



Beyond the Garden Gate

Elk Grove Garden Club

A Message from our Co-Presidents

Maureen Slocum and Mary Anne Strohmaier

As we approach the end of the year, we want to take a moment to express our gratitude for your dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work throughout 2024. This year has been filled with inspiring projects, beautiful booms, and the joy of gardening together. Whether you've been planting, planning, or simply enjoying the wonders of nature, your contributions have made our Garden Club a vibrant and welcoming community.

December brings with it a time of reflection, gratitude, and celebration. As the winter chill sets in, we hope you find warmth in the memories of this year's accomplishments, as well as in the friendships we've cultivated. Though our gardens may be resting, there is always something special about the quiet beauty of the season.

We would also like to remind everyone that our annual holiday gathering is just around the corner, a wonderful opportunity to connect, share stories, and enjoy some seasonal cheer.



Our very talented club member, Marilyn Peterson, will guide us through making a beautiful centerpiece.



We will also enjoy the festive cookies our members will be sharing. Don't forget to bring your recipe along with your 2-3 dozen cookies if you are participating.

On behalf of the entire board, we wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and joyful holiday season. May the new year bring new growth, inspiration, and opportunities for us to continue cultivating our love of nature together.

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Thursday, Dec. 12

10am – social
10:30am – meeting begins
Gil Albani Recreation Center
8830 Sharkey Ave.

December Speaker

Our own Marilyn Peterson will be teaching us how to make a Christmas Centerpiece.

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Refreshment Committee

December – Mary Ann Strohmaier, team leader; Nancy Baldwin, Kathy Krikorian, Margrethe Reed, Denise Robertson, Sharon Saint, Vivian Sellers & Ana Weekley

January – Pat Baeta & Annajean Neil, team leaders; Linda Brett, Jane Evans, Jennie Hertzler, Patty Jong, MaryLee Trimmer

December Meeting

Here is the list of items to bring to the December meeting to make our holiday centerpieces.

You will need:

Container

Oasis Floral Foam - Soak the Oasis before coming to the meeting.

A plastic liner if using a basket to prevent water from leaking through.

Evergreens

Wired Ribbon

Decorations, to scale

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December Birthday

Josie Pina 12/30

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April Plant Sale

EGGC will provide labels for our plant sale so that all plants will be labelled the same and have all the information needed. A sample will be included with each packet of labels.

In addition, if you need potting soil or pots, contact Vivian Sellers.

At our February meeting, we will start seeds of flowers and vegetables for the sale. We will need empty, washed pony-packs. Please start saving now.

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Please remember to bring your water bottle to our meeting.

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Did You Know?



Poinsettia Facts

The poinsettia is completely non-toxic, but does taste bad. It is safe for you and safe for pets. Ohio State University researchers discovered that a 50 pound child could eat more than 500 leaves and only experience a tummy ache.

The poinsettia was brought to the United States by Joel Roberts Poinsett, our ambassador to Mexico in 1828.

The ancient Aztec priests prized the beautiful red plant (known as Cuetlaxochitl) for its ability to fight fever, dye textiles and produce latex.

By an act of Congress, December 12 is National Poinsettia Day.

For care of your poinsettia and how to have it rebloom for you next Christmas, see Master Gardener's Horticulture Notes for the Care of Poinsettias <https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/files/117121.pdf>



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Garden Corner

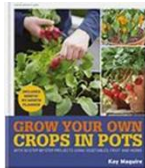
By: DeAna Melilli, Landscape Committee

I recently discovered that my approach to raised beds—just using soil without any wooden frames—is known as French Intensive gardening. This technique dates to the 1700s near Paris, where it was developed by those in need and later embraced by the wealthy due to its effectiveness. The concept involves planting a whole packet of seeds, or even more, in a compact space. To ensure success, I am enhancing the soil with great amendments like lime and using organic fertilizer, when necessary, along with making sure to provide ample water since all the plants will be competing for nutrients.

With the gifting season approaching quickly, I think a thoughtful book could be the ideal present. When browsing through your local bookstore or scrolling through online options, like on Amazon, it can be a bit overwhelming to decide. So, I have put together a list of my favorite gardening books that would make fantastic gifts for the grandkids.

Book Review – for Containers on Patios, Small Spaces and Mixed Herbs and Flowers Container

Grow Your Own Crops in Pots by Kay Maguire



Kay Maguire has written this in association with the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) and you can tell that they really know their stuff! With easy-to-follow sections, beginners guide to get you started, information on how to choose the right containers...

This is a lovely hardback book with colour illustrations and a very easy to read layout. Covering vegetables, fruits, herbs and edible flowers, there is something in there for

anyone who wants to turn their hand to gardening using pots.

Patio Produce by Paul Peacock



I quite liked this book. Some of the ideas are a bit of a push and some of the crops he suggests growing in containers plain daft, but overall, this is well worth having. There is a logical construction about the book that enables you dip in to retrieve...

Enjoy your outside space with a fruit tart and either coffee or tea.

Gardeners Incentive: Fruit Tart Recipe,
Prep: 15 min. Bake: 40 min.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package (12 ounces) fresh or frozen fruit (I use cranberries for the holidays)
- 1 cup sugar, divided
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 3/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 Tablespoon confectioner's sugar

DIRECTIONS:

In a small bowl, combine the cranberries, 1/2 cup sugar and almonds. Transfer to a greased 11-in. fluted tart pan with a removable bottom. Place on a baking sheet. In a small bowl, beat the eggs, butter, extract, and remaining sugar. Beat in flour just until moistened (batter will be thick). Spread evenly over berries. Bake at 325° for 40-45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in pan on a wire rack. Dust with confectioners' sugar. Refrigerate leftovers.

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December Garden Checklist

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By Jan Fetler



- Plant seedlings of lettuce and kale.
- Protect citrus, tender perennials, succulents and tropical plants when temperatures drop below freezing.
- Apply a second copper spray on peaches and nectarines to reduce peach leaf curl – apply towards the end of December.
- Apply dormant oil spray to fruit trees and grape vines to smother overwintering insects and help prevent disease.
- Clean up plant waste and fallen fruit to reduce disease and insects next year.
- Start winter pruning of fruit trees in late December. Bare branches allow a clear view of a trees framework.
- Start shopping for bare root fruit trees and roses.
- Prune roses starting in late December.
- Add mulch to garden beds.
- Turn the compost pile a few times, if it gets too wet from rains.
- Buy Poinsettias and winter blooming plants to brighten your home for the holidays.

## Calendar Upcoming Events

**March 8, 2025** (Saturday) 9am till 3pm

Perennial Plant Club Sale  
Sheppard Garden & Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

**March 15/16** (Saturday & Sunday) 10 am till 4 pm  
Sheppard Garden & Arts Center Spring Sale  
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA

**March 21/22** (Saturday & Sunday) 10 am till 4 pm  
Cymbidium Show and Sale  
Sheppard Garden & Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA

**April 12** (Saturday) 8am till?  
8609 Brodie Ct., Elk Grove, CA

# Sacramento River Valley District Meetings

**February 11, 2025** (Tuesday) 8:30a – 1:30p  
Shepard Garden and Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816  
Registration fee is \$5.00, Luncheon is \$10.00

Program Presenter: Speaker – McKenzie Wieser, CEO Sacramento Splash

Clipboard will be passed around at meeting for those who are interested in attending SRVD meeting.

**May 12, 2025** (Tuesday) 8:30a till 1:30p  
Speaker – Judy Eitzen, Rosarian and Master Gardener

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## ***Elk Grove Garden Club Leaders***

Co-Presidents – Maureen Slocum and Mary Anne Strohmaier

Vice-President – Ana Weekley

Secretary – Mary Lou Lange

Treasurer – Susan Muckey

<https://www.elkgrovegardenclub.org/>

### **Elk Grove Garden Club is a member of:**

Sacramento River Valley District  
California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
National Garden Clubs Inc.

## ***The Newsletter Team***

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## ***This Month's Contributors***

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DeAna Melilli