



River Park Garden Club

Newsletter April—May 2026



Making Sense of Organic Gardening

“Garden with the environment, not against it,” is Greg Gayton’s mantra. A perennial favorite speaker, Gayton will talk about how to accomplish that goal at the club’s next general meeting -- Thursday, (April 16) at 6:30 p.m. at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.

“We have to practice good stewardship of our environment,” said Gayton, a Certified Nurseryman with Green Acres Nursery.

“That means knowing more about soil science, your local ecology, correct watering techniques and planting more California natives to attract pollinators,” he said. “California natives survive in our environment without much water. They are adapted to this environment and they help support the idea of bio-diversity.”



One of Gayton’s favorite native plants is the poppy-family *Romneya coulteri*, (above).

No newcomer to the art and practice of appropriate gardening, Gayton has worked 47 years for Green Acres, making his, the second longest career with the company. And he talks a lot about these subjects – on the company’s podcasts and so far this year, he has given more than 50 talks with 30-plus more to go, to garden clubs and other groups. Talk about community outreach!

“The long drought taught us a lot --like what we need to do to create successful gardens in California,” Gayton added. “We learned to change because of the drought.”

*Please bring your own dinner, plus utensils to the meeting. Beverages and homemade desserts will be provided. Guests are welcome.

In observance of California Native Plant Month, the Sac Valley Native Plant Society will present its 13th Annual Native Plant garden tour, “Gardens Got Natives” from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 18 and 19, at more than 40 Sacramento area gardens. FREE. For more information visit <https://sacvalleycnps.org/gardens-gone-native-tour/>.

Shepard Garden and Arts Spring Sale Report

Thanks to the two dozen volunteers who set up our displays and staffed our sale tables, plus many other members who donated goods to sell at the March sale at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center. The result? A successful two days of sales amounted to a more than \$1,000 profit.



The profits are used to support our club's activities -- general meetings, speaker honorariums, rent at Shepard and outreach.

This year's spring sale featured more than the usual number of great garden-related goods such as plants, trees and bushes, plus tools and décor. Members can start to get ready for the fall sale in October by potting up plants generated from spring pruning. A little pot, water and nurturing will do the rest.



THANKS!

(This bears repeating!)

We Need You!

The River Park Garden Club needs a lead us through our 75th year of beautification and gardening offers opportunities for meeting new friends, learning about gardening, and helping with public garden projects and activities. Becoming an officer of the club is a unique opportunity.



new President and Vice-President to promoting neighborhood education. Belonging to the club

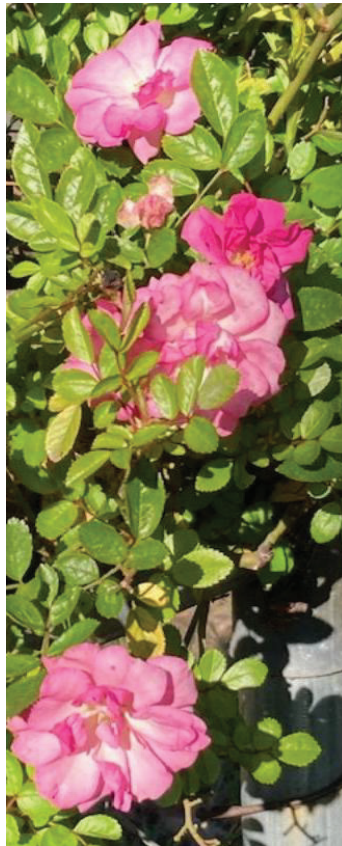
Our Nominating Committee is currently looking for candidates for these important positions. The committee is hoping you will consider filling these slots or nominating someone you think might want to serve.

The President represents the Club in all its activities as the chief motivator for everything we do to bring beauty to our community. The President can bring change and ideas to benefit the club and the neighborhood. Duties of the President include appointing standing committee members, overseeing their activities and serving as an ex-officio member of each committee.

Get in on the fun. Offer your name or someone you'd like to nominate to Nominating Committee chair Jeannette Nardinelli at 916-451-4658.

A River Park Spring~

Give 'em
enough rain,
enough sun and
enough love and
River Park's
plants and trees
will reward our
neighborhood
with a
marvelous
display.





In case you missed this...

The gardens that greet residents and visitors to River Park were created and are tended to by a small band of faithful gardeners.

Beautiful gardens surround the River Park Community sign -- the Yermol Memorial Fountain and garden on Carlson at H Street. Another large garden beautifies the strip along Carlson, between H and J streets, that defines the perimeter of CSUS' parking lot with daffodils and tulips in spring and roses and colorful shrubs the rest of the year.

These large gardens didn't happen by accident!

The Yermol Memorial Garden, and in the median strip along H and around the railroad underpass were started by the late Fran and Roy Yermol in the 1980s. Fran, an intrepid gardener whose middle name was Violet, always spread wildflower seeds for year around beauty in the ditch that ran along Carlson by the parking lot. She got the City to fill in the ditch after she fell into it one day,

Fran worked on the gardens continually until just days before she died in 2009.

Since then, the River Park Garden Club has accepted the responsibility for maintaining these gardens. Following the Yermols' example and adding their own touches, ardent gardeners Therese and Lee Ruth, have continued the work of planting and beautifying these gardens.

Garden club member Paul Townsend has most recently accepted the task of maintaining the gardens along with neighborhood garden "friends" Howdy Hoover, Joe Van Sickle and Richard Vincent.

These loyal passionate gardeners have pruned, fertilized, trimmed and transplanted plants and trees to keep the garden vibrant for all four seasons! Most of the roses and many trees and shrubs are identified with markers.

The ongoing project has even included hand watering when the city shut off the water during last summer's heat, repairing and upgrading the fountain, and managing mightily to enhance the neighborhood's entrance.

The RPNA and RPGC lead the loud "Thank You" cheer for all these good and faithful volunteers.

HIP, HIP, HURRAY!