



**President’s Message**

by Paula Elias



Dear Manteca Garden Club Members,

Wow, the sun is sure feeling nice! I love the sun on my face and now more and more the sweet smell of Spring!

As our May 13 garden tour will be here before we know, I want to thank our members who have volunteered their lovely and interesting gardens for our garden tour this year. Thank you to Barbara, Gloria, Sandie Harris, Beverly Ensley, Susan and Jesse. Thank you so much for supporting our tour. We are so lucky that you and your families have agreed to participate. We know it's work on your end and we appreciate you. As we all know if we don't have gardens for the tour, we can't have a tour!

We ask all members to support our only annual fund raiser by signing up as a docent and buying and selling tour tickets. It's a such a fun time too.

Spring is here March 20. Yay!!!

*Paula*

**Key Dates**

**Meeting**

Saturday, March 4	Pathways to Success, 10:00am, Manteca Museum
Wednesday, March 15	Board Meeting, 10:30 am at Paula’s House
Monday, March 20	Manteca Garden Club, Manteca Library 12:30-1:00pm refreshments; 1:00 meeting Guest Speaker: Master Gardener, Topic: Buzz About Bees
Monday, March 27	Field Trip to Sacramento Historic City Cemetery. To carpool meet at Target at 9:45am.
Friday, March 31	Glitz and Glamour Night, Senior Center, 5:30pm
Wednesday, April 5	Chamber of Commerce Coffee hosted by Manteca Garden Club, Manteca Library, 8:00am
Thursday, April 27	Arbor Day planting at Center and Tidewater Bikeway, 10:00am

# Gardening Chores for March

by Sandi Larson, Master Gardener



We are finally moving towards Spring, I hope.

Now that we've had more than our share of rain, we can start looking at what kind of problems that brings with it. Have you noticed green moss growing in your sidewalk cracks or on areas of your concrete that are low, or even on your soil? When we first moved here during "normal" wet weather in the winter of 2008, we ended up with quite a bit of green moss on our retaining wall in the backyard and in our front porch area where drip irrigation puddles. Obviously the moss comes from standing water in the case of concrete. In the case of moss on the soil a major problem there is lack of airflow and the soil constantly being wet. In many cases the moss that's there now may dissipate when our summer sun and heat return.

If you still find moss on soil in the summer, you can break it up with a heavy rake or spade. Then you may want to add a mulch to your soil to avoid the dampness you had before. In the past I've used an algae killer that sat and then I rinsed it off on concrete. It was safe for the plants. It looks like a new product is out there this year for moss on concrete that I may try. It's called "Wet and Forget". It's supposed to be bleach-free and no scrubbing and plant and pet friendly. I'll wait until April to start my cleaning up. I also have checked with the City of Manteca and you can't pressure wash your home unless you get a permit from the City. We still can't squirt down concrete as of early February. We have to see what happens with the State regarding water conservation and also what the City does.



Moss in yard

Keep an eye out for plants being under watered if they are under your eaves in case the rain comes from the opposite side of your home. If a plant is in an outdoor pot watch the amount of rain it gets as I've found some of my plants sitting in an inch or two of water because the soil was too saturated to drain!

I enjoy my houseplants. I have about a dozen of different varieties including Snake Plant (*Sansevieria Trifasciata*) (2), Ficus; Asparagus Fern; orchid (*Cymbidium*); ponytail palm; sweetheart ivy, (*Hedra helis*); grape ivy, (*Cissus*); Philodendron and a couple of pothos. Most of your indoor houseplants will want less water in the winter than the spring/summer. Most of my houseplants get along fine being watered about once a week. The exception to that



Houseplants in eating area

is the Snake Plant which I stretch out and water about once every 2 weeks. My ficus has survived outside under my patio cover where it's protected from strong winds. When we are out of town I usually put most of my plants in a ceramic container with a couple of inches of water and so far they've all survived. You might want to check your indoor pots for signs of being potbound. Look at the bottom of the pot and if there are quite a few roots coming out it might be good to move to a one size larger pot. Loosen the soil around your roots a little and add fresh soil to the pot. Make sure your soil level at the base of the plant is at the same place it was prior. Remember houseplants are good for our



Houseplants in kitchen

air and it feels a little bit like I have my garden indoors. It makes the winter a little shorter.

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## Gardening Chores for March (continued from Page 2)

March is a good month to start putting your summer bulbs in the ground for summer blooms. Garden Centers will now start carrying plants that can go outside this month. If they're in the nurseries, then they're probably fairly safe to plant but remember this month we can still get a late frost until the end of the month. It's also a good time to start fertilizing your roses, citrus and flowering plants ready to bloom.

After frost date you can prune fuschias, and bouganvilleas. If you have a hydrangea it's a little more complicated as to when to prune.

Remember if you are working in your soil to not plant anything if the soil is very compacted. If you are planting new trees or shrubs in your yard remember it's best to wait a full year to do any major pruning with the plant which gives it a chance to settle into its new environment.

If you want to plant a vegetable garden this spring, you can put in most vegetables but not tomatoes and peppers as the ground needs to warm a little for them.

Slugs and snails will continue to be a problem in March and the aphids will start munching their way through your new growth on your plants. You can squirt off the aphids on your new growth with a garden hose. Snails and slugs can be controlled by using snail and slug bait or by hand picking them and throwing them into a bucket.

If you feel a plant has gotten frost damage wait until you see other plants of that type sprouting before you cut anything or pull the plant out. Some plants naturally take a little longer to break growth in the spring. Prune the plant to just above the new growth if it has been damaged by frost but only after the chance of frost has passed.

You should prune blooming plants after they bloom such as Camelias. Also Azaleas, Rhododendrons and Camelias you should feed this month with acid loving fertilizer.

I want to mention that the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show is on April 5-9 this year, I believe a change from their normal March dates. It's at the San Mateo Event Center. You can purchase tickets online at [SFgardenshow.com](http://SFgardenshow.com). Happy Gardening!

## Plant(s) of the Month for February

By Eric Teberg

### *Leucadendron Salignum 'Golden Tip'*

Height: 3 feet  
Width: 5 feet  
Exposure: Full sun to part shade  
Soil: Good drainage  
Flowers: Pale yellow  
Blooms: Late Winter to Fall



### *Chamelaucium x Verticordia 'Jasper'*

Height: 4 feet  
Width: 3-4 feet  
Exposure: Full Sun  
Soil: Well drained, sandy  
Flowers: Pink  
Blooms: Winter-Spring



# School Gardens by Tom Powell

## City Beautification Project: East Union Cemetery Donation



Before

Under our city beautification budget, we fulfilled the request of our former, beloved member, Suzanne Clemens, by donating two Crepe Myrtle trees to the East Manteca Cemetery. Here are the before and after photos.

This summer these trees will be a beautiful backdrop to the gazebo area.



After



After

## Refreshments

by Laneia Bolle and Gloria Martinez

The following members have volunteered to bring refreshments to the March 20, 2017 Garden Club Meeting:

Refreshments start at 12:30pm.

Bertie Baumgartner  
Joan Cannon  
Gayle Foster

Marcia Monroe  
Jesse Soto  
Barbara Stoner



## March Birthdays

13 Jan Spence  
22 Marsha Savage

