



## President's Message

by Paula Elias



Dear Manteca Garden Club Members,

We can't believe our season is just about over. Even so, this is a busy time for us. Please make sure to read the minutes and newsletter for important dates so you don't miss anything!

Club dues for the next season, September to June, are due by the September meeting to get your name and number in the yearbook. Mail a \$25 check to our P.O. Box 23, Manteca 95336 payable to Manteca Garden Club. You may also pay at the May meeting or the June luncheon for the next season. Please give your checks to Lorna. Your membership supports our monthly meetings, insurance and dues to Valley Lode District and CGCI. That's not a bad deal, is it?

Thank you to all of our members for your ongoing support. See you at the pre tour!

*Paula*

### Key Dates

#### Meetings and Events

Thursday May 11	Pre-tour, 10:00am, meet at first house, 1086 Golden Pond Drive
Saturday, May 13	Annual Garden Tour, 10:00am – 2:00pm
Monday, May 15	Manteca Garden Club Meeting, McFall Room, Manteca Library, 12:30pm refreshments, 1:00pm Meeting
Saturday, June 10	Art in the Park, 10:00am – 3:00pm, Library Park
Saturday, June 17	Adult Reading Program, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, Library
Monday, June 19	Installation Lunch, Boathouse, River Island, Lathrop, 12:00 noon

# Gardening Chores for May

by Sandi Larson, Master Gardener

Happy May! May is a glorious month in the garden. Everything is green, blooming and the heat hasn't hit us yet.

By now you should have put in a fertilizer or feed and protect combination onto your roses. The hoplia beetles will be here shortly and start munching on your light colored roses and other plants. I think this year I will cut my new blooms again before the beetles get to them. They will go back into their dormancy about 3 weeks after they first surface. There is no "cure" for them but if you want you can pull them off your blossoms and put them in a bucket of soapy water. They don't go away for a few weeks and by the time your second bloom of roses have come up the Hoplia beetles are gone.

If you had problems last year with different pests in your garden now is the time to plan your attack prior to their getting out of control. One of the biggest vermin for me last year were the caterpillars that munch on my geraniums. I wasn't successful in finding them early enough so this year I'm really taking a proactive approach. I've been checking them for early signs of holes in the leaves. The best thing you can do is to pick off the caterpillars and either step on them or throw them into a bucket of soapy water.

If that doesn't work, there's a product called BT and it comes in a ready to use container. Be aware that sometimes you can kill the positive insects that live in your geranium as well as your caterpillar. If you use it be sure and wear protective clothing and gloves. It is not harmful to pets.

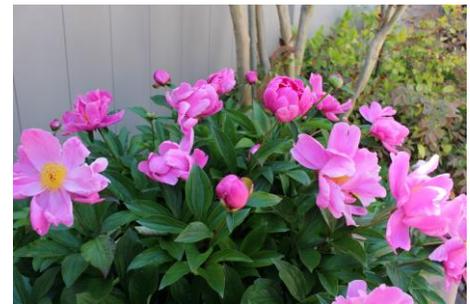
Keep your eyes out for snails and aphids right now as they're pretty active at this time of year.

Remember to dead head plants as their blooms have died. Dead heading can often bring a second set of blossoms in a plant. I did that last year on one of my crepe myrtle and did get a second less significant set of blossoms.

We've had a good portion of rain this year and early April it continues but remember that plants under awnings or on patios may not receive enough water. Remember to only water on your City-scheduled watering days to avoid fines. Newly planted bulbs, perennials and annuals will need water fairly often until they are established. If you have a newly planted yard remember your plants will need extra water until established. Even drought tolerant plants will need to be watered regularly for probably the first 6 months to a year.

If you have purchased any tomato plants remember to water deeply when you water. Space your watering apart so they don't sit in water. Make sure they receive at least 6 hours of sunlight a day. If your tomato is against a south facing wall it will start receiving heat quicker as it reflects from that wall. Tomato cages are a good support and best to put them in early so all of the foliage and branches can benefit from the support. I have forgotten a few times and then end up breaking stems as I try to weave the cage between the foliage.

Be sure and check your irrigation this time of year or have your gardener do that. I have had to replace 2-3 valves from my original system. They aren't expensive but you will need someone to install the valves. As our drip irrigation gets older we will need to start replacing the emitters as the hardness of our Manteca water will slow them down to a dribble.



Bush Peony



NEW! Crazytunia Moonstruck

This time of year there are a lot of blooming plants and shrubs at the nurseries. Fuschias, hydrangeas, Daylily, Hibiscus and Roses are a few of the blooming plants this month. You can also plant Summer blooming bulbs such as stargazer lilies, dahlias, tuberous begonias and caladium. There are some beautiful new varieties of pansies at the nurseries right now that are gorgeous. The same caterpillar that feeds on geraniums feeds on Petunia buds. The control would be the same either hand pick them off when you see them or spray them with a chemical like BT or Vegetable and Garden Insect Spray.

Crabgrass will start to show up this month in your lawn. You can either hand pull it out or put in a weed and feed product for your lawn to help alleviate it. It also helps to mow your lawn a little bit higher and deep water your lawn which also discourages the crabgrass from forming seed.

Jasmine is getting ready to bloom here in Manteca in May or the end of April.

Azaleas and Rhododendrons can be fertilized now after they have bloomed. Citrus again would benefit from a light feeding this month.

If you are interested in doing something fun this month don't forget the Manteca Garden Club Annual Tour which is on Saturday, May 13 from 10-2 pm. Tickets are available at the following stores; Park Greenhouse, Silverado Nursery, Delicato Winery, Ed's Rockery, Tipton's Stationery, Rainforest Nursery and New York Diamonds. Tickets are \$20. It's always a great event if you love gardening. Happy Gardening!

## Plant(s) of the Month by Eric Teberg

### *Osteospermum 'Spider Purple African Daisy'*

Height: 10-14"  
Spread: 14-20"  
Exposure: Full Sun  
Flowers: Dark Purple  
Moisure: Moist  
Blooms: Late Spring/Early Summer  
Attracts: Hummingbirds



### *Justicia Brandegeana 'Shrimp Plant'*

Height: 3-4 feet  
Width: 3-4 feet  
Exposure: Partial to full sun  
Moisture: Water regularly  
Blooms: Year-round



### *Lophomyrtus ralphii 'Little Star'*

Height: 18-24 inches  
Width: 18-24 inches  
Exposure: Sun or part shade  
Moisture: Regular water  
Flowers: White



## Refreshments

by Laneia Bolle and Gloria Martinez

The following members have volunteered to bring refreshments to the May 15, 2017 Garden Club Meeting:

Refreshments start at 12:30pm.

Rescha Bistrong  
Laneia Bolle

Jeanette Farley  
Beth Stitt



## May Birthdays

7 Anita Handley  
13 Kay Cacace  
13 Dena Rossi

14 Judy Sullivan  
16 Linda Crothers  
21 Barbara Stoner

