



President's Message

by Paula Elias

Dear Manteca Garden Club Members,

What a wonderful garden tour! I heard so many positive comments! And it was a safe day where we made the funds we needed to continue our non-profit work with city projects, school gardens, scholarships and more! Thanks to all of the leaders who took on chair positions; Bev for tickets, Jesse and Ellen for raffle donations, Pam, Gayle and Gloria selling those tickets, Lorna for docents and Cindy for signs and refreshments. Thanks to all those members who worked the tour too! Thanks to members who donated raffle items and bought or sold tickets. Without all of you, we wouldn't have been able to have a tour! Our next tour is May 11, 2019 and pre tour May 9. Mark your calendar. And we have some possible houses however we need more! So send leads to me! I'll contact possible homeowners in August!

Exciting things are coming up as we close out this garden season. Thanks to Ellen for serving as treasurer for the last four years! She often took on more duties too. We appreciate Ellen and are so glad she will still be participating in the club after her term is over. Thank you to Bev for raising her hand to be our new treasurer. To keep doing our important and fun work we need members to take a turn at board positions! We appreciate Bev stepping up to support our club. Thanks to Lorna for her four years as secretary and thanks for taking on two more. Lorna does an outstanding job with minutes, the beautiful newsletter, our yearbook, name tags and more! We are lucky to have you. Berti and I serve one more year as your vice president and president. We would love someone to join us this year to learn the easy fun ropes to replace us after next season! We are a club and when everyone does their turn, it's easier for us all!

As the season closes we will be supporting the CGCI conference at Black Oak June 5, 6 and 7, Art in the Park at Library Park on June 9 from 10 to 2 and the library craft day in the Mc Fall Room on June 23, 2 to 3:30. Thanks to all who volunteered to help. Anyone can attend June 9 and June 23 too.

We are looking forward to the installation lunch celebrating Bev and Lorna at Jesse's on June 18 at noon. The club is buying tri tip which Jesse will BBQ. Everyone else bring a dish to share! All are welcome!

Thanks again for a great season! Thank you in advance for your participation and leadership!

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

Paula

Key Dates

Meetings and Events

Saturday, June 9	Art in the Park, 10:00am – 2:00pm, Library Park
Monday, June 18	Installation Lunch, Potluck at Jesse Soto's House, 5870 Almondwood, 12:00noon
Saturday, June 23	Craft Day, 2:00pm – 3:30pm, Library
Monday, August 27	Lunch at Paula's, 12:00noon, RSVP to Paula by August 20
Monday, September 10	Columbia Kate's Tea House in Columbia, \$17, RSVP to Anita or Paula
Monday, September 17	Manteca Garden Club Meeting, McFall Room, Manteca Library, 12:30pm refreshments, 1:00pm Meeting

Gardener's Corner for June

by Cate White, Master Gardener

Reading of this column, you've likely noticed that I caution against using broad-spectrum pesticides, since they kill both pests and beneficial bugs. So who are these beneficial garden predators? Below is a description of some of the most common ones, including the bugs they attack.

First are the killers of small sucking insects that congregate on plants in large numbers, such as aphids, white flies, thrips and various mites. Although the adults will eat harmful bugs, it's the voracious larval stage of these predators that eat them in the greatest numbers, so it is important to recognize them. These include Ladybugs, Green lacewings, Syrphid flies, and some parasitic wasps. The larva of Ladybugs and Lacewings look like miniature dragons, the Ladybug larva being black with red markings on their sides, while the Lacewing larva are grey with white markings. Syrphid flies look similar to honeybees, and like them, eat pollen and nectar, while their caterpillar-like larva attack aphids and other small sucking insects. Pirate bugs are black and white beetles that eat aphids and thrips. With the exception of the adult Syrphid fly, these insects are all quite small, so it is helpful to look carefully, using a magnifying glass if necessary.

Parasitic or parasitoid wasps are another group of predators. These can range from very small to large paper wasps. Small wasps, which often look like tiny black flies, lay their eggs directly into aphids. The larva will hatch inside the parasitized bug, eating it from the inside. Close inspection may reveal the black shells of parasitized aphids. Other wasps lay their eggs into caterpillars with the same result. Adults will also eat white flies, caterpillars and similar insects directly. It is important to know that the smaller wasps do not sting humans. Paper wasps will sting if they are attacked or disturbed, but they are good controls for caterpillars and even black widow spiders, so unless they build their nests in places where they will be in frequent contact with humans, it's best to leave them alone. Note that these are different from aggressive Yellow Jackets, which will go after you and your food, and should be discouraged with traps.

Another group of predators will eat any insect. These include the Praying mantis and the Assassin bug. Spiders, although not technically insects, are also good insect controls.

To encourage beneficial predators, avoid using insecticides such as organophosphates, carbamates and pyrethroids, all broad-spectrum pesticides which persist in the environment. Systemic insecticides are not recommended, since they can kill all insects, including bees. Instead, use insecticidal soaps, pyrethrins, and horticultural oils (such as neem oil), on heavily infested areas with spot applications, thoroughly wetting affected areas. Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), is good for controlling caterpillars. These may need to be reapplied several times. A strong spray of water also helps manage sucking insects. Lastly, be sure to control ants with bait stations, since they will "farm" aphids, placing them on plants and defending them from enemies. You'll be rewarded knowing that you are helping to restore the balance of nature in your garden, and if you watch carefully, you will see it happening right before your eyes! (Please see photos on Page 3)

June Garden Checklist

- Thin fruit on stone fruit trees. Be ruthless! Thinning avoids stressing your trees and results in larger, better fruit.
- Check irrigation to be sure all units are functioning correctly. Adjust timing and duration according to temperatures.
- Apply mulch to bare areas
- Fertilize roses
- Early June is still time to plant beans, corn cucumbers, eggplants. Peppers, all kinds of squashes, tomatoes and basil. You can also plant dahlias and colorful annuals such as zinnias, vinca and bacopa.
- For color and water conservation, plant pots with succulents. There are hundreds of interesting varieties to choose from. Portulaca is a low-growing succulent annual with attractive showy flowers.

Gardener's Corner for June (continued from Page 2)



Ladybug Larva



Syrphid Fly



Syrphid Fly Larva



Green Lacewing



Green Lacewing Larva



Parasitic Wasp

June, July and August Birthdays

June

3 Joy Whitcomb
26 Margie Hill
26 Phyllis McDonald
26 Tom Powell
28 Cate White

July

2 Kathy Liles
2 Hank Wiegel
6 Suzanne Johnson
9 Paula Elias
10 Marion Golisano
14 Robin Kassner

August

2 Andrea Leon
4 Diane McKinley
12 Jeanne Pollard
14 Rose Albano-Risso
14 Pam Dias
17 Chris Oertwig
23 Cindy Coble
24 Jean Glenn
25 Vicki Willis



Plant(s) of the Month by Eric Teberg

Verbena tapien

Height: 4 inches
Flowers: Pink, lavender, pale blue
 Deep purple, red
Moisture: Regular water



Verbena bonariensis

Height: 3-6 feet
Width: 1-1/2-3 feet
Flowers: Purple
Moisture: Drought tolerant once established



Arctotis African Daisy

Height: 12-48"
Blooms: Summer-Fall
Flowers: Daisy-like red, yellow, orange,
 White, pink
Exposure: Full sun
Soil: Good drainage



Gaura ballerina

Height: 3-4 feet
Width: 3 feet
Exposure: Full Sun
Moisture: Drought tolerant once established
Blooms: Summer-Fall
Flowers: Light pink, dark pink, white

