Vice President Education

Janice Garcia

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Jennifer Wright

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Vice Presidents Facilities

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Sheri McCoy

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Louise Nelson

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Debby Perry

Parliamentarian

Denise Gruen

Administrative Assistants

Deanna Clark

Dolly Ayers

Immediate Past President

Dan Yockey



Anne has a keen interest in plants, animals, and nature. She credits her grandfather for her love of plants, and Modesto Junior College for helping her discover a career in horticulture. Anne graduated from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo with a degree in Environmental Horticultural Science, and a master's degree in Community Development from UC Davis. She worked for University of California for over 10 years. She has been the UC Master Gardener Coordinator since 2018. In her free time, Anne enjoys gardening, exercising, playing with her two orange cats, and watching Korean dramas.

Anne will be our guest speaker at the General Meeting on September 10th on the topic of poisonous plants.

President's Message: Nancy Robinson

I'm so excited about the start of this new Garden Club year. We have so many fun activities planned! Be sure you check out the new yearbook when it comes out. You'll see some new people who have stepped up to take on jobs in the club. It's always fun when new people participate in the Club. We're expecting the yearbooks to be available at the meeting this month.

As most of you know, this is my fourth and last year as President. We are looking for someone to take my place. If you are interested, please reach out to me. I plan on helping the new president as much as I can.

Look for information in this newsletter about the Fall Gathering that will be on September 19th. Tickets are available now for \$50 each or \$90 for couples.

I'm looking forward to a fun filled year with lots of time to enjoy being with friends!

Happy Gardening,
Nancy Robinson



Donations by Dan Yockey

Every dollar donated to the Modesto Garden Club directly funds the Civic projects that keep our city vibrant, colorful, and welcoming. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of our community and members to buy the raw materials needed to fuel our volunteer-led projects.

Examples:

- ◆ Downtown pots (right): Your donations fuel the seasonal flowers planted twice a year across roughly 150 pots lining H, I, J, and K Streets.
- ◆ Memorial Rose Garden: Located on West Orangeburg Avenue at the Virginia Corridor, this peaceful space features hundreds of Knockout and Iceberg Roses. Financial gifts cover the cost of replacing old bushes and maintaining the surrounding landscaping.
- ◆ Centennial Garden: Adjacent to the Memorial Rose Garden, the Club designed and planted this landmark garden to commemorate 100 years of existence and service from 1924-2024. Donations help us maintain this brand-new space.
- ◆ The Aileen Gallo Memorial Clock Garden: Located on K street between 10th and 11th streets, this iconic 20-foot landmark is one of eight functioning Flower Clock Gardens in the United States. The complete renovation of the Flower Clock Garden will be one of the Garden Club's major projects for 2026-2027.



We could not undertake these projects and more without donations and grants, and rely on them to sustain our efforts. You can help! Donations can be made through the website on a one-time or recurring basis. Thank you for your support!

Hands-On Workshops by Carla Latimer

It's a new year at the Club and that means new Hands-On Workshops! This year, we'll be making Spring greeting cards, barrette flowers, a Christmas wreath, and a Tree of Life and it all starts on Monday, September 21st from 9 am to noon with Fabric Flower Pots! There are 16 spaces and the cost is \$25, payable when you register at the September 10th General Meeting. Dee Godfrey will be assisting me this year and we are both looking forward to seeing you there and making beautiful decorations!

September 21 Hands-On Workshop, Fabric Flower Pots

Location: Club Office, 622 14th Street, Modesto

Time: 9 am – 12 noon

Cost: \$25, 16 spots available



News and Notes

Coming in October:

- October 2: Blue Star Memorial Marker Ceremony in Newman.
- October 3: Downtown Pot Planting from 9 am – 12 noon; meet at the Club Office.
- October 8: Late Bloomers Contest at the General Meeting. Theme: *Design Your Favorite Fall Centerpiece* using pumpkins or any other fall items.
- October 10: Japanese Maple Trimming Seminar from 9am – 12 noon at the Club Office.
- October 13: Valley Lode District Meeting in Linden from 9 am – 1:30 pm (approximately).
- October 17: Out-of-Town Tour to Oakland for a tour of the San Francisco Bay on the USS Potomac.
- October 24: Member's Art Show at the Club Office 9 am – 2 pm.

Details for each event will be in next month's newsletter.

- Club President Nancy Robinson is stepping down after this year and the search is on for our next President – could it be you? The candidate will work with Nancy to learn the ins and outs of the position before stepping into the position. If you are interested (or know of a potential candidate), contact Janice Garcia or Nancy Robinson.
- The Newman Garden Club is sponsoring a Blue Star Memorial Marker. The ceremony is on October 2nd at 11 am, 1334 W. Stuhr Road in Newman. Blue Star Markers honor the men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces. The Marker program is managed by National Garden Clubs, Inc. and funded by local garden clubs. Only the local clubs can sponsor and place a marker; Modesto Garden Club placed a marker last September at the Commemorative Air Force Central California hanger in Modesto.
- The 2026-2027 Yearbook is available for members at the September and October General Meetings during hospitality time. It's chock-full of information including schedules of activities, who your Board Members are and their areas of responsibility, and a directory of members. Pick yours up so when someone says, "It's in the book," YOU will know where to look!
- Is your Japanese Maple tree looking a little droopy? Do you want to learn how to trim it back to health? Come to a seminar on October 10 and learn from tree expert and Master Gardener Andrew Carmichael the proper way to trim a Japanese Maple. The seminar runs from 9 am to noon at the Club office and it's free! You don't even need to own a Japanese Maple: you're welcome to come to learn a new skill so put it in your calendar and we'll see you there!
- Louise Nelson is looking for used greeting cards with pretty covers to be recycled. There's a Hands-On Workshop coming up in January where we'll be making new cards from old ones so they will be put to good use. If you want to see how it's done, make plans to join the Workshop in January. Details are in the book as is Louise's contact information or you can drop them by the office on Wednesday mornings from 9 am to 12 noon.
- Ever wanted to try your hand at decorating a table for the Elegant Holiday Luncheon? Now's your chance! Tables are available for the December 2nd and 3rd 2026 event. Break out your Christmas finery and decorations and show off your decorating talents to an appreciative crowd. Contact Linda Pedego at (209) 523-1420 if you're interested.

Mark your calendar for the
Spring Garden Tour
 on April 17th!

Summer Days (and Nights!), Dee Godfrey

September is here and that means summer is just about over. It also means a new year is beginning for the Modesto Garden Club but before we start the new year, let's review what happened over the summer. The Summer Luncheon took place on June 3rd and 4th and was a remarkable sight! Creativity was definitely on display with everything from a *Wicked*-themed table to a Renaissance theme to several tables (and guests) decked out in pink for tea parties. Carla Latimer's table showcased a piano playing classical music while Lydia and Scott Smith's table showed off a lovely carousel horse. Patté Williams-Moore placed an antique child's car on her table and surrounded it with other items encouraging people to take a road trip and there was even a t-a-a-l-l-l giraffe. Over 200 people turned out to see the tables and enjoy a lunch of braised short ribs and mashed potatoes followed by cheesecake. Make plans now to visit the Elegant Holiday Luncheon on December 2nd and 3rd, 2026, and the Summer Luncheon on the 9th and 10th of June 2027! If you've ever thought of hosting your own table, now's your chance! The Elegant Holiday Luncheon has a table or two available. Contact Linda Pedego at (209) 523-1420 or email spedego@yahoo.com.



Evie Heron-Olds hosted a Private Garden Tour on June 11th. Many people attended and enjoyed the cool gardens while sipping mimosas and sampling the tasty snacks. Private Garden Tours allow Club members to visit private homes and meander through the gardens while enjoying finger foods and beverages for a small charge. A Holiday Home Tour is scheduled for December 10 at 2517 Bridle Path Lane from 1 pm – 5 pm and is sure to be lovely. Make plans to attend and share some holiday cheer! If you would like to host a Tour, contact Evie Heron-Olds at (209) 524-4347 or g.e.olds@sbcglobal.net.

Several members turned out on June 16th to help Pixie Kinser and her team spread walnut shells on the gardens at the Senior Citizen's Center at 611 Bodem Street. Intended to help conserve water and suppress weeds, the shells also make the landscape look neat and tidy. The Hackers and Whackers, Pixie's team of volunteers from

the Modesto Garden Club, turn out several times a month to help maintain the landscaping to the delight of the those who use the facilities.



Janis Perkins, in charge of the New Member Social, hosted Summer Nights meetings in the evening once a month, July through August, on the last Thursday from 5:30 – 7 pm. In June, the office was decorated with a 4th of July theme while a Hawaiian theme was in order for July and August. Visitors met with Club representatives and learned about the Club and what we do while enjoying snacks provided by Club members. Turnout was very good and the Club gained seven new members! Plans are in the works for a recurring meeting, possibly on Saturdays, for those members who are unable to make it to General Meetings, allowing them to get together and find out what the Club is doing and how they can join in.



Summer Days (and Nights) continued

While many of us were enjoying the July heat (or not), Shirley Stewart and her team were busy planning and setting up the Club's display at the Stanislaus County Fair which ran from July 10th through the 19th. Decked out in blue and yellow and complete with a paper mâché bee, potted plants, a bird bath, a summer table and chair, and an umbrella, the 10' x 10' booth won first place in the Display Gardens – Garden Club division with a \$200 prize awarded! Check out the pictures on page 6!

Even though the Club is officially 'on vacation' during the summer months, there's a lot going on. Watch this newsletter for more information on next summer's activities and don't be afraid to join in – you will certainly be welcome!

Budding Gardeners: The Hummingbirds

Janice Garcia and Dee Godfrey

Budding Gardeners are small groups of seven to twelve Club members who enjoy each other's company and share a common love of gardening. They participate in Club activities together, hosting tables at the Luncheons for example, and get together for other activities. The Hummingbirds are a great example. After the Summer Luncheon, the group met at Evie Heron-Olds' Private Garden Tour on June 11th and lunched afterwards at Rivets. That wasn't the end of their adventures. On June 26th, they visited the newly renovated Chicken Ranch Casino for a day trip of gambling followed by dinner at Perch Restaurant. Budding Gardener groups like to socialize at each other's houses and the Hummingbirds are no different. A champagne luncheon and swimming party at Janice Garcia's on August 4th was followed on the 10th by a champagne and dessert party at Sandy Tobin's lovely home. Budding Gardener groups also take classes together, sometimes arranging them at the Club office. On July 16th, a card-making class with Mary Ann Uneyo was arranged at the office with lunch afterwards and on July 27, they learned how to make pesto at Ginger Ratto's home and then enjoyed eating it for lunch. *The Gardener* movie was on the schedule July 9th after lunch at Tresetti's International Restaurant.

Not every group is this active or does these kinds of activities but that's the beauty of Budding Gardeners – group members generally have similar tastes and enjoy similar activities from visiting nurseries and public and private gardens to taking arts and craft classes together to planting downtown pots with the Club and/or arranging their own activities. The existing groups are filled up but a new group can be formed any time two or more people want to do activities like this together. There is a new group in the works; if you are interested in participating or are looking for more information, contact Janice Garcia at (209) 202-7881.





OVER THE GARDEN GATE
Stanislaus County Fair
Display and Team



FALL GATHERING

Let's get this new year started
 at the home of
 John and Evangelina Paoluccio
 4801 Quinturn Lane
 Modesto

\$50 Single

19 Saturday
 September
 2026
 5-9pm

\$90 couples

Dinner - Dessert - Wine - Music

Ripon Garden Club

SEPTEMBER GARDEN STROLL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2026

10:00AM - 2:00PM

- TOUR SIX BEAUTIFUL GARDENS
- LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
- RAFFATUNITY & SILENT AUCTION

\$25 per adult
 \$10 per child under 12
 (no strollers, please)

Tickets Available at these Ripon Locations:

- Ripon Garden Club Members
- Strand Ace Hardware
- Park Greenhouse
- Thompson Nursery
- Butler's Pantry
- Ripon Chamber of Commerce

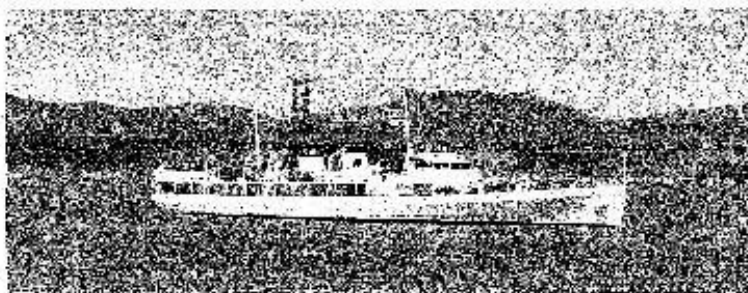
For additional ticket sale locations visit
ripongardenclub.org

Thank you for your support!

A Few Spaces Remain - Sign Up Now!

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Private Garden Tour



Modesto Garden Club Out of Town Tour

USS Potomac Cruise in the Bay
Saturday, October 17th, 2026

Quick History: President Roosevelt's "Floating White House"
Elvis Presley's Private Yacht
Drug smuggling yacht
NOW...

The USS Potomac Yacht is totally restored to its original beauty and reflects the Presidency of the United States during World War II. It was a gathering place for world leaders and royalty when they visited the President.

Today, you will have the same experiences touring the USS Potomac as it cruises the San Francisco Bay. Docents will share historical events and point out places of interest.

When we dock, you will have the chance to enjoy a delicious meal in Jack London Square.

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

Cost: \$120.00 (a deposit of \$50.00 will secure your spot.)
Date/Time: Saturday, October 17th, 2026
Departure Time: 10:00 am- 6:00 pm

For more information, call Patte Williams at (209) 505-3626

Name _____ Guest _____
Address _____ Phone _____
Amount Paid _____ NO REFUNDS!! Deposit Paid _____

Make checks payable to: Modesto Garden Club
Send to: Patte Williams c/o Modesto Garden Club
692 14th Street, Modesto, CA 95354-2505





622 14th Street
Modesto CA 95354-2505

Coming Events

September 1 Planters and Groomers

Location: Club Office, 622 14th Street, Modesto CA
Time: 8 am – 11 am

September 1-2: CGCI Fall Board Meeting

Location: Harris Ranch, Coalinga CA

September 8: Multimedia Meeting

Location: Club Office, 622 14th Street, Modesto
Time: 9:30 – 11:30

September 10: General Meeting

Location: Modesto Covenant Church
913 Floyd Avenue, Modesto CA
Hospitality: 10 am – 11:15 am
General Meeting: 11:15 am – 12 noon
Speaker: 12 noon – 1:00 pm
Anne Schellmann, Master Gardener
Topic: *Poisonous Plants*

September 17: National Garden Club Fall Board Meeting

Location: Virtual

September 19: Fall Gathering

Location: Home of John and Evangelina Paoluccio
4801 Quinturn Lane, Modesto CA
Time: 5 pm – 9 pm
Cost: \$50 per person, \$90 per couple

September 21: Hands-On Workshop

Location: Club Office, 622 14th Street, Modesto CA
Time: 9 am – 11 am
Project: *Floral Fabric Pots*
Cost: \$25, 16 spots

September 24: Board Meeting

Location: Club Office, 622 14th Street, Modesto CA
Light Breakfast: 8:30 – 9am
Board Meeting: 9 am – 11 am

