



# Beyond the Garden Gate

## Elk Grove Garden Club

### **A Message from our Co-Presidents**

Maureen Slocum and Mary Anne Strohmaier

As we welcome the fresh promise of a new year, let us celebrate the beauty of growth—in our gardens and our lives. Every seed we plant holds the potential for vibrant blooms, just as every moment can blossom into new joys and friendships.

Thank you for making our club a place where creativity flourishes and camaraderie thrives. Here's to another year of digging in the soil, sharing wisdom, and marveling at nature's wonders together.

Wishing you a year full of sunshine, blooms, and bountiful blessings! 🌿



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**Please remember to bring your water bottle to our meeting.**



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**Thursday, Jan. 9**

10am – social

10:30am – meeting begins

Gil Albani Recreation Center  
8830 Sharkey Ave.

**January Speaker**

Herbariums – Ruth Ostroff &  
Diane Schultz.

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**Refreshment Committee**

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

**February** – no team leader; Silvia  
Boggs, Olinda Cortez, Marianne  
Folkers, Kate Genato, Gina Kan,  
Karen Lewis, Rita Montez, Teena  
Yee

## January Meeting

Master Gardener's Ruth Ostroff and Diane Schultz will share their knowledge of Herbariums, what are they, their history and how to make your own.

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## January Birthday

Pat Pereira 1/18

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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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## Did You Know?



The Penny Pines Program began in California in 1941, under the initial sponsorship of the San Francisco Sportswomen's Association and later, school children of the San Mateo County Schools.

The first contributions were used for reforestation on the Shasta-Trinity National Forests in northern California.

The basic contribution to Penny Pines is \$68.00. Why this amount? Back in 1941, seedlings cost about 1 cent each and, 680 seedlings were used to plant a typical acre. For \$68.00, seedlings for ten acres could be purchased. Site preparation and planting costs were met through regular Forest Service appropriations.

In 1964 the original cooperative agreement was rewritten to provide that the funds contributed under the Penny Pines program are to be used for reforestation, rather than purchase of seedlings only.

To date, those pennies have amounted to well over 1 million dollars, and the program is a statewide conservation project supported by numerous individuals and organizations. Garden clubs, women's clubs, men's service organizations, youth groups and schools have all cooperated to help keep California's forests green and growing.

Seedlings are grown from local seeds and acorns and replanted near the areas where the seeds were collected to improve their chance of survival.

Plantations are important for watershed protection, soil stabilization and shade for recreation areas. Trees help the ground store precious water, protect against soil erosion and add to the scenic beauty of the national forests.



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## Garden Corner

By: DeAna Melilli, Landscape Committee

### ❄️ Who says winter is for hibernating? ❄️🌱

My organic garden is thriving!

Full of edible flowers, leafy greens, and veggies that are tougher than your average snowman!



Embrace the chill and let your garden shine even in the frost!

Despite the holiday hustle, remember to make time for yourself. Get cozy, rest, and recharge. I love relaxing with a hot cup of tea or coffee while enjoying the birds, the swaying trees, and plants losing their leaves.

Though I love the holidays I am thrilled about the new year and the coming spring. Plants (*tree, shrubs, etc.*) winter dormancy usually lasts from November to April. During dormancy, plants go inactive and conserve their energy for the next growing season. This happens naturally as seasons and weather change. As a result, the plants may look dead or as if there is something wrong with them, but they are truly alive and well.

### 🌱 Plant Dormancy 🌱

#### What Is Winter Dormancy?

Winter dormancy is a survival mechanism for plants, allowing them to conserve energy when conditions are less than ideal. While tropical plants in your home may not experience the same dormancy as outdoor plants, they still respond to the shorter days and reduced light by slowing their growth. This means you will notice less new foliage and possibly a pause in flowering. Remember, dormancy is an essential phase for many plants, helping them conserve energy and survive during difficult times.

#### Embrace the Resting Season 🌱

Winter dormancy is a time for your plants to recharge, and it is a great opportunity for you to fine-tune your care routine. By adjusting your watering habits, providing supplemental light, and managing indoor humidity, you can keep your houseplants healthy and ready to flourish when spring arrives.

Stay patient and attentive and your green friends will thank you with lush growth when their active season returns! 🌱



### Additional Tips - Indoor Winter

#### Plant Care 🌱

- **Dust Leaves:** Dust can accumulate on leaves, reducing their ability to absorb light. Gently clean leaves with a damp cloth.
- **Avoid Drafts:** Keep plants away from cold drafts and heating vents to prevent temperature shocks.
- **Fertilizer Pause:** Most plants do not need fertilizer during dormancy since they are not actively growing.

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## January Garden Checklist

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By Jan Fetler



- Review what went well in 2024 and decide if changes are needed; start a diary for 2025
- Plan for a water saving system: rotary sprinklers for lawn, drip irrigation for other plants.
- Plant vegetable seeds outdoors: peas, radishes and lettuce (see Master Gardener Seed Planting Schedule).
- Protect citrus, tender perennials, succulents and tropical plants when temperatures drop below freezing.
- Taste citrus and harvest as it ripens on trees through winter.
- Buy and plant bare root fruit trees, roses and berries.
- Prune cane berries, blueberries, roses and most dormant deciduous fruit trees. Wait to prune citrus (March or later), and cherries and apricots (July or August).
- Prune grapes before leaf buds break open (February).
- Limit soil compaction by avoiding walking on or digging in very wet soil.

- Cover compost pile with plastic tarp during heavy rains.
- Apply last copper spray on peaches and nectarines to reduce peach leaf curl. Apply by bud swell in mid-February.

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## **Calendar Upcoming Events**

**January 11, 2025** (Saturday) 10am

Rose Pruning Workshop at Lichtenberger  
Rose Garden, bring your clippers and gloves

**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?

EGGC Plant Sale  
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 13, 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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