



OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Member of CGCI

A Publication of Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

Valley Lode District – Pacific Region

William McNamera ~ Modern Day Plant Hunter

Novel ornamentals from another country/region have always stirred excitement among gardeners. Historically, plant hunters from Europe began searching areas of China for new ornamentals for nurseries and wealthy patrons. A resurgence of interest began again in the 1980s with several expeditions to remote regions of China. Along with horticulturists from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Howick Arboretum, and others, Bill has botanized extensively in the wilds of Asia. For the past thirty-one years, he has ventured into the mountains of China, Japan, India, Nepal, Vietnam and Myanmar in search of plants.

Until October of 2019 Bill served as President and Executive Director of Quarryhill Botanical Garden, a 25-acre wild woodland garden in Northern California's Sonoma Valley featuring wild-sourced plants from East Asia. In 2018 he was named an Honorary Member of The Garden Club of America. In 2017 he received the Veitch Memorial Medal from England's Royal Horticultural Society.



Learn and Grow, All About Daffodils with Nancy Tackett

Growing up on a family farm in Southwest Iowa, Nancy could not help but be interested in plants and animals. She helped her grandmother and mother plant their vegetable and flower gardens and her father planting much larger crops. Nancy first experienced daffodils with historic varieties like "King Alfred" which were frequently found at the local Farm Supply store.

Nancy has a BS degree in Computer Information Systems and worked with a variety of computers and projects. She managed highly skilled computer engineers and scientists for both government and commercial projects. Her knowledge of technical issues and ability to coordinate many people was key to the development of a set of daffodil tools for use on the Internet. The most popular of these is DaffSeek.org which is a cultivar database with photos, pedigree trees, and information about more than 32,000 named daffodils.

For this effort, Nancy and her husband Ben, have been honored by being recipients of the Royal Horticultural Society Peter Barr Cup "for doing something good for daffodils"; honorary Vice Presidents of Great Britain's Daffodil Society; life memberships to the National Daffodil Society of New Zealand, as well as the Gold and Silver medals from the American Daffodil Society.

We enjoy the many friends we have made around the world. One special memory is the "Daffodil Species Safari" where we traveled throughout Spain and part of France with special friends, who are species experts, to document and photograph species varieties.

Today, Nancy is President of the American Daffodil Society and also serves on the Northern California Daffodil Society Board of Directors. She grows her daffodils in the East Bay on a steep yard in Martinez. Many of her daffodils are grown in pots, especially her collection of miniature daffodils.

President's Message

Our home and civic gardens are resting now as these await the burst of color and growth of the coming spring. Our Garden Club, however, remains active with winter pruning, raking and planning for multiple activities and outings. There is something for all of us to look forward to and participate in with our gardening friends.

Check our calendar for events of interest to you. If you are a new member or have never attended a New Member Tea, we look forward to you joining us in March to meet other members, sign up for a Budding Gardener Group and learn about the multitude of opportunities to be active in the largest garden club in the United States. There is a niche for you!

If you have thought about taking courses from the National Garden Club's Gardening School, note that our Valley Lode District is sponsoring a four-part school on "The Art of Growing" in February, March and April. And breaking news, the tuition for our members is free, a savings of \$75 per course or \$300 savings if you take all four courses. See the article in this newsletter for details. Applications are available at our Office and several upcoming General Meetings.

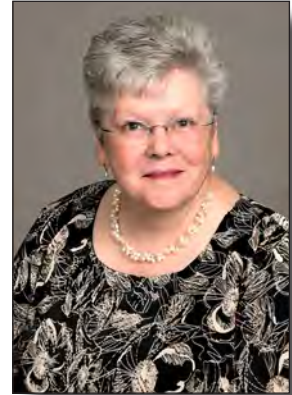
February is a month we set aside to ponder romance and the whims of love (of gardening of course!). Let's wear our favorite red outfits and fancy hats to this month's meeting. Love will be all around us.

"Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone. We find it with another."

Thomas Merton

Happy Valentine's Day to you and your loved ones!

Mary McNicholas



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- February 4 – Planters and Groomers, MGC Office, 9:00 a.m.
- February 11– Hackers and Whackers, Senior Center, 9:00 a.m.
- February 11 – Multimedia, MGC Office, 9:30 a.m.
- February 11 – Valley Lode District Meeting. Speaker: Julie Morehouse "Inspirational & Healing Gardening"
- February 13 – MGCI General Meeting, Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver Road, Modesto. Hospitality: 10 a.m.–11:20 a.m.; Learn and Grow: 10:30 – 11:15, Nancy Tacket Daffodils; Meeting: 11:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m., William McNamera, Modern Day Plant Finder
- February 18 – Planters and Groomers, MGC Office, 9:00 a.m.
- February 25 – Hackers and Whackers
- February 27 – Board Meeting, MGC Office, 9:00 a.m.
- March 12 – MGCI General Meeting, Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver Road; Hospitality: 10 a.m.–11:20 a.m.; Learn and Grow: 10:30 – 11:15; Meeting: 11:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m.,
- March 18 – New Member Tea



The Office Is Ready For Spring!



Over the Garden Gate

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Education Update

By Cheryl Koff

Don't miss the February meeting. Here are a couple reminders for the upcoming monthly meeting. Nancy Tackett from the Northern California Daffodil Society will be presenting at the Learn & Grow session (10:30 to 11:15 am). Nancy is a collector and currently President of the American Daffodil Society. It's also very timely to get you ready for a day trip to Daffodil Hill and one of my favorite places. William Mc Namera has been invited to be the speaker at the following General Meeting. Bill will entertain us with his international search for novel ornamental plants.

The Lavender Library girls have been busy. Please check out the books, many new ones! AND at the February meeting you have the opportunity to pick up gardening books. A special selection will be available to purchase. All monies raised will go for the purchase of new books. Thank you Kate & Lura! Also, congratulations on the honor of being selected for volunteers of the month.

Seven \$1,500 scholarships to be awarded by the Modesto Garden Club! Take the time to consider who you know would benefit. To get a copy of the application please send an e-mail to gardenscholarship@gmail.com. Judy Spencer, contact. Wow what a great opportunity! Thanks Judy!

In closing, can't pass up another opportunity to send everyone a Valentine greeting. I remember the childhood days spending time picking out the perfect Valentine and message. So here it goes...memories...from the past.

Roses are Red
Violets are Blue
Here is a Valentine Wish for You



January Meeting

Top right, Jill and Dottie help with member sign-in; top left, Denizz and Gerry, an awesome duo; bottom right, Mary doing her job. Additional photos capture meeting activities.



MODESTO GARDEN CLUB

2020 Spring Garden Tour

SATURDAY APRIL 18TH
9AM ~ 4 PM

enjoy lovely homes & Gardens
Chosen for your pleasure

TICKETS ARE \$25
 Purchase tickets online at:
modestogardenclub.org
 Gerry Yockey - Chairwoman - 209-527-5619

TOUR PROCEEDS SUPPORT ONGOING CLUB PROJECTS
INCLUDING SCHOLARSHIPS, CITY BEAUTIFICATION, AND EDUCATION

Planters and Groomers

By Gerry Yockey

I took a couple of months off in writing my articles, so I have much to say. We planted the baskets for J street. They will be going up the 15th of January. We are crossing our fingers that they succeed in growing into beautiful flowers. Last year they all died from unknown causes. We have not had hanging baskets in a long time, and we do need as much color as possibly.

The Planters and Groomers under very cold weather worked at the Modesto Garden Club office. Because we did not work at the office in December, you can imagine how the yard must have looked. So many leaves and so much debris. Plus, the homeless added to it by throwing rocks and unnamed objects inside the fence. The flowers that we planted have started to grow. I love snapdragons and they are going to be beautiful this year.

I want to thank Pat Williams for the beautiful lunch. It was like Thanksgiving! So much food and her home was a delight for the eyes! Thank you, Pat Williams.

We have a new member joining our Planters and Groomers. Her name is Janis Perkins. Welcome!

If there is anyone who would like to join our group, please come. You are welcome at any time. We meet on the first Tuesday and the third Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

Civic Affairs

By Dan Yockey

The holidays are all over and we look forward now to Spring and all of the changes that come with warmer weather.

All of our projects are doing well, the pots are looking great and really starting to grow. I know they will be beautiful in the Spring.

The baskets have been installed on J street from 10th to 14th streets. Check them out.

The Senior Citizens Center projects are just about finished. The flagpole has been installed but our project to move the Blue Star Memorial has been stalled due to the amount of concrete and tree roots surrounding the post. We hope to have the issue resolved soon.

The Flower Clock and the Victims Garden renovations are proceeding as planned and will be completed this Spring.

Civic Affairs is facing some new challenges this year. Our close relationship with Nancy Young and the Downtown Improvement District has come to an end with the retirement of Nancy and the closing of the office on J street. They have been our partner with the 150 pots located downtown. We will no longer have their assistance with maintenance of the pots as well as removal of the plantings twice a year to make way for new flowers.

Our next challenge will be brought on by the closing of Frederik's Nursery in Ripon. We purchased flowers from them at a reduced rate for the Downtown Pots and the Flower Clock. The problem of supply is also being felt by are local nurseries as they also purchase flowers from Frederik's Nursery. I anticipate the cost of flowers for the two projects will increase by 25% in the future.

I want to thank again all of our members who team up to take responsibility for our ongoing projects. I have had many positive comments from the public about how it makes our city beautiful.

Thank you for your support.

Yours in Gardening

Dan Yockey

Holiday Home Tour

By Gerry Yockey

It has been a very exciting season!!! Even though the weather was not the best, we had a very enthusiastic crowd. The homeowners who have worked for months getting the homes in their holiday dress were just beautiful. They all had the "WOW" feature!

I can't thank the Docents enough. There is so many to thank and not enough space to thank them. They showed up on time and nobody was absent. I also have to thank Dan Yockey for helping with the refreshments. He was such a help in so many ways!

I want to thank Judy Spencer for making up the tickets. They turned out very festive!

Most of all, I have to thank the homeowners who put on such a beautiful showing! Brian and Denniz Wistow, Jody and Margaret Perry, Verle and Gloria Bartels. Without them, we would not have made \$4540.00. Thank you, thank you!!!

In the coming year we put on another Christmas Tour and hope that there is someone out there who wants to show their beautiful home for Christmas. Please call me if you want to be on tour or if you know someone who has a Christmas home. My number is 521-5619



SO VERY SORRY!

There will be NO FEBRUARY WORKSHOP

Due to my surgery recovery I am unable to get the **Mosaic Mirror Workshop** together for February. HOWEVER...it will be replacing the May **Gourd Bird Feeder workshop**. We will still be on schedule for a **Spring Flower Basket Workshop** at Westurf Nursery for Monday, March 23rd.

Here's a sneak peek of the Mosaic Mirror just in case you want to mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 27th.



**QUESTIONS? Please CALL...
Karen Johnson — 360-271-6760**



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2020 MODESTO GARDEN CLUB OUT-OF-TOWN TOURS

LET THE ADVENTURES BEGIN!!

- April 2 San Fran Cal Nor Flower & Garden Show
New name - New location - **Better & Bigger at Cal Expo**
Cost \$45.00
- May 30 Jack London Square
UUS Potomac Lunch Cruise, 3 hours Amtrak Train, Retired UUS Potomac Ship A day of train, ship, train, home
Cost \$120.00 (estimate) \$30.00 deposit guarantees seat
- June 2 Bouquets to Art
DeYoung Museum, San Francisco, Where floral design and Art Masters create awesomeness.
Cost \$60.00

For more information, please contact
Patté Williams at (209) 505-3526.

Name _____ Guest _____ Address _____ Phone _____

(Circle one or more)

- Bouquets to Art, De Young Museum** \$60.00
- San Francisco Flower & Garden Show** \$45.00
- Jack London Square** \$120.00 (or \$30.00 deposit)

Amount paid _____ **NO REFUNDS!!**

Make checks payable to: Modesto Garden Club, Send to Patté Williams c/o Modesto Garden Club 622 14th Modesto, CA 95354



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