



President's Message

by Paula Elias



Dear Manteca Garden Club Members,

Spring is here! How absolutely wonderful it is to have sunny days. The rain has brought us bright spots of color throughout our gardens. It's much like a painting in many gardens.

Hope you are looking forward to our Arbor Day tree planting with Tom P and Cody Ross on Thursday, April 25 at 10am at Woodward Park! We will watch our city workers plant the trees in celebration. How wonderful our garden tour funds allow us to keep planting trees in Manteca. Thanks again to Tom P. for serving as our city beautification champion.

Hope to see all of you at our April meeting! It's our planning meeting for our next season (can you believe it) and making sure we are all together for our only fund raiser, our garden tour, May 11.

Happy Sun!

Paula

Key Dates

Meeting

Monday, April 15	Manteca Garden Club, Library, McFall Room 12:30-1:00pm refreshments; 1:00 pm meeting Topic: Annual Garden Tour Planning
Thursday, April 25	Arbor Day planting, 10:00am at the Woodward Park
Wednesday, May 1	Field trip to In Season Nursery in Stockton, lunch at Whirlows in Stockton. For carpool, meet at Target at 10:00am. Sign up at April meeting.
Thursday, May 9	Garden Pre-tour starts at 10:00am. Meet at first house: 1485 Morning Glory Street in Del Webb.
Saturday, May 11	Garden Tour. Docents please arrive at your assigned home by 9:30am.

Gardener's Corner for April

by Cate White, Master Gardener

One of the benefits of having a garden is that it keeps us in touch with our natural environment. This includes fauna as well as flora. Our gardens are full of small animal life, including many pollinators. Pollinators play an important role in bringing us most of our favorite foods, but are under attack from habitat reduction and chemical use. So encouraging pollinators in your yard is a great way to help them survive.

There are numerous pollinators besides the familiar honeybee. In our area, we have a number of California native bees, as well as butterflies and moths, pollen gathering flies and hummingbirds that all play an important role in pollination. Creating an attractive habitat for them consists of providing three essential ingredients: food, water, and shelter.

Providing food means having numerous plants in your garden that provide nectar and pollen. Try to have things that bloom at various times of the year, so that the pollinators will always have ample food sources. These can include flowering trees, such as fruit and citrus trees, as well as redbuds and desert willows. Arbutus (strawberry) trees provide a good nectar source for hummingbirds during the winter months. Attractive shrubs include the many varieties of California natives such as Ceanothus (California lilac) and Manzanita, as well as various sages and lavenders. Low growing perennials, such as Lantana, Yarrow, and Nepeta (catmint), are also pollinator favorites. Annuals or short-lived perennials such as Gallardia (blanket flower), Sunflower, Cosmos, Zinnia and Penstemon are also good. California natives, such as poppies and lupine are excellent for attracting pollinators, as are most herbs, including oregano, mint, basil, and thyme. There should be several varieties blooming at a time for best results.

Water is often overlooked as a requirement for attracting pollinators. Fountains can be good sources, but smaller insects such as bees and butterflies need safe landing platforms to access water. This can be accomplished by filling a shallow saucer with water and some smooth stones.

Lastly, find ways to provide shelter and host plants. Many native bees are solitary and create individual nests in bare ground, so leave a few areas bare of mulch. Mason bees nest in tubular structures that can be purchased or made by drilling holes in a block of wood. There are a number of on-line sites with directions for building mason bees houses. Monarch butterflies, which are under severe threat due to habitat loss, need Milkweed (Asclepias) plants to lay eggs on, since it is the only plant that their young caterpillars can eat. These milkweeds are not the weed we know by that name, but attractive, easy to grow flowering perennials, that are a great addition to flowerbeds. Keep in mind, however, that they are poisonous.

Most importantly, providing a garden habitat in which pollinators can flourish means avoiding the use of insecticides as much as possible. Systemic pesticides should not be used. Stick to insecticidal soaps and oils such as neem oil, which don't persist in the environment.

For those who are interested in knowing more about planting for pollinators, a good web site to try is www.bringbackthepollinators.org from the Xerces Society, which is dedicated to invertebrate conservation. (continued on Page 3)

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
- Keep up with weeds by pulling or cultivating

Gardener's Corner

(continued from Page 2)



Mason Bee



Monarch Butterfly on
Milkweed Plant



Skipper Butterfly

Plant of the Month

by Eric Teberg

Lavandula pendunculata, French Lavender

Height: 1-2 feet
Width: 1-2 feet
Blooms: Late spring to summer
Flowers: Purple
Exposure: Full sun
Moisture: Low
Soil: Well drained



Lavandula stoechas, Spanish Lavender

Height: 18 inches -2 feet
Width: 18 inches -2 feet
Blooms: Late spring to summer
Flowers: Dark Purple
Exposure: Full sun



Refreshments

by Ann Clapper, Sandie Harris and Linda Schneider

The following members have volunteered to bring refreshments to the April 15, 2019 Garden Club Meeting.

Refreshments start at 12:30pm.

Katrina Clark
Pam Dias
Paula Elias

Kathy Liles
Sandy Looney
Gloria Martinez



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 Patsy Baker
21 Diane Galeazzi	29 Sandie Harris

