

# The Real Dirt

NEWSLETTER OF THE

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB, RAMONA CA  
A CGCI BLUE RIBBON CLUB

**October 2024**

**General Meeting: October 9, 2024**

**Mountain View Community Church 1191 Meadowlark Way, Ramona**

**Door open at 11:30 am**

**10:00 am Board Meeting**



**October Speaker: Chuck McClung**

**“A Strawberry is Not a Fruit”**

Chuck McClung is a lifelong plant enthusiast and has been assisting gardeners for many years. He has a Master's Degree in Botany and has worked in ecological research for a few universities. Chuck currently works as a gardening consultant, lecturer, and personal gardening mentor.

He is the author of:

***How Orchids Rebloom***, and his new book ***A Strawberry is not a Fruit*** was released this summer.

Come meet local botanist Chuck McClung as he discusses his new book ***A Strawberry is not a Fruit***, a collection of short essays on lesser-known ideas and perspectives from the world of plants.

Chuck will talk about various ideas related to plants and gardening, correct some common misconceptions about plants, and explain some of the topics covered in his new book, such as:

- \* How to know your plant;
- \* The difference between landscaping and vegetable gardening;
- \* Why you cannot over-water a plant;
- \* And, of course, why a strawberry is not a fruit.

Chuck will answer all your plant questions and remain after his presentation to sign copies of his new book.



### Teri & Jane's Corner



Dear RGC Members:

Well it is thankfully cooler despite a few efforts on the part of Summer to try to stick around. We are both pleased that the heat spell has subsided and we can get on with celebrating Fall.

We are pleased that our new year started with a bang! As we build our membership, we want to provide an enjoyable year for our members.

October 2nd is just around the corner with a wonderful field trip tour of Roy Toft's amazing garden — including a Hobbit House. He was our September speaker.

The big event (in addition to our meeting) will be our **Plant and Craft Sale** to be held **Saturday, October 12th from 10 am to 2 pm, in Ramona Oaks Park**. I hope you can come and help us make this plant sale a big success! Feel free to contact Debbie Gomez or Carol Wilson chairing the Plant Sale and Diane Schafer who is chairing the Craft Sale if you wish to help.

We send everyone our best wishes for a Happy Autumn!

*Sincerely, Teri and Jane*

We will be having our monthly fun buffet-style lunch before the meeting.

Come and bring a dish to share and get to know all the members of this great club!!

We look forward to seeing everyone there for lunch and a wonderful meeting.

**Please bring our own plates/utensil/cups for the Potluck if you can.**

## **FALL PLANT SALE**

The fall plant sale will be held on **Saturday October 12 at Ramona Oaks Park in Country Estates. The sale hours are from ten to two.**

We still could use a few more volunteers for set up, sales and cleanup. There will be a sign up sheet at the October meeting, or contact Carol Wilson or Debbie Gomez.

We need donations of plants, bulbs, gently used clean garden related items and boxes for the customers to carry home their purchases.

Drop off for all donations will be from 8:30 to 9:30 on the day of the sale.

Please make sure your plants are well rooted and acclimated to the sun if they are sun plants.

All plants should be labeled with the plant name, whether it grows in sun or shade, how big it gets and water usage.

Labels will be available at the October meeting. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to a fun day!

Debbie Gomez [deb4fino@pacbell.net](mailto:deb4fino@pacbell.net)

Carol Wilson [caroljaywilson@gmail.com](mailto:caroljaywilson@gmail.com)



## **Ramona Garden Club Fall Plant & Craft Show**

**Saturday, October 12, 2024 10:00am to 2:00 pm**

**Ramona Oaks Park, 25386 Pappas Rd, Ramona Country Estates**

This is the fundraiser for our scholarships and other projects. Please come and help out and meet the members and help us raise lots of money and community goodwill.

## Craft Sale Workshops

You have two more chances to join in with the great Craft Workshops that Diane Schafer holds at her home. Contact Diane for more information. [zoomnphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:zoomnphoto@yahoo.com)

**Check the dates! They are coming up Soon!! October 1st and October 7th!!**

### Succulent Pumpkin Workshop

Come help make succulent pumpkins for the Fall Plant and Craft Sale

**Tues. Oct. 1st** 1:00 in Diane's garden 25322 Kerri Lane

**Bring two small to medium unique pumpkins**

### Plate Garden Art Workshop

Come help make Plate Garden Art for the Fall Plant and Craft Sale

**Monday OCT. 7th** 1:00 in Diane's garden 25322 Kerri Lane



Bring plates and vase items of all shapes and sizes



### Opportunity Basket Items Needed for Plant/Craft Sale

We are looking for some things to put into our Opportunity Basket that we will be giving away at the Plant/Craft Sale on October 12th.

If you have some Nice garden books, tools, gift cards, garden art, gloves, hats, seeds please call Teri 760-315-9176 for pickup.

### Ramona Garden Club Field Trip for October

#### **October 2, 2024 10 am - 1 pm Roy Toft Residence Field Trip**

Come out and visit the beautiful property that Roy shared at the September meeting. This is in a very special part of Ramona.

We will be meeting at the Park and Ride off Dye Road behind the fire station at 9:45 am  
If you have not signed up for this please contact Robert Holton: reholton1@yahoo.com

**Don't forget!!**

**Plant and Craft Sale coming up on**

**October 12, 2024**

**Ramona Oaks Park , 25386 Pappas Rd**

**10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

### **A Quick View of October Activities**

October 1st - Succulent Pumpkin Workshop 1 pm @ 25322 Kerri Lane (page 4)

October 2nd - **Field Trip** - Roy Toft Residence (page 5)

October 7th & 21st - Collier Park Work Days

21st - **Special Collier Park Workday and Potluck 8am to 11 am** (page 6)

October 4th & 16th - Safari Park Work Days

October 7th - Plate Garden Art Workshop 1pm @ 25322 Kerri Lane (page 4)

October 7th - Palomar District Season Floral Design Forum (page 12)

**October 9th - General Meeting - 11:30 am - Speaker: Chuck McClung**

**October 12th - Plant and Craft Sale 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Ramona Oaks Park**

October 14th - Palomar District Fall Membership Meeting

Newsletter Deadline - October 24th





### Work Day and Potluck at Collier Park

October 21th 8 - 11 am

Grab your gloves, clippers, hat and water and join us for the RGC Collier Park Garden Fall Workday and Potluck.

Mark your calendar for Monday, October 21, 8-11am.

We'll be weeding, pruning and planting to make our garden look beautiful for the community to enjoy.

Work for an hour or 2 or 3, and **enjoy a Fall picnic** in the park at 11.

I hope to see you there! Happy Fall!

Teri 760-315-9176.



*Good looking group!!*

*Come and join us!!*

### Ramona Garden Club Board Members at the September Meeting

If you have thought about coming to a board meeting but haven't yet, this month is a great time to do it!! Board meetings are open to all members and it is the Nuts and Bolts of the club. This is where things get talked about, laughed about and decided on. It adds another layer to your experience of the club.

Meetings are held at 10 am on the same day as the general membership meeting. Come and join us!! October 9, 2024 @ 10am

**New Members - Update your Yearbook**

**We have 9 new and returning members to add to your yearbook.**

**Elaine Bailey** - queenelaine67@gmail.com

**Peggy Berman-Smith** bvsrider04@yahoo.com

**Rita Eastman** - reastman0912@gmail.com

**Cindy Galloway** - gallowayca@cox.net

**Stephanie & Carl Hurst** - hurstcal1562@gmail.com

**Linda Joop** - lindajoop@hotmail.com

**Susan Schwartz** - suzan@apm10.com

**Victoria Wright** - vikiwright1@sbcglobal.net

**We Welcome all these new members!!**

**Check back each month for additions and don't forget to tell your friends so we can add their names to the list!!**

**October Birthdays**

3rd - Kelly Manring

8th - Jeannie Baby

13th - Vern Kilcrease

14th - Karen Newhard

21th - Sherry Aargon

24th - Diane McKee

27th - Dave Sabon

29th - Teri Schmidt



## Flowers for Ramona Community Library

**We need sign ups for this very easy and worthwhile volunteer activity!!**

**Look for the sign up sheet at the General Meeting or Contact Kathy Kilcrease.**

Each week we bring in a new floral arrangement to share with the Ramona Community Library.

This brightens the Library, brings smiles to the people who see it and promotes our Garden Club to the citizens of Ramona.

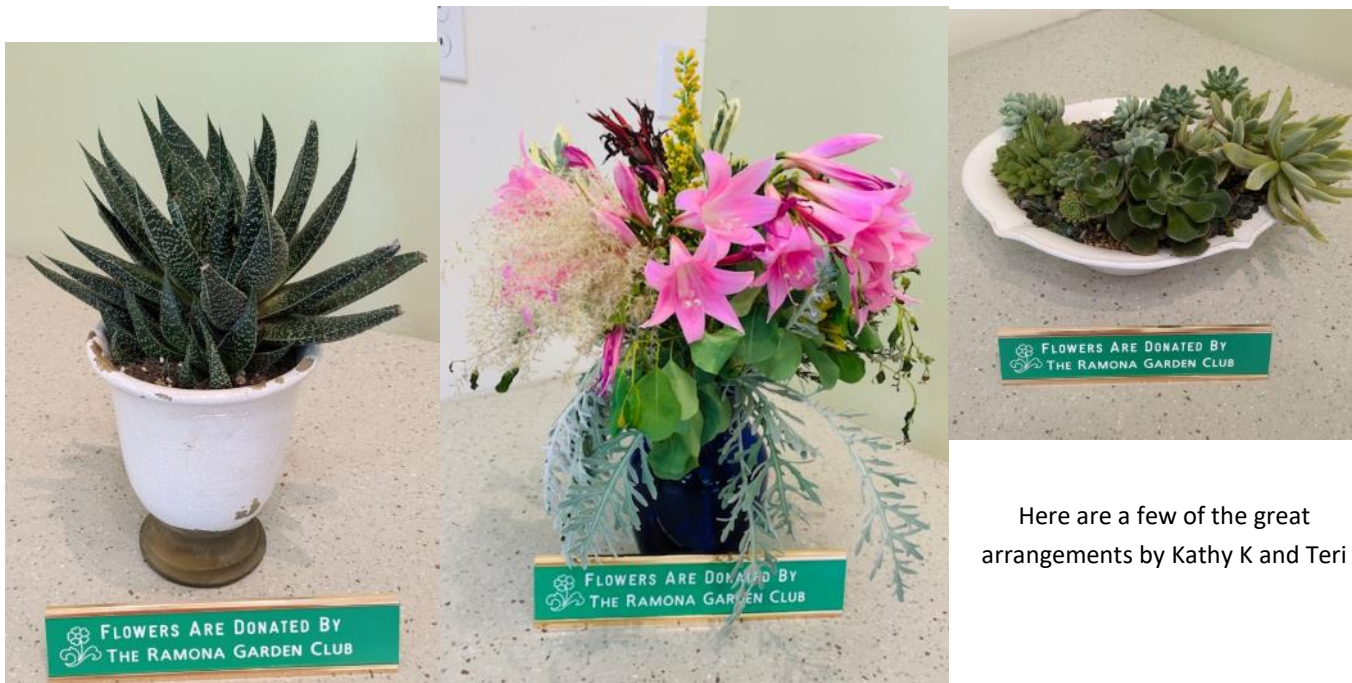
This year Kathy Kilcrease has volunteered to Chair the committee. Look for the sign-up sheet at the General Meeting. It is a easy and enriching activity that brings joy to lots of people.

You will make some kind of flower or plant arrangement and drop it off at the Ramona Community Library on Monday morning and then pick back up on Saturday. Easy peasy!!

Do you grow roses or other flowers in your garden? Pick an arrangement and drop them off.

Succulents more your thing? Put some together in a pot and drop that off... Have some interesting leaves on your shrubs? Put them in a vase and get creative and Drop them Off!! You get the idea!!

If you have any questions contact the Chair: **Kathy Kilcrease: [vkilcrease@cox.net](mailto:vkilcrease@cox.net)**



Here are a few of the great arrangements by Kathy K and Teri



## Horticulture Table

**We are making a push to fill up the Horticulture Table every month!!**

In the morning before the meeting go out into your yard and look at what is growing there. Pick one, two or several different plants and bring to the meeting. Put them in a **clear** container (beer bottle, wine bottle or clear plain vase) with water. Fill out the Horticulture Tag and bring it to the meeting and set it on the table. **All horticulture must be grown by the exhibitor.**

The specimens can be flowers, leaves or even potted plants. You can also share fruit and vegetables that you are growing. We will be very casual with our plants so bring in everything you think looks good. This is mainly to share the wonderful plants you have in your yard. It is a great way to learn more about what will grow in Ramona. I will add a page of tags to the newsletter email if you want to fill out before the meeting. Just print and cut out tags.

Carol Bazinet is the Chair of this and she sets up our table every meeting.

*Thank you Carol!!*



**What: Horticulture Table**

**When: Every month at General Meeting**

**How: Bring in plants and flowers from your garden**

**Put in a clear bottles or vase and fill out tag**

**Why: Share the wonderful plants that are growing in your garden. We will learn more about you and the plants that you love.**

## September General Meeting



A fun time was had by all on our first membership meeting of the garden club year! Roy Toft gave a informative talk with lots of great pictures of the wild life of Ramona. We bought lots of his book.

We had our potluck, and a table full of sign up sheets for all kinds of new and exciting adventures. There are so many opportunities on offer with the Ramona Garden Club!

Carol Wilson gave us an update on the upcoming Plant/Craft Show. She told us there were sign up sheets in the back and what we should bring.

Carol and Debbie are working hard to make this a successful sale.



Connie Sabon introduced one of our Scholarship recipients, Haddie Involdstad who told us her future plans. It was great seeing who our money goes to and why we work so hard to raise that money!







## Mosaic Workshop

Just a few pictures from one the mosaic workshops that was held at Diane's home in September.

Don't miss out on the rest of the workshops.

(see Page 4)



**Palomar District's 32nd Anniversary Season Floral Design Forum 2024 - 2025**

1st Monday, October - May 12:00 Noon

**Rancho Penasquitos Public Library** 13330 Salmon River Road, San Diego, CA 92129

**Objectives:** To bring the finest floral designers to San Diego County; promote appreciation of floral art forms; develop skills in critiquing floral art; improve individual skills for in home floral decorating; learn skills for flower show exhibition; encourage members to enter flower shows and promote floral arts in the community. The forum is open to anyone interested in floral design.

**October 7, 2024** Alan Nunn, Robert Gordon, AIFD and George Speer \$15

"Stretch the confines of Floral Design" Rancho Penasquitos Public Library

**November 4, 2024** Carvell Veech, Master Judge "Imagination" \$15

**Special Location: Poway Library 13137 Poway Road, Poway, CA**

**We should try and go to this one as it is so close to us!! Talk to Teri if interested**



**CALIFORNIA**  
*Native*  
**PLANT SALE**  
**OCTOBER 19, 2024**  
**SATURDAY 9 AM - 3 PM**  
**SIKES ADOBE**  
**HISTORIC FARMSTEAD**  
**12655 SUNSET DR.**  
**ESCONDIDO, CA 92025**  
A Variety of California Native Plants  
Seeds and Bulbs  
Booths Featuring Our Partnering Groups  
Books, Art, Sustainable Goods and More  
Experts Available to Assist You  
CNPS Members Receive Discount  
 San Diego Chapter  
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
[www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org)  
 SAN DIEGO  
RIVER PARK  








# ***NGC Flower Show School***

**COURSE 1: FEB. 27 – MAR. 1 – POWAY!**

Sponsored by National Garden Club, and  
Southwestern Judges Council, San Diego

**ANYONE CAN ATTEND !**

**This fun and intensive class is the start to:**

- ◆ becoming an NGC Accredited Judge
- ◆ learning how to exhibit in flower shows
- ◆ learning how to help put on flower shows
- ◆ learning about horticulture and design

**Don't miss this unique learning opportunity!**

Tell your friends and neighbors

Tell your club members

Tell your local florists



Registration forms,  
and course outline, will be  
available at a later date.  
Fee \$200

Co-Chairs:  
Emily Troxell  
etroxell035@gmail.com  
Linda Hermecz  
lhermecz@gmail.com





### September Question of the Month:

**What did you grow in your garden this summer?**



**Jane Vidal:** “My husband and son prepared seeds from our sugar bush (rhus ovata). Art planted the seeds in a small starter tray. The plants popped up and then the heat took them out! :( Sad Face...

**Robert Holton:** Grew lemon grass and monkey flowers for the first time.

**Diane Schafer:** Grew Sunflowers and sugar peas

**Connie Sabon:** Succulent starts for our October Plant Sale, the geranium starts died in the heat :( One of my 23 rosemary starts survived!!

**David White:** Weeds.....

**Sylvia Mohr:** Dragon fruit, figs, Pakistani mulberry

**Diane McKee:** grapes, tomatoes, oregano, rosemary, peppers, cantaloupe, watermelon, mini pumpkins and basil

**Nike and Pam:** Just Watering A LOT!

**Ramona Valencia:** Herbs

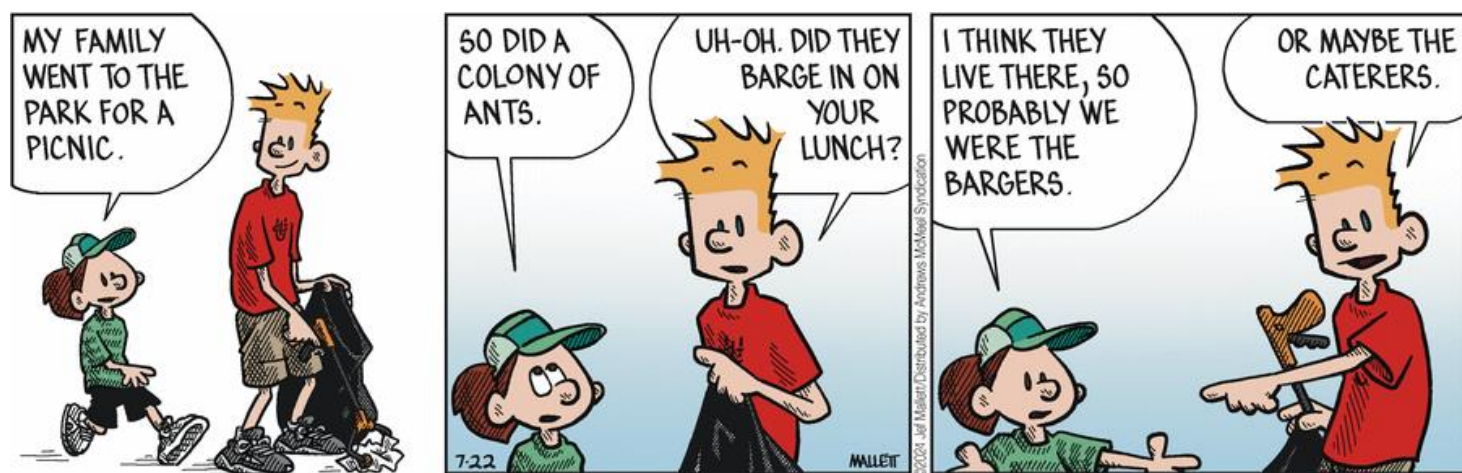
**Rebecca Holton:** Bearded Iris and inpatients

*These are the answers Teri received when she asked at the September meeting: What did you grow in your garden?*

*How about everyone else, did you grow some of the same things? What was the best thing about the growing season this year?*

*Seems like several people had problems with the heat this year, did you? As the years change does your garden change also?*

*Come to the October Meeting and lets see what question Teri has for us then!!*



### Executive Board

Co-Presidents	Teri Schmidt
	Jane Vidal
Vice-President	Robert Holton
Secretary	Jennifer DeSimone
Treasurer	David White

**Ramona Garden Club    P.O. Box 1412 Ramona, CA 92065**

**Webpage: [www.RamonaGardenClub.com](http://www.RamonaGardenClub.com)**

**Find us on Facebook - Ramona Garden Club**

Newsletter Editor: [maggiocrane@att.net](mailto:maggiocrane@att.net)

Affiliations:

**National Garden Clubs Inc.** - [Gardenclub.org](http://Gardenclub.org)

**Pacific Region Garden Clubs** - [pacificregiongardenclubs.org](http://pacificregiongardenclubs.org)

**California Garden Clubs, Inc** - [Californiagardenclub.com](http://Californiagardenclub.com)

**Palomar District** - find through [Californiagardenclub.com/](http://Californiagardenclub.com/) member websites