



OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Member of CGCI

A Publication of Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

Valley Lode District – Pacific Region

September Speaker ~ Steven Brown AIFD

We are privileged to have Steven Brown as our Speaker this month. Steven has taught Horticulture and Floristry at City College San Francisco (CCSF) for the past 30 years. He currently serves as the faculty elected Chair for the Environmental Horticulture/Floristry Department and Co-Chair of Facilities. This spring he became the longest serving Chair of Horticulture in the history of the department. Steven's goal is to facilitate the best learning environment possible in Horticulture and Floral Design.

Steven represents City College in many related groups and organizations including: the American Institute of Floral Designers, California State Florists Association (Board Member), Master Florists Association (Board Member), Ikebana International (Lifetime member), the San Francisco Conservatory Advisory Board, Specialty Cut Flowers Growers Association, Teleflora's Northern California/Nevada Unit (Board Member), and is an Honorary member of the San Francisco Garden Club and San Francisco Gardener Apprenticeship Advisory. He is a founding co-president of the Organization of Floral Art Designers and a Board Member of Master Florists Association. Steven is a Certified Floral Designer (CFD) and a California Certified Florist.

Steven also represents the Department with the California Horticultural Society (Lifetime Member) and the San Francisco Professional Gardeners Association, San Francisco Orchid Society and many others.



Civic Affairs

By Dan Yockey

Downtown Pots

Some of the pots are looking great. Great color and are very attractive. Others have suffered from the heat and the ever-present person or persons who love to rearrange the plants by pulling them out of the dirt or removing them and throwing them on the ground. This year has been a challenge. This weekend we replanted over 30 pots that had all of the plants removed and several others that needed just a few plants.

Thank you to Leah Meedom, Pat Williams, and Gerry Yockey who helped with the replanting.

Senior Citizens Center

The girls headed up by Pixie Kinser have been keeping the Center beautiful. They recently finished the upgrade to the sprinkler system and have plans to renovate the area when the weather cools down.

Therapeutic Gardeners

By Cheryl Koff

Welcome back! As a follow-up to phone calls, I made to each of you, you're invited to attend a get together. September 1, 2021, 9:30-10:30 am at the Modesto Garden Club Office. Please join me! I look forward to seeing each of you!

Master Gardeners

By Nancy Robinson

We are excited to announce we have 13 members who are current Master Gardeners. They will be listed in the new Yearbook. We should look to them for advice.

President's Message

By Dan Yockey

Our new Garden Club year is about to start. We have all been waiting for things to change enough so we can start again, being able to gather together and enjoy the Garden Club activities.

So do we call this a FRESH START or A NEW BEGINNING.

I prefer to call this year our new beginning. We have been unable to be the Garden Club we all know, and I think now is the time for all of us to step up and participate again.

Our first meeting this year will be September 9 at the Trinity United Presbyterian Church. This year we will be able to use the Telle Center for hospitality, meeting check in, and all of the normal activities we have missed during these trying times.

Our Fundraising Committee is presenting a new activity on Saturday September 18, at the home of Bryan and Denniz Wistow in their beautiful Garden. Please support your club by attending. I am sure it will be an outstanding event.

Yours in Gardening, Dan

P.S a new beginning starts with YOU! "Everyone Please stay well."



Special Note

Bob Searls would like you to visit the *New to You Table* at the meeting. There are lots of goodies waiting for you!!

Forget-Me-Not Spot

Summer found Garden Club members to be quite healthy.

Get well cards were sent to Linda Pedego and Bob Taylor. They are on the mend, and we hope they will be with us for our September meeting.

Sympathy cards were sent to Betty Cole on the loss of her husband, Robert and to Deanna Clark on the passing of her brother.

Letters were sent to the families of Joan Craig, Diane Imelio, Ila Reinheimer, Penny Binney, JoAnn Tamura, Virginia Costa and Carol Shour notifying them of a donation in honor of their loved one made to the Modesto Garden Club Endowment Fund by Modesto Garden Club.

Hands on Workshops

By Nancy Robinson

We are desperately recruiting someone to be in charge of the Hands-on-Workshops. Nancy Robinson is willing to assist with these workshops, but we need someone to step up and take responsibility for the workshops in general.

We already have workshops planned for this coming year, so the hardest part is completed. Please contact Nancy Robinson or Dan Yockey to say YES or for more information.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **September 7 – Planters and Groomers, MGC Office 9:00 a.m.**
- **September 9 – MGCI General Meeting, Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver Road; Sign in: 10 a.m.–11:20 a.m.; Learn and Grow: 10:30 – 11:15, Investment Planning; Meeting: 11:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Steven Brown. Admission: \$10 Guest**
- **September 14 – Multimedia, MGC Office 9:30 a.m.**
- **September 14 – Hackers and Whackers, Senior Center 9:00 a.m.**
- **September 18–Fall Gathering**
- **September 21– Planters and Groomers, MGC Office 9:00 a.m.**
- **September 24 – Hackers and Whackers, Senior Center 9:00 a.m.**
- **September 26 – MGCI Board Meeting, MGC Office 9:00 a.m.**
- **October 14 – MGCI General Meeting**

An Update Letter From 2014 Scholarship Recipient, Anthony Arce

Howdy Judy,

Very nice to hear from you. I hope all is well with yourself and the membership of the Modesto Garden Club! I thoroughly enjoyed being invited as a high school senior to speak at a club meeting to accept the award. The award was generous and crucial to my early years at Cornell University.

I had pursued and completed my bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering with a focus on water resources and environmental chemistry. During my years there, I had worked for a Plant Virology laboratory on campus that is run in conjunction with the USDA. We studied plant viruses that were prevalent in tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes and tested crops from across the United States from farms and helped inform farmers of disease incidence before becoming an epidemic among their crops. This was not particularly related to my field of study, however, I enjoyed the work, a mix of work cultivating new plants in the greenhouses, to maintaining crops out in the field for research trials and performing genetic identification tasks in the laboratory. No task was out of play, filling pots with soil, cleaning out old reagents in the laboratory walk-in fridge, sweeping dirt from the greenhouses once trials were complete were more menial labor associated with the job I had on campus. Though, the mix of intellectual work and menial work provided me some time for my mind to recoup from the difficulty of my studies and was meditative of times,

particularly when I was tending to plants.

I had a few positions since my studies had concluded. I worked for the City of Ithaca, the city in which my college resides, as a Water Treatment Operator. Work here was producing clean water for the citizenry from a reservoir upstream of the river where we sourced our water. Watershed protection and the maintenance of a healthy ecosystem by removing invasive plants that were disruptive to the native flora was a crucial aspect to preserving a clean reservoir.

I currently work as a water resources engineer, primarily on improving the environmental quality of hydroelectric projects by adding features such as fish passage structures and improving dam safety measures. I hope to be able to work more on water quality projects in the future, here in the Northeast, we are experiencing algal blooms nearly every summer which is disruptive to the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, citizens who drink and play in the water. Along with the water issues faced in California, I hope to be able to make a difference in the best way I can, one step at a time.

I have a long-term relationship going on four-and-a-half years with a smart, talented, and tremendously thoughtful individual named Isabella. She is a Plant Science graduate from the same university and is pursuing a Doctoral degree also in Plant Science. She is devoted to helping others and hopes that in her studies and beyond that she will be able to help farmers with existing problems with crops but also imagine new ways in which to conduct agriculture to be more sustainable and more harmonious with the ecosystems around them. She is an avid gardener and I assist with her work. I have attached a picture of us, we have recently been able to visit the Conservatory of Flowers and Botanical Gardens in San Francisco while visiting my family back in the Central Valley.

With regards,
Anthony



Over the Garden Gate

*Published 10 times a year, September-June,
by the Modesto Garden Club, Inc.*

President: Dan Yockey

Contributing Writers this month:

Cheryl Koff, Mary Lou Rice, Nancy Robinson,
Bev Schlegel, Judy Spencer, Dan Yockey, Gerry Yockey

Copy/Text Editor: Mary Lou Rice
newsletter@modestogardenclub.org

Advertisements, Fliers, Photos:
Mary Lou Rice (209) 869-3584; mlour@msn.com

Website: www.modestogardenclub.org

Email: email@modestogardenclub.org

Office: 622-14th Street, Modesto, CA. 95354-2505

Ph.209 529-7360

(Open Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-noon)

Modesto Scholarship Awards for 2021

By Judy Spencer

Usually, Modesto Garden Club awards six scholarships; this year we are awarding two additional scholarships and dedicating them in memory of Marie Gallo for her many years of support. A huge thank you to our members, and the support of community members like Marie Gallo, for their recognition of young people who have career goals that relate to plant life and our environment.

This year was a little different because of covid, but we were able to get a committee together to score the applications. Thank you so much to Yvonne Taylor, Bev Schlegel, Jeanne Seeger, and Sandy Bucknell. It is such a pleasure to work with this committee, and the other committee members who have helped with this in the past. This year they had 24 applications to read, and only 8 that would be chosen.

Our recipients were interesting young people. We hope you will enjoy getting to know them a little better with these brief introductions and photos.



ANALISA ANDRES. Analisa graduated from Turlock High School and plans to go to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in the fall and will major in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, with the goal of working in Urban City Park Planning.

Analisa writes: My goals directly relate to the mission of the Modesto Garden Club in that my degree would allow me to help people and communities manage beauty, gardening, and physical and economic change in our valley.

I want to understand how our valley functions and how I can make it an even better place for people to live, work, and play alongside urban and rural gardens.

I want to plant, maintain, and make available to all people, native trees and plants to our valley, while promoting education and an appreciation of our valley. In my active role in city planning, I want to increase the number and size of our urban gardens so that all people come to see them as beautiful places of peace and happiness.



ALAYNA AZEVEDO. Alayna graduated from Escalon High School and plans to go to Modesto Junior College in the fall and will major in Agriculture Education, with the goal of being an agricultural instructor.

Alayna writes: Growing up on the dairy was hard work, but after the day was done, I would help my mom work in the garden where we planted vegetables such as fava beans and kale to make with our traditional Portuguese soups for the winter.

Through my Floral Design and Ornamental Horticulture classes, I have learned various skills such as greenhouse operation, irrigation setup, rose care, and other essential skills involved in building and maintaining a garden, as well as colorful, well-maintained landscaping.



BROC BETTENCOURT. Broc graduated from Enochs High School and plans to go to CSU Chico in the fall and will major in Agricultural Education, with the goal of being an Agricultural Instructor.

Broc writes: My plan is to attend Chico State University to study to become an Agricultural Teacher to educate the next generation of farmers.

From my experiences within agriculture and seeing what an impact the professors have on their student's ability to learn has made me arrive upon this decision. I am dedicated to taking the classes needed to meet this objective and fulfill the teacher duties to the best of my ability.

I have had some great people in my life teach me what I know. I want to be able to give kids the same opportunity I had by teaching them everything I possibly could about not only agriculture, but life lessons that would help direct them into the right path in life."



LAURYN CABRAL. Lauryn graduated from Orestimba High School and plans to go to California Polytechnic State University in the fall and will major in Agriculture and Environmental Plant Science, with the goal of being a university professor.

Lauryn writes: Growing up I had always liked plants, but I didn't have any guidance or knowledge of how to grow them.

When I first began attendance at Modesto Junior College, I was very unsure of what I wanted to do

as a major or what four-year university I wanted to transfer to. Even though I was nervous to try something new I applied for the Modesto Junior College West Campus internship for the nursery position because I thought working with plants would be fun. At the time I had no idea that an internship would make me realize where my true passion was and help me realize how many career opportunities there are working with plants. I worked at the MJC nursery for three years. Very quickly I realized horticulture was one of my passions and something I love learning about.



SOFIA JOHNSON. Sofia graduated from Downey High School and plans to go to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in the fall and will major in Environmental Earth and Soil Sciences, with the goal of being a soil conservationist.

Sofia writes: For the last several years, I have had my sights set on studying environmental science. Inspired by the climate change movement and my mother's environmental consciousness, I was sure that pursuing this area of study was going to be not only fascination but also meaningful.

With my choice of major, it seems as though there are a hundred different directions I can go. However, as of right now, I plan to be a soil conservationist. Soil conservationists take soil samples and measurements and advise practices for sustainable land use. This career would be the perfect overlap of my love for gardening and passion for environmental protection."



AVARIE KONEFAT. Averie is graduating from Pitman High School and plans to go to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the fall and will major in Agricultural Science, with the goal of being an agricultural educator.

Averie writes: Being a member of FFA has shown me that I have a passion for educating the public about agriculture. I love teaching others so much, that education is what I want to pursue as a career.

What surprises me is that almost half of Americans do not know where their food comes from. Our country is suffering from a lack of ag literacy, and I hope to make an impact to change this. Being an ag teacher would give me a platform to inform the next generation about agriculture, which many feel is the backbone of our country."



SAIDA MAY-WOODRUFF. Saida graduated from Johansen High School and plans to go to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in the fall and will major in Landscape Architecture, with the goal of being a Landscape Architect.

Saida writes: As an accredited Landscape Architect, I plan on specializing in gardens, placing gardens on inner city rooftops, and skyscraper facades.

I have always enjoyed working in my family garden; living on three acres has given me the opportunity to spend time with my grandparents raising pumpkins, vegetables, and flowers . . . I grew up frequently visiting my great-grandmother . . . I would spend time learning about plants, flowers and design from Grandmama. She taught me many wonderful things about creating and tending a garden. I feel my desire to become a Landscape Architect was directly influenced by her and her beautiful garden."



MAYA NETTO. Maya graduated from Davis High School and plans to go to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in the fall and will major in Marine Science, with the goal working in Marine Wildlife Conservation.

Maya writes: Upon my completion of grad school, I hope to work in Marine Wildlife Restoration and Conservation. I would love to have a job as a coastal ranger and educate children on how they can better protect the environment.

When I was in the 5th grade, I went on a class field trip to Santa Cruz where we met with a marine conservationist. She taught us about plastic pollution and the environment, and I fell in love. I want to do what she was doing and inspire the next generation of environmentalists.

I have been riding my bike to school since the 7th grade on the Virginia Trail. On my way to Roosevelt Junior High School, I would always pass this beautiful rose garden at Roosevelt Park. I began sitting on the benches at the garden on my way to and from school. I would read, draw, do homework, and just sit in thought while looking at the roses. The garden was an oasis for myself and my thoughts . . . I have always wanted to thank the garden club for creating this special place for me, and now I finally have the chance. Thank you."



Investment Committee Members: Nancy Smith, Club Treasurer; Roberta Greenstreet, Committee Recording Secretary; Carol Anderson; Agatha Swanson; Louise Nelson; and, Dan Yockey, Club President.

Investment Committee Report

By: Mary McNicholas, Chairwoman

Our Investment Committee is pleased to report that our Endowment Fund and Savings Fund are doing very well in spite of the economy downturn during the ongoing pandemic.

Our investments were started in February of 2019 with Morgan Stanley. At that time, our savings were \$82,245; the restricted money in the Endowment Fund was \$23,824

and unrestricted Endowment Fund money was \$9,509, for a total of \$115,578. Monthly values vary depending on stock market fluctuations. Our Morgan Stanley fees are 1% annually. We have seen our accounts appreciate over time far beyond what our previous bank savings account and Certificates of Deposit earned.

During 2020, with lockdowns, economic downturns, decrease in Garden Club Membership, and cancelled Spring Garden Tour, we needed to withdraw \$22,500 to cover expenses, including college scholarship awards. We were uncertain how this would ultimately impact our investment accounts.

Our quarterly reports for 2021 showed that our accounts not only regained the money we withdrew but earned even more! Our beginning total value as of 1/1/2021, was \$123, 819. The ending value as of 7/31/2021, was \$129, 393. This is a gain of about \$5,575 since January of this year, and a total gain from our initial investment in 2019 of approximately \$13,805.

Your Investment Committee continues to monitor our accounts and use the advice from our financial planners. I think you will agree this has been a job well done!

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about investing your own savings, plan to attend our September 9th Learn and Grow Program, “Financial Planning for Women.” Our speaker is a financial planning expert.

Mary McNicholas, Chairwoman

Planters and Groomers

By Gerry Yockey

We have had such good times working in the yard at the office this summer. We got through the hot weather and hopefully the heat will die down. We had problems with the sprinkler system, and we got that fixed. A large branch fell down in the back yard and we have to trim the tree. It has gotten so large; it takes up the whole corner of the yard. Always something going on....I love it. It keeps us on our toes!

Mary McNicholas invited us to her beautiful home for lunch. We had such a great time. Mary has been working on her landscaping and she has done a great job! Food was excellent, company wonderful. It made my day.

It has been hard trying to stay on a diet. The girls bring so many desserts to the office. They love to bake. And I love to eat, so there you go! I do want to thank the girls for helping me with their bakery goods. Pat Williams, Joanne Meinhardt, Shirley Stewart, Josephine Parra, Mary Helen Alonzo, Judy Crisp, Mary McNicholas, Leah Meedom, Sharon Searls, Jean Seeley. If I missed anyone, I am sorry.

Sign up for a Budding Gardener Group

A new Budding Gardener group will be formed on Thursday, November 5, 2021 at 1:00 pm at my home. This group will be comprised of new or existing members. These groups meet monthly for friendship and the particular interests of that group. If you are interested call or text me by November 1, 2021.

Contact: Ginger Ratto, 412 River Oaks Drive, Modesto, CA 95356, 209-484-8485 or 209-545-3243



The Legacy of Ruth Bancroft: *"I never met a plant too big or too mean for me."*

Modesto Garden Club Out of Town Tour The Menagerie Tours- A diverse Collection of FUN

November 4th- Ruth Bancroft Gardens & Orchard Nursery

We will start our morning off at the Bagel Street Café for bagels, coffee and other goodies then off to Ruth Bancroft Garden and Nursery . It features succulents, cacti and water wise plants on 2.5 acres. Next stop is Orchard

Nursery in Lafayette where we will shop plants, pots and be filled with ideas around every corner. Our third stop is Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore. Christmas in November fun, plus a great array of plants and their famous magnificent oak trees! There could be a surprise...

Cost: \$45.00 **NO REFUNDS!!**

Time: Leave at 7:45 a.m.

Departure Location: Park & Ride in front of JC Penney

November 13th- "Murder on the Orient Express", Sierra Repertory Theatre, Sonora

Come spend the day with us shopping the awesome, one-of-a-kind shops filled with Christmas and unusual things (like the Rusty Rose). Or eating delicious food that you can only find on Main Street, Sonora. We will end the day enjoying theatre moments watching "Murder on the Orient Express" at the quaint theatre in Sonora.

November 13th - "Murder on the Orient Express"

Cost: \$64.00 **NO REFUNDS!!**

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Departure Location: Park & Ride in front of JC Penney



For more information, call Patté Williams at (209) 505-3526

Name _____ Guest _____

Address _____ Phone _____

R.B. Garden \$45.00 Amount Paid _____ NO REFUNDS!!

Sierra Repertory \$64.00

Make checks payable to: Modesto Garden Club

Send to: Patté Williams, c/o Modesto Garden Club, 622 14th Street, Modesto, CA 95354-2505



622 14th Street
 Modesto, CA 95354-2505

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 MODESTO, CA
 PERMIT NO. 628

Fundraising Event Sept. 18

By Gerry Yockey

On September the 18th we are planning a get together at Denniz and Brian’s home . Most of us have been isolated since the beginning of the year. We had only a couple of meetings at the church and very few got together. I know that it has been hard on all of us just to be with our family.

So, I was thinking how nice it would be to have a social get together, be with friends and have your husband come too! We will have a jazz band thanks to Denniz and Brian. We will have food and drinks. What more do we want?

The price of the ticket is \$40, and it will be from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Tickets will be limited , so make your reservation early.

Learn and Grow

“Financial Planning for Women.”

Anthony Butera and Joyce Bond will be speaking about the importance of Financial Planning for women before and during retirement. Anthony has been with Primerica Financial Services for 20 years. Joyce began her career in financial services in 1982.

Modesto Garden Club Inc.

Fall Gathering

Please come for a music filled evening of food, friends, and wine in the garden of Brian and Denniz Wistow

1025 Magnolia Avenue,
 September 18, 2021
 6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm
 Tickets are \$40

CONTACT THE GARDEN CLUB OFFICE TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS
 209-529-7360

Payment can be processed Online (modestogardenclub.org),
 at the General Meeting, September 9th,
 or at the Garden Club Office on any Wednesday morning

*Stroll through the garden as you listen to the music of the Creole Jazz Kings Band
 Enjoying the wine and hors d'oeuvres as you visit with your garden club friends*

Autumn is the second Spring
 When every leaf is a flower
 -Albert Camus

SPACE IS LIMITED
 GET TICKETS FOR YOU AND YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER SOON