

## “At the Turn in the River”

By Patricia Prendergast

In each issue, the RPGC newsletter will showcase River Park artists, poets, and photographers.

“I have always painted, but fulltime since I retired as a computer programmer for several State agencies, the last one, CALPERS,” Patricia Prendergast said.

She and her husband have lived in River Park for 27 years. She works from both her own photos and sketches, but also in plein air.

“I am inspired by the (American) river. Mostly I go to a spot near Paradise Beach but also William Pond Park,” she said. “At the Turn in the River” is 14 by 11 inches and available on her website, [www.pprendergast.faso.com](http://www.pprendergast.faso.com)



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## RPGC Camelia Festival – Bountiful Neighborhood Beauties



Taylor's Perfection



## IT'S SPRING! (Arriving Sat., March 20) By Therese Ruth

Even though we have had warm afternoons, the nights and early mornings are still too cool to warm the soil for planting many flowers and vegetables. If you purchase vegetables now you can put them out during the afternoon to harden them off but either bring them in or keep them in a more protected area at night. Most vegetables can be planted in April but peppers and eggplants like it hot, so these can wait to be planted in late April, May or June.

**Check plants in containers:** You may notice the soil level is lower than when you planted the pot. The soil breaks down as it is digested by microbes so it is time to pull the plant out of the pot and add new soil to the bottom and at the same time, check to make sure the drain holes are not plugged with roots.

As the weather warms, check for snails and slugs that might feast on any new plants you put out. Use a safe control, such as Sluggo, that breaks down into iron phosphate and is safe to use around pets. It continues to work after rain or irrigation.

Check your irrigation system to make sure it is working correctly.

Camellias are in full bloom; Pick up fallen flowers to prevent petal blight, a fungal disease.

Mulch now to keep down weeds and to keep the soil cooler when hot temperatures arrive. Keep mulch about 4 inches away from tree trunks, shrubs, roses, and etc., to prevent crown rot.

Pre-emergents, such as Preen, keep weeds from germinating. Do not apply in an area when you will be planting flower or vegetable seeds because a pre-emergent will also prevent them from germinating.



As fruit trees set, be sure to thin the fruit to prevent the limbs from breaking, so it will produce larger fruit as well as prevent the spread of disease and insects.

**When to plant summer vegetables:**

\*From seed, outdoors -- early April – Carrots, Swiss Chard, Radishes, Spinach and Potatoes. In late April – Snap Beans, Corn and Cucumbers.

\*From purchased plants – late April - Eggplant, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Melons, Peppers and Squash.

All of the above listed plants also can be planted in May or June.

Be sure to fertilize your roses for a spectacular Spring bloom. You might also want to apply Alfalfa meal to encourage new basal breaks that will turn into new canes.

Aphids will come with the warmer weather – blast with water from a hose – they cannot fly so that will remove them from the plant. Encourage predators such as ladybugs to feast on the aphids. If you use pesticides, be aware that these also kill the “good” bugs that prey on the “bad” bugs. Give Mother Nature a chance to balance infestations before resorting to chemical controls.

## **River Park Garden Club News**

Congratulations are in order:

\*RPGC President Debbie Eldridge and member Chuck Burgess are engaged!

\*Member Julia (Rinne) married her long-time love, Eric Levinson, in August 2020.

### **Other important life changes:**

\*Two former RPGC presidents, Ron McCormack and Erik Fay, both recently retired, so now they have lots more time to work in their gardens.

### **Returning Member** (Please add to your Roster)

Lisa Crowe  
5324 Callister Ave.

## **Shows and Sales at Shepard Garden & Arts Center**

Covid-19 restrictions are starting to be relaxed and garden clubs are beginning again schedule shows and sales at the Center. Covid-19 protocol will be in effect – masks and social distancing.

\*Saturday, March 27 – Cymbidium Orchid Show and Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

\*Saturday and Sunday, April 17-18 – Iris Show and Sale, Noon-4 p.m.

\*Saturday, April 24 – Capitol City African Violet Show and Sale, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

***(Check the SG&AC calendar at [www.sgaac.org](http://www.sgaac.org) for any changes in the show/sale schedule.)***

## **Newman Center Development and Redwoods**

Lee Ruth reports that the fate of the redwoods on this property have improved because the developer has agreed to work with the neighborhood to preserve some of the redwoods at the site. “At this point, we are not certain how many will be saved but the bottom line is we have made some progress,” Ruth said.

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**Questions?** (916) 454-5637