



Member of CGCI

A Publication of Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

Valley Lode District – Pacific Region

President's Message

This Spring Brings Unforeseen Changes

Spring has arrived and I hope you are enjoying the colors of the season as much as I am. I just love this time of year. Nature is so inspiring (and yes my garden needs some inspiration!).

Our Club had planned so many outstanding, fun events for April, May and June. But alas, a rare health crisis has turned our lives and plans topsy-turvy. It's been just over 100 years since the last pandemic had such an effect on our country and world. So, we all must adapt and look forward to a brighter future. Our hearts go out to all those with this illness, the brave first responders and health care staff on the front lines, those whose livelihoods are on hold and so many others. We *will* get through this! We *will* look after each other! It *will* be better!

In this newsletter you will find updates on cancelled and postponed events. Please review this. Because we are unable to hold our major fundraising event, the Spring Garden Tour, our funding for usual projects in 2020-2021 will be limited. Your Board of Directors is working on ideas and plans to bridge the funding gap this has created. More information will be available in future newsletters and on our website.

We ask all of our members to be sure to renew your membership now as this will help cover part of our expenses. This year we are asking members to review the current Yearbook to be sure the information is up-to-date. See the membership renewal form in this newsletter. Feel free to copy and share with a friend who would like to join. Or, you can also renew online at modestogardenclub.org.

We have added an opportunity to make monetary donations to Modesto Garden Club, Inc. on our website and when you renew your dues. Donations are tax deductible because of our 501(c)(3) status. If you have purchased a ticket for a cancelled event, consider giving this money as a club donation (also tax deductible since you received no benefit from a cancelled event). If you prefer a refund, we will send you a check.

New this year will be videos on our website showcasing lovely local gardens. Our Multimedia team is working on setting this up in time for the summer and possibly sooner. If you have or take photos of your garden using your cell phone or digital camera, considering emailing to up to 5 photos at to Mary Lou Rice (mlour@msn.com or multimedia@modestogardenclub.org). As your garden changes, perhaps you would like to submit more photos during the summer. We'd love to see virtual spring and summer garden "tours."!

We will keep our members informed of any changes for the remainder of this program year as well as updates regarding club activities in the fall. Watch for updates in our newsletter or eBlasts and check our website a few times monthly (modestogardenclub.org).

Try to take in a breath of fresh air in your garden. Find some serenity there. As you refresh your garden this spring, keep this empowering idea close to your heart:

"So, plant your own gardens and Decorate your Soul, instead of waiting for someone to bring flowers."

Jorge Luis Borges (Note to Jorge: If someone brings me flowers, my soul will appreciate those too!)

Stay vigilant against the virus and be joyful while gardening,

Mary McNicholas



Update on Status of Club Events and Activities Due to Government Coronavirus Recommendations and Restrictions

We are all aware of the current concerns surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic. Your Board of Directors has been keeping a close watch on the local impact of this novel virus.

Your health and safety are higher priorities than any event. Due to federal, state and local public health recommendations, we have made the following changes:

Cancelled Events: April and May General Meetings, March workshop, April Spring Garden Tour, April Flower and Garden Show Out-of-Town Tour in Sacramento, June Bouquet to Arts De Young Museum Tour, Private Garden Tours and Gardens of the Month.

Postponed Events (dates TBD): May Workshop (to be held in 2020-21 Program Year) and Volunteer Gala.

Suspended Indefinitely: Therapeutic Gardens and School Gardens.

Currently Still Scheduled (*These events could be cancelled or postponed. Watch for eBlast or website updates*): May Jack London Square/USS Potomac Cruise Out-of-Town Tour, September Vendors' Faire (at September General Meeting).

If you are a volunteer at any of our Office or Civic Gardens (*Senior Center, McClatchy Garden, George Lucas Plaza, Aileen Gallo Memorial Flower Clock, Downtown and Gallo Center Pots, Courthouse Victims' Garden or our two Rose Gardens*): contact your chairperson (see your Yearbook if you are uncertain) to see if or when gardening will be done. The Board of Directors is leaving the decisions to garden at these sites up to each chairperson.

College Scholarships: Judy Spencer and her team are still processing the applications and at this time we anticipate awarding our usual scholarships and announcing the awardees either in our newsletter and/or website and probably a fall General Meeting.

Board of Directors Meetings: We have postponed indefinitely face-to-face meetings. We had our first board meeting on the ZOOM virtual meeting platform in late March. This went very well and we plan to continue using ZOOM until we are allowed to resume regular meetings.

Garden Club Office Hours: At least one person will be in the Office each Wednesday, until further notice, from 9 to 10:30 A.M. Note the shortened hours of service. We will be checking phone calls, emails and USPS mail.

Excellent resources for current information can be found at coronavirus.gov. This includes specific guidelines for home, work, school and health care facilities. The section on FAQ (frequently asked questions) covers a variety of scenarios and concerns. Also see: cdph.ca.gov (California Department of Public Health) and schsa.org (Stanislaus County Health Services Agency) for specific local recommendations. I highly recommend these websites.

Wishing you and your loved ones a healthy spring and summer,

Mary McNicholas, President

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Dues are Due and Payable
*Until further notice all
Activities have been Cancelled*

May newsletter Deadline is
April 20th Next Newsletter should
arrive the first week in May

Check your Emails,
Eblasts and our Website
[Modestogardenclub.org](https://modestogardenclub.org) for
updates during the coming
weeks.

Lost Equipment

Our Club purchased three large black easels last year. We are only able to find one of these. If you know the whereabouts of the other 2 easels, please call or email Mary McNicholas or the Office. Thank you!

**Stay Safe, Shelter in Place, Disinfect, Wash Your
Hands Frequently, Pay Attention to
Health Advisories from the CDC
and the State of California**



Pat Williams is March Volunteer of the Month. Here she shows with President Mary McNicholas.



A Bit of Irish and a Touch of Spring at the March Meeting



Over the Garden Gate

*Published 10 times a year, September-June,
by the Modesto Garden Club, Inc.*

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(Open Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-noon)

These are unusual times that require us all to think out of the box. Having to practice “social distancing” and “sheltering at home” are new terms in our everyday vocabulary. Multimedia is trying to come up with ideas that will keep us all in touch, if not physically then visually. It is our hope that all of you will provide us with the content to produce a monthly Reality Show that we can share on our website (<https://www.modestogardenclub.org>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/modestogardenclub>) **perhaps even Smilebox if we are able to get your permission.**

Please send us 5 photos of your garden (don't forget to catch that butterfly or bumblebee or hummingbird) and help us with some text captions. You know, like what that flower or veggie is or tell us why you decided to plant it. Maybe it's a volunteer and you just can't get rid of it. I know there are all sorts of interesting and funny stories out there. Let's help each other get through this tough time with friendship and humor. You could chronicle the growth of a one of your favorites through the whole summer, sharing it every month.

I'm getting excited just thinking about this! Just send your photos and anything else you would like to share to me, Mary Lou Rice mlour@msn.com or Multimedia@modestogardenclub.org so we can get started right away. Our multimedia group is ready to produce these new Reality Shows.

TIPS: Using your phone or camera include enough of the surrounding area to give perspective. Include a closeup. Don't face your camera into the sun. Morning and evening are the easiest times to capture an image with good color. Use the large setting when you send the photos.

Share Your Garden with All Your Garden Club Friends



Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



To apply for membership please complete all questions. To renew your membership:

1. Review your information in the current Yearbook.
2. Write your first and last names on this form.
3. Add to this form any changes or corrections to the current Yearbook information.
4. Turn in this form with your dues payment (\$40.00) at a General Meeting or mail form and a check to: Modesto Garden Club, 622-14th Street, Modesto, CA 95354 or renew online at **modestogardenclub.org**
5. **Dues are due in May and late by the end of July.** To ensure inclusion in the upcoming Yearbook, return this form no later than July 31st.

Membership Type <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal			
First Name		Last Name	
Address/Street <input type="checkbox"/> <i>New address (If renewing)</i>		City	State Zip Code + 4
Primary Phone Number		Alternate Phone Number	
Email Address			
Birthday Month		Birth Day	
Automated Calls <input type="checkbox"/> Automated Calls from the Club are OK <input type="checkbox"/> No, I DO NOT WISH to receive automated calls			
Email Messages <input type="checkbox"/> Email messages from the Club are OK <input type="checkbox"/> No, I DO NOT WISH to receive email messages			
Newsletter Preference <input type="checkbox"/> Mail my newsletter (I have included my zip + 4 above) <input type="checkbox"/> Email my newsletter			
I will pay my dues by: <input type="checkbox"/> Today w/check <input type="checkbox"/> Today w/cash <input type="checkbox"/> Mailing check to MGC office <input type="checkbox"/> Online			
<input type="checkbox"/> I have corrected my address, email and all information on this form.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Due to the forced cancellation of the Spring Garden Tour, I am donating the tour ticket price of \$25 or \$_____ to the Modesto Garden Club. Modesto Garden Club is a 501(c) charitable organization, so your donations are fully tax deductible. <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me a receipt for my donation to the address above.			

I have special talents/skills I wish to share with the Modesto Garden Club

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office/Clerical | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design/Web Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Assistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Raffle Coordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> MS Word or Excel Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeting at Meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon Table Setting | <input type="checkbox"/> Crafting and Leading Craft Workshops | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming New Members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Preparation | <input type="checkbox"/> Finding Homes for Garden Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Researching Speakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assisted Living Center Gardening | | |



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Civic Affairs

By Dan Yockey

This is the time of the year exciting things are happening with all of the Civic projects.

Generally, we fight all kinds of bugs and soil viruses; but this year a totally different kind of Virus, Covid-19 has put a stop to all of our projects, including our major fundraising event, the Spring Garden Tour.

No tour means no funds for spring planting of our major projects, the 153 downtown pots and the Aileen Gallo Flower Clock.

Good news is that by reaching out to our downtown partners the Downtown Improvement District and the Gallo Foundation we received commitments to provide funds to plant and maintain these projects for the full year.

Now we need to adjust our planting schedule to comply with the virus mandates.

I will be letting everyone know when we can schedule but we will be planting.

All of the members of the Garden Club should be proud of this recognition for all of our hard work. These commitments were made without hesitation and praise for what we do for Modesto.

Yours still in gardening,
Dan

NEWS about WORKSHOPS

from
Karen Johnson
360.271.6760

This is a crazy time!

I have two more workshops that were supposed to happen before June 2020 that have been postponed. All participants for the **Springtime Potted Flowers** have been contacted. Most of you wanted to stay registered and have paid for the class. I really have no idea when this will be rescheduled, but Westurf Nursery will be on board whenever we are all allowed back in close quarters.

I will contact you in another newsletter ad as well as at our first back-to-normal meeting. It could be Fall!

I have already purchased and packaged all supplies needed for 16 attendees in the **Mosaic Mirror** workshop. I have several on the sign-up as of now and will indeed offer it in the future. Again, I don't know when this will be scheduled. Perhaps it will be a Fall workshop. Please stay tuned!