



Member of CGCI

A Publication of Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

Valley Lode District – Pacific Region

Lotusland Speaker Highlights One of the World's Top Botanic Gardens at the May Meeting

Ganna Walska Lotusland is considered to be one of the top 10 botanic gardens in the world. Situated in the foothills of Santa Barbara, California, this 37-acre botanical wonderland is home to more than 3,200 different types of plants from all around the world. We are fortunate to have a representative of Lotusland for our speaker at the May Modesto Garden Club monthly meeting.

The history of this iconic spot on the California coast involves a convoluted trail of planners, who developed the spot around the wishes of several different owners. However, the Polish born opera singer and socialite, Madame Ganna Walska, created a Santa Barbara treasure in Lotusland when she took it over in the 1940s.

She planned, planted and developed with dramatic flair from the 1940s until her death in 1984. The estate showcases rare species and exotic specimens in a series of themed gardens, including a Japanese Garden and a Cycad Garden with specimens that are extinct in the wild. There is a Theatre Garden with antique statuary, an unparalleled cactus garden that resembles a forest of cacti, two Bromeliad Gardens, a Fern Garden, and, of course, a lovely lotus pond, whose graceful namesakes bloom annually around July. Around each corner there is the unexpected - a surprise of unique garden design and plant species.

Lotusland horticulture philosophy is organic, using no chemical fertilizers or pesticides. The gently sloping 1.5 mile walk takes approximately two hours.

Reservations are required to visit the Montecito landmark. Tours are Wednesday - Saturday at 10 AM and again at 1:30 PM. Lotusland is open Mid-February through Mid-November. Please call 805.969.9990 for reservations or information. Visit them online at Lotusland.org.



Tickets for the Summer Luncheon Table Viewing

There is a real treat in store for you this year – Summer Luncheon Table Viewing.
The hostesses have some extraordinary ideas they are incorporating into their table designs.
Their unparalleled, innovative ideas are astonishingly fantastic!

Table Viewing --Wednesday, June 5

1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Tickets \$10 at the door

Del Rio Country Club

601 Stewart Road, Modesto

For additional information contact Linda Pedego - 209-523-1420.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **May 2 -- MGC Board Meeting, MGC Office, 622 14th Street, 9 a.m.**
- **May 4 -- Filoli House/Half Moon Bay, Depart Park 'n Ride, 7:30 a.m.**
- **May 9 – MGCI General Meeting Location: Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver, Hospitality: 10 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. Learn and Grow: 10:30 a.m.– 11:15 a.m., Gisele “G” Schoniger of Kellogg Garden Products; General Meeting: 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Speaker from Lotusland, (One of the top 10 Gardens in America); Guests \$10.**
- **May 14 -- Valley Lode District Meeting, Turlock Garden Club Host**
- **May 18 —Thank You Luncheon, Modesto Garden Club Office**
- **May 30 -- MGC Board Meeting, MGC Office 622 14th St. 9 a.m.**
- **June 5 -- Summer Luncheon Table Viewing, Del Rio Country Club \$10**
- **June 6 – Summer Luncheon, Del Rio Country Club**

Don't Forget . . . Table Viewing June 5th!

President's Message

By Mary McNicholas

Inspiring Times Are Here!

The beauty of our gardens is all around us. It is such an inspiration to see Mother Nature in her spring glory. Our work in our gardens has come to fruition both at home and at our many civic, school and therapeutic gardens.

So also has the work of our many volunteers. What a spectacular Spring Garden Tour our Committee and Docents created. I'm sure we all came away with new ideas and a sense of awe. Thanks to all who made this a successful fund raiser and to all who came and viewed the gardens.

At our May 9 General Meeting we will be uplifted once again as local college students are awarded scholarships to pursue their horticulture-related studies. It is always wonderful to hear their stories of accomplishment and dreams for the future.

This month's meeting will also include installation of our new Officers and we will reintroduce our Board of Directors. This is such a dedicated group of people who take great pride in the work, accomplishments and history of the Modesto Garden Club. We were gifted a legacy from past officers and volunteers and we will carry forward those traditions and objectives.

Not to be missed are our guest speakers including Gisele Schoniger, from Kellogg Garden Products, and a presentation on the beautiful gardens of Ganna Walska Lotusland in Santa Barbara.

Here's a little more inspiration to ponder this month:

"Flowers always make people better; happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."

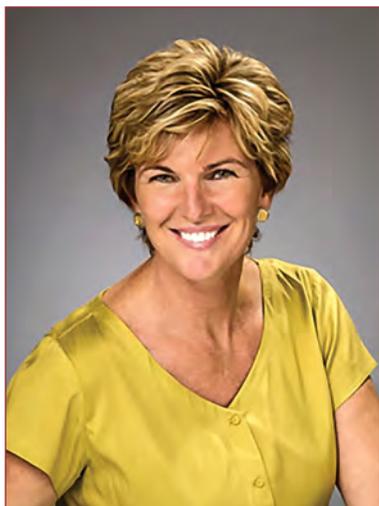
– Luther Burbank



President's Thank You

This year the President's Thank You Event will be held at the Modesto Garden Club Office on Saturday, May 18th from 2 p.m. We hope to have live entertainment and of course plenty of food. Come enjoy our beautiful gardens and relax for the afternoon. If you plan to attend, please call the office (529-7360) and leave a message so we can get an accurate headcount.

Hope to see you there!



Learn and Grow: Gisele “G” Schoniger Organic Gardening Educator at Kellogg Garden Products

In her 34 years in the garden industry, Gisele has accumulated a wide range of experience and knowledge.

She earned her degree in Ornamental Horticulture from California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo.

She has owned an Intiorscape company, worked for the State Department of Agriculture, practiced as a horticultural therapist with senior citizens and launched an outstanding sales career by helping establish top-selling organic gardening products.

Ms. Schoniger’s latest topic is “Holistic Health Care in Your Garden.”

She says that at the core of great gardens is how we care for our soil; what we feed our gardens and how we can maximize our efforts in the garden by using organic practices. “Grow delectable fruits, veggies, herbs, bountiful blossoms, lush lawns, and glorious trees all with some simple and sound horticultural practices. We are all realizing we need to get back to the

basics. Her goal is to inspire some small changes that will garner big rewards to your garden soil, your abundance of crops and beautiful landscapes and for your overall health.”



*Snapshots from
April's
Garden Club
Meeting*

Over the Garden Gate

Published 10 times a year, September-June, by the Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

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*A Special
Modesto Garden Club
Welcome
to Our New Members
at the
New Members Tea*

**Volunteers Needed –
Co-Vice President of Fund
Raising**

We still need a Co-Vice President of Fund Raising for 2019/pg. The position is an important one. The job is monitoring your committee to assure the necessary tasks are being performed. If you look in your Yearbook you will see the different committee's and chairperson's, you would be responsible for overseeing.

It is only with YOU as members taking part that Modesto Garden Club is able to provide services to our community.



*Everything is in Bloom
to
Welcome the Newbies!*



Civic Affairs

By Dan and Gerry Yockey

It certainly has been a different year for all our civic projects. We have been used to being able to schedule and perform maintenance and upgrades on our projects without having to worry about the weather. Not this year, the rain and wet ground brought us challenges we have had to deal with for months, yet they all look great.

- **Downtown Pots**

The pots have all finally started to show growth and the color combinations look amazing. We have had very little vandalism this year keeping most of the pots full of beautiful pansies and snapdragons.

REMINDER: Planting the pots for this summer will be on May 11 at 9 a.m. at the Garden Club office. If you did not sign up at the April meeting contact Gerry or Dan at 661-6554 to be added to the lists.

- **Hanging Baskets on Tenth Street**

Unfortunately, we had to remove the baskets and return them to the office. For some reason they were doing great until mid-March when we noticed the plants were under stress and ultimately died. We have several theories as to what happened but no real reason yet. We plan on planting them again in the fall.

- **Aileen Gallo Memorial Clock**

The clock is now in transition and being upgraded to new plantings and color schemes being performed by our new group headed by Elaine Greydanus. We look for a stunning result.

- **Victims Garden**

The club recently took this project back, and our new Budding Gardener group, Wine and Roses have already started to bring this area back to a beautiful addition to the City. We must say, they are an enthusiastic group and we know they will do well.

- **Senior Citizens Center**

Almost all the projects have been completed by Pixie Kinser and her crew. The grounds are colorful and show all the pride and care they have received. The flag pole will be installed by summer. We are still in the approval process from the City.

- **Rose Gardens on W. Orangeburg on the Virginia Corridor and at College and Briggsmore.**

The gardens are in great condition and the floral display of beautiful roses is outstanding, drive by and have a look. Both Gardens are now under the direction of Pat Williams.

- **George Lucas Plaza**

This small but important garden is located at the corner of J Street. and McHenry and is maintained by Leah Meedom, Renate Glinkas, and Linda Pedego who keep it well-groomed and colorful.

Thank you to all the volunteers who give of their time, talent, and hard work to make Modesto a colorful city

*Yours in gardening,
Gerry and Dan*

Planters and Groomers

By Gerry Yockey

It has been such a success for the Spring Garden tour down at the Modesto Garden Office. We had so many compliments! They loved the flowers, the beautiful trees and the roses. And of course, the interior of the office. My volunteers worked so hard to put everything together! It has not been an easy year. We worked out in the rain on several occasions and hoped that the rain would stop. We spread mulch on the ground and got soaked. Nothing like having hot coffee afterwards.

I want to thank Mary Lou Rice for having us at her lovely home for lunch. We are so thankful for Mary Lou Rice for thinking of us. She understands how much work the ladies and gentlemen do at the office in making it look beautiful.

We are now in the process of planting for the summer flowers. It is hard taking out the spring flowers when they still look good.

I want to take a moment to thank all my volunteers for making the Spring Garden tour at the office such a success and sticking with me on this adventure.....Thank you all again!

Education Update

By Cheryl Koff

A big thank you to all Education Chairpersons! We met the budget deadline! Thank you for submitting your information AND you made our club Treasurer, Nancy Smith very happy. Looking forward to 2019/20 but in the meantime; spring is happening, and we are busy.

Bob Taylor, director of Programs has scheduled a speaker from Lotusland to speak at the May Garden Club meeting. The educational program is about the non-profit botanical garden (Lotusland) located in Montecito, near Santa Barbara. Lotusland is one of the top botanic gardens in the world. Please join us!

Also, don't miss the Learn & Grow session: a Kellogg Garden Products presentation by Gisele Schoinger. Thank you, **Beverly Schlegel, director of Learn and Grow** for arranging this event. Also at the May meeting, **Judy Spencer, director of Scholarships**, on behalf of the Modesto Garden Club, will be awarding six \$1500 scholarships to high school or college students who study horticulture, landscape architecture and/or landscape design. Congratulations to all the recipients! And wrapping it up **Pat Logan, director of School Gardens** was out visiting her schools and distributing *Math in the Garden*, a book sponsored by the Modesto Garden Club which encourages hands-on activities for teacher/student.

Therapeutic Gardening Update: As mentioned spring is happening! I wanted to post pictures of our facilities planter boxes but could not choose. I'll have to tell the story. Thank you to everyone who has sent pictures! Bulbs are in bloom in many of the boxes.

Mary Helen Alonza, Therapeutic Gardening volunteer at English Oaks Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, sent me the 1st spring postings. Daffodils are in bloom; along with snapdragons, pansies and alyssum.

Riverbank Rehab Facility, **Renate Glinskas, Therapeutic Gardening volunteer**, is waiting to replant. The planter box is in full bloom. Daffodils ready to burst open, snapdragons still looking good and of course; the Riverbank facility garden genome is present.

Leah Meedom, Therapeutic Gardening volunteer, took the opportunity of the warm weather at Windsor Post-Acute Healthcare Center to begin the spring planting. Marigolds are in and vinca will be planted this month.

Our newest member **Jill Kuil, Therapeutic Gardening volunteer**, posted an update of her facility. Hospitality House in Salida has tulips in bloom and primroses still looking good. What's exciting! Along with her project the Sisk Elementary School Garden Club is also involved with the garden at Hospitality House. The school gardening program has purchased planter boxes and planted trees. Overall, lots of gardening "going on" at this facility and what fun it is to be involved!



Judy Silber is the Garden Club's volunteer of the month for April. The club's recording secretary, Judy has stepped in to help with office work while Norene Dexter is recovering from surgery. She is always a very helpful lady!



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*A Flower Basket Workshop
Creating a Colorful Basket
of Spring Blooms*

