

September-October 2025 Newsletter

River Park Garden Club



Planted Inside and Happy!

“Plants make any environment better. Almost no one disagrees with that idea,” says interior landscape gardener Lori Ann Asmus. She will explore the topic of indoor plants at our first program of the 2025-2026 season, at 6:30 p.m., Thursday Sept. 18.

“We all need beauty. In a new home, with very nice furniture and cabinets, plants just make it. They complete the picture and they are cheaper than sculpture,” said Lori Ann, (right), owner of Emerald City Interior Landscape Services in Sacramento. While still in college at UC Davis, this avowed plant lover started her company in 1979.

“What do I do? I take care of plants indoors,” she explained, simply. The work involves everything from creating plantscapes in homes and commercial buildings, to choosing the plants, their containers, and maintaining the plants by cleaning and trimming them, and keeping them fertilized and insect-free.

Her training for these skills started in her mother’s indoor plant shop in Southern California.

“Certainly that influenced me, just the exposure to the plants, but also the Master Gardener training at UCD (in 1986) helped. At UCD, in the mid 80s, I became involved with the Sacramento Interiorscape Assoc. Though it no longer exists, we called ourselves interiorscapers,” she said.

“Over the years, I have learned that maintaining plants indoors, depends the most on light. It’s the most important factor. If I have good light, I can’t fail, Lori Ann said.

After that, the biggest challenge, she said, is trying to figure out the best plants to choose that will do well in each environment. Experience has taught her a lot about that aspect of her business.



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Plants she avoids include Crotons. And *Dracaena marginata* (Dragon tree).

“They are cheap and grow fast, but get spider mites. Those are the two I avoid the most. Also *Dieffenbachias*. They are toxic, for one thing. They contain oxalic acid which makes the tongue swell so you can’t talk. That’s why they call it ‘dumb cane’ -- bad for children and animals,” she warned.

Plants are a feature of Lori Ann’s home, for sure.

“I have one plant room with 50 plants in there,” she mused.

What kinds of plants?

“Euphorbia -- 20 types (one, at right) . And a wide variety of Hoya. I have a few bromeliads and orchids, too. Oddball plants. My all-time favorite is Satin Pothos (below). It’s a good performer, beautiful, satiny silvery. I have never found anything I like better,” she said.



FIND OUT MORE!

For Thursday’s meeting, Lori Ann encourages garden club members to bring any great specimens of house plants or ones that may be having problems.

“I will be more than happy to show off the great ones and give suggestions for solving problems with the others,” she said. “If you think the problem is a bug or a disease, please put an affected leaf in a plastic bag, so we don’t spread around the problem.”

Bring your own supper and utensils to the meeting -- 6:30 p.m. at Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Beverages and desserts will be provided.

Club Activities for all...

Twice a year, our club participates in the large fall and spring sales at Shepard Garden and Arts Center. Along with many of the other clubs who meet at the Center, we have a table where, among other things, we sell garden-related items to raise money to support our club meetings and other activities (see below). The fall sale will be held this year from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, at the center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.

The club's sale committee is asking members to donate goods that sell well. These include, they say, plants, trees, potted planters, plant containers, vases, jewelry, and seasonal decorations. Pick up of large or numerous items can be arranged by calling sale committee member Lynn McCormack at (916) 455-4159.

The Fourth of July was a blast:



Our “float” was colorful. Our booth was busy with new neighbors interested in joining the Garden Club! Dilly Dally, the clown (below left), made the best



balloon characters!

Fun garden tattoos were applied.

And the band played on.

