



## President's Message

by Paula Elias



Dear Manteca Garden Club Members,

Spring is here!! Thanks to all who went to the club field trip at the Hughson Arboretum. It was neat to discover this little jewel so close to home.

I hear our own Eric did a fabulous job with his presentation at the last meeting. Wow, 55 members were at that meeting! We were lucky Eric was on the field trip too as he added lots of info being shared by the Arboretum president too.

Hope to see all of you at the April meeting too! Our annual garden tour is almost here and it's a big topic at the meeting. Come to the April meeting to hear about all of the fun stuff happening between now and June. It's a busy fun time! See you then!

Happy Spring!

*Paula*

### Key Dates

#### Meeting

Monday, April 2	Board Meeting, 9:30am, CGCI Planning Conference Meeting, Chez Shari Café, 10:30am
Wednesday, April 11	8:00 am Chamber Coffee, Library McFall Room
Saturday, April 14	Open Garden Day at the Learning Landscape maintained by the San Joaquin Master Gardeners. 9am-noon. See details: <a href="http://sjmastergardeners.ucanr.edu">sjmastergardeners.ucanr.edu</a>
Monday, April 16	Manteca Garden Club, Library, McFall Room 12:30-12:55pm refreshments; 1:00 pm meeting Topic: Annual Garden Tour Planning
Friday, April 20	Library War Memorial Courtyard project prep work, 9am-noon
Saturday, April 21	Library War Memorial Courtyard project planting, 9am-noon
Friday, April 26	Arbor Day planting, 9:00am at the bikeway on Center

# Gardener's Corner for April

by Cate White, Master Gardener

Roses are a beautiful addition to any garden, worth the extra care they may require. They can be classified as garden or landscape types.

Garden types include Hybrid Teas, Grandiflora and Floribundas. The first two are the ones we think of as classic roses growing 3 to 5 feet tall and producing large showy flowers perfect for cutting. Hybrid teas are single stemmed, while grandifloras have multiple blooms on each stem. Floribundas grow 2 to 4 feet tall and have multiple slightly smaller flowers per stem. These types generally require more care, including deadheading of spent flowers, careful pruning and frequent monitoring for insects and diseases.

Landscape or shrub groundcover roses have been developed for general landscape use and tend to be hardier. They have fewer thorns, greater disease resistance, require less pruning and deadheading (since spent flowers will drop off) and can bloom throughout the year.

Additional varieties are climbers and miniatures, which are ideal for pots in small gardens.

All roses require strong light and should be planted in full sun, although in our area, some afternoon shade is desirable. They grow best where they are protected from strong winds. Garden types need plenty of air circulation and do not like to be crowded, which landscape types can be planted as hedges.

Roses need regular watering during the growing season. In Manteca, with our sandy loam soil, this means frequent light watering. While drip irrigation is adequate, garden types appreciate occasional deep soaking. A strong spray of water from time to time will discourage aphids and spider mites, Do this in the early morning, allowing leaves plenty of time to dry before nightfall. Several light applications of balanced fertilizer from March through September will keep your roses thriving.

Common problems include insects such as aphids and spider mites and fungal diseases like mildew, rust and black spot. Neem oil spray is a good choice to combat all of these problems although several applications may be required. This should be done during cooler parts of the day to avoid foliage injury. Broad spectrum and systemic pesticides are not recommended since they are harmful to beneficial insects including bees.



Another insect pest occurring this time of year is the hoplia beetle. These slow moving brown beetles are about a quarter of an inch long. They emerge from the ground in surrounding fields each spring, flying to our gardens to feed on flowers and to mate. They are attracted by light-colored flowers on roses, irises and lilies, where they congregate in numbers, chewing holes in both flowers and buds. Unfortunately, pesticides don't affect them. The best method of control is hand picking, either shaking them directly into a pail

of soapy water or removing and discarding affected blossoms. You may also try filling light-colored buckets with soapy water and placing them near affected plants. The buckets will attract beetles and the soapy water will drown them. Fortunately, the hoplia's adult life span is short and after four to six weeks, they fly off, lay their eggs and die. There is only one generation a year.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 14, Open Garden Day at the Learning Landscape maintained by the San Joaquin Master Gardeners. There will be displays and plans for sale from 9am to noon. Check the San Joaquin Master Gardeners' website for more details: [sjmastergardeners.ucanr.edu](http://sjmastergardeners.ucanr.edu)



## April Garden Checklist

- Start planting frost sensitive plants now, including citrus, tomatoes, eggplants, pepper and basil.
- Control aphids by spraying plants with a strong stream of water or applying insecticidal soaps or oils. Monitor citrus for Asian Citrus Psyllid.
- Fertilize citrus deciduous fruit trees and flowering shrubs with a slow release fertilizer if not done in March.
- Adjust irrigation according to the weather and be sure plants are properly mulched.
- Prune winter flowering shrubs like camellias.

# HELP WANTED

I have set dates for the Manteca Library war memorial courtyard project after determining best schedules for library (Anne Stevens) and Eric. April 20 (Friday) and April 21 (Saturday) appear to be the best dates. We would do all the preparatory work on Friday, which includes shoveling out about 4" of soil from each of the flowers beds where we are planting new planting materials. This is 2 - 3 cubic yards of soil, which we will take a few blocks away and dump in a city designated spot. We will need preferably a couple of pickup trucks, a couple of wheelbarrows (I will also bring one) and some shovels. Depending on how much progress we make on Friday we may begin planting that day, but for certain the next day (Saturday). Here are the details:

- Dates: April 20 (prep work and maybe planting)  
April 21 (planting and possibly shoveling and spreading bark mulch and stones)
- When: (Both days): 9 am to noon (if needed extending into afternoon depending on weather and interest)
- Where: Manteca Library at the war memorial courtyard (Center Street side)
- RSVP: Please indicate which day(s) you can assist and whether you have a pickup and/or wheelbarrow to use.
- Questions? Let me know via email or by calling me at 510-206-7133.

*Tom Powell*

# Plant of the Month

by Eric Teberg

## **Bromelia balansae** *Heart of Flame*

Height: 4 feet  
 Width: 4-6 feet  
 Exposure: Full Sun  
 Moisture: Regular Water  
 Flowers: Rose  
 Soil: Excellent drainage



## **Quince**, *Cydonia oblonga*

Height: 10-25 feet  
 Width: 10-25 feet  
 Exposure: Full sun  
 Moisture: Moderate to regular water  
 Soil: Need good drainage  
 Flowers: White to pale pink



# Refreshments

by Ann Clapper, Sandie Harris and Linda Schneider

The following members have volunteered to bring refreshments to the April 16, 2018 Garden Club Meeting.

Refreshments start at 12:30pm.

Rescha Bistrong	Linda Raetz
Gayle Foster	Mary Jo Sachs
Marie Pasquinelli	Marsha Savage



# April Birthdays

1 Jesse Soto	24 Laneia Bolle
13 Lorna Powell	25 Gloria Martinez
15 Scott Griffin	28 Marie Pasquinelli
19 Mary Jo Sachs	29 Betty Christy
21 Diane Galeazzi	29 Sandie Harris
23 Kay Harris	

