

The Real Dirt

NEWSLETTER OF THE

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB, RAMONA CA
A CGCI BLUE RIBBON CLUB

February 2026

General Meeting: February 11, 2026

Mountain View Community Church 1191 Meadowlark Way, Ramona

Doors open at 11:15 am

10:00 am Board Meeting

February Speaker: Sharon Reeve

“San Diego Native Bees”



Sharon will be speaking on what common Native Bees are likely to be seen in your home garden. She will also suggest plants that attract native bees and garden practices to foster native bee populations.

Sharon Reeve is a UCCE Master Gardener since 1998, transferring to California in 2012.

She worked for many years as a consulting Horticulturist for Monrovia Nurseries, and as a landscape designer for BrightView Landscapes and Dave Suda in San Diego.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture, a Bachelor of Arts in Landscape Architecture, and a Master of Science in Ecology.

Sharon writes three gardening columns and two blogs on plants. She likes to study and grow plants in her wildlife garden.

She has a design business called ReWild that specializes in drought tolerant, native, and wildlife gardens.

Her thesis work on Biological Soil Crust Restoration was published in January 2023.



Don't forget your plants and flowers for the **Horticulture Table!!**



We will be having our famous **Potluck so bring a dish to share!!**



Robert's President's Message



January saw us deliver two \$500 grants to local non-profit organizations. One to **Critter Encounters** to **support a garden project** to help feed the exotic animals in their care, and one to **Wildlife Research** in support of **Hawk Watch**, a Ramona icon. These are fine examples of how the funds we collectively generate thru various activities and events, are channeled back into our community through the Grants & Scholarships committee Chaired by Connie Sabon. The committee has two more grants to award this year to educational or non-profit organizations. Any and all recommendations are welcome for consideration.

The field trip to the Abraxas High School garden in Poway was educational, and inspirational. The "Farm to Table Program" is dedicated to fostering a deeper connection between the students, the environment, and their community. Check out their next farm stand open to the public on-line; you won't be disappointed.

As Ramona gardeners well know, now is the time to plant for a spring bounty, especially San Diego County native plants. Unfortunately, as the intermittent rains soften the Ramona DG soil for us, it also allows gophers the ability to plow thru our yards and gardens without the need of the usual pick-n-shovel. And so, it goes.

And finally, I recently saw this comment on Facebook *"I have decided to join the Ramona Garden Club this year. Until recently, all I knew about them was that they took care of Collier Park. They do that, and the herb garden at Safari Park, but oh my, there is so much more! There are monthly education meetings with speakers on a variety of subjects, field trips, and fund raisers for scholarships and grants, just to name a few of their activities. I'm excited!"*

A special thanks to Pene Manale, our website manager, and thanks to all of you...we are tangibly adding to the experience that is Ramona.

....Robert

There will be no field trip for February. Watch for March's exciting trip!

Collier Park Work Days

Come join the Collier Work Team on
February 2nd and/or February 23rd.



The team is there 8 - 11am. Spend a couple hours helping
make our park Beautiful!

Let's spread the love of nature to everyone that takes a
walk in the park. Maybe it will bring some love into the
hearts of some kids and the grownups!

All are welcome to come and join in the fun. Spend a little time giving back to
our wonderful and beautiful Ramona!

626 E. Street, Ramona, CA 92065

A Quick View of Upcoming Activities

February 2nd & 23rd - Collier Park Work Days (page 3)

February 6th & 18th - Safari Park Work Days (Contact Debbie Gomez for information: deb4fino@pacbell.com)

February 2nd - Palomar District Floral Design Forum. Poway Library - Noon (page 11)

February 11th - General Meeting - 11:15 am Speaker: Sharon Reeve (page 1)
Bring your Plants and Flowers in to show on the Horticultural Table
& a Dish to share for the Potluck.

February 16th - Poway District Meeting (page 7)

March 11th - General Meeting - Debbie Dunn "Landscaping Design for your Garden"

******May 2nd - Garden Tour and Plant Sale - Save the Date! Tell your friends (page 4)******

Newsletter deadline: February 24th

Save The Date!!

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Ramona Garden Club Garden Tour

Make sure you mark your calendars for this very special day!

We will have 5 magnificent houses on this year's tour.

We will start selling tickets to the event in the upcoming months so make sure you let all your friends and family know to set aside the date for this event.

It is our largest fundraiser of the year with money going to the Scholarship and Grant Funds.

We will be asking all our membership to help out with this event to make it a fun and smooth running activity.

More information next month.

Ramona Garden Club Plant Sale

There is still time to pot up some plants for our spring plant sale on Saturday May 2.

We are hoping for a lot of pollinator plants but any plants are welcome, including houseplants.

If you are planting in used nursery pots please make sure the original

labels are either removed or blacked out. All plants should be labeled with the plant name and optional growing information.

Thank you for helping us with our fundraiser!

caroljaywilson@gmail.com



February Birthdays

- 1st - Courtney Hazen
- 10th - Deborah Grover
- 11th - Tatja Mooers
- 16th - Grace McKenny
- 20th - Mark Brash
- 20th - Art Vidal
- 25th - Virginia Cole
- 26th - Kathy Marshall



**Ramona Community Plants and
Flowers Outreach Program**



Diane brought a beautiful design from her garden this month.



Welcome to Our New Members

We have over 30 new and returning members since our Garden Club Year has started in September 2025.

As of the last count we are up to 112 members.

We welcome each of you to our wonderful club! We encourage you to join in with our many projects and events and help out in anyway you feel able. Watch the newsletter for announcements of all the ways you can help. The more you join in with the club the more you get out of the club! Please join our great Team!

Attached to the Newsletter email is another PDF file with a update of the new members. You can open the file and print out the two pages and add it to the Yearbook you received when you joined.

We love our Members and our Volunteers!

From our Gardens and in Our Sanctuaries

Some of our beautiful gardens!



Carol

Barbara

The Coyote thought he was going to get a quail breakfast but no luck!!
Taken though the window. Carol W.

Teri



Debbie



Robert



Winter Meeting of the Palomar District: CGCI

Monday, February 16, 2026 At 9:30 am - Social time

Rancho Bernardo Swim and Tennis Club

16955 Bernado Oaks Dr. San Diego, CA 92128

Host: Bernado Gardeners Club

Program: "What's the Buzz?" Donna Payton

Fun, Raffle prizes, Treasured jewelry for sale

Please bring cash for purchases

Cost \$20

Parking is available at the Rancho Bernado Community Church. Use the lower-level parking lot which leads to a walkway to the Swim and Tennis Club

To Ramona Garden Club Members:

This is the second District Meeting of the year.

The first one was well attended and we had a lot of fun! Please join us.

Please let David White, our treasurer, know that you would like to attend the meeting:

Dlw4312@gmail.com by February 5, 2026

You can pay David the \$20 at the General Meeting on the 11th. If you aren't going to be at the meeting please mail to: RGC, P.O. Box 1412, Ramona, CA 92065

Checks made out to: Ramona Garden Club



Ramona Garden Club Grants



The Wildlife Research Institute received a grant from the Garden Club in November in support of their marketing for Poison Free San Diego.

Leigh Bittner is standing with her board members and the RGC Grants Committee members Robert Holton, Connie Sabon and Stacey May Rudge (Ramona Barn Owls) at a recent presentation ceremony.

Leigh runs the popular Hawk Watch annually every January and February. There is still time to attend on a Saturday in February!



Critter Encounters is a live animal education company providing up-close animal presentations at schools and private events.

Under the leadership of Andrea Burgan, founder and CEO, they also manage a sanctuary to over 60 rescued animals.

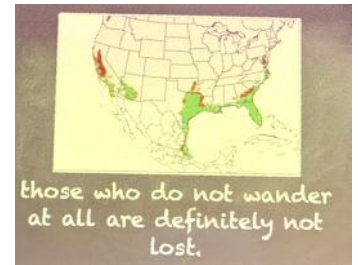
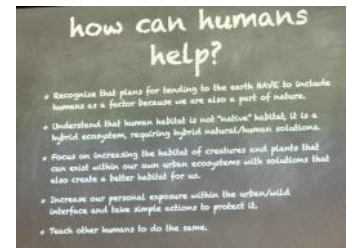
A recent move has given them room to plant a garden to help feed the animals. The Garden Club awarded a **Grant to Critter Encounters to help create that garden.** Andrea is pictured with the hawk, support staff and the RGC Grants Committee.

January Meeting Fun!!

We had **Kenneth Abernathy** from **Caterpillar Chow Habitat Farms** give us a presentation on Monarch Butterflies.

Lot of great information and he had some milkweed starts we bought for our own yards.

Wonderful Potluck and Opportunity Table and fun times.



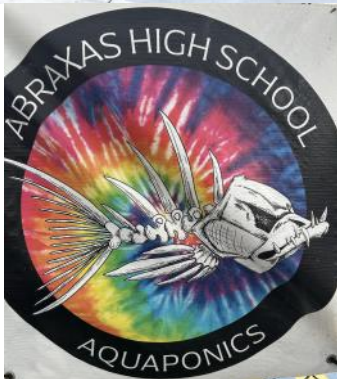
January 28, 2026 Field Trip to Abraxas High School



A group of Ramona Garden Club members were able to visit Abraxas Gardens in Poway and learn about their school program.

They grow in planting beds and also have ponds of Tilapia that they use for their hydroponics.

(They also learned that the school was named after the Santana album, Abraxis)



Abraxas High School, in Poway, CA, is a thriving, award-winning outdoor classroom for at-risk and special needs students, transforming a former tennis court into a sustainable farm-to-table program, with aquaponics, organic farming, and culinary arts, providing fresh produce to needy families and offering hands-on skills in agriculture, construction, and life skills for job readiness, supported by the Abraxas High School Foundation.

Check out their website for dates of their Farm Stand: www.abraxasgarden.com



Palomar District's 33rd Anniversary Season
Floral Design Forum 2025-2026

POWAY COMMUNITY LIBRARY
13137 POWAY ROAD, POWAY, CA 9206

Start time: Noon

February 2, 2026 Welcome back **Deborah Warringer**, Master teacher of Ichiyo of Ikebana. Enjoy her skill and take notes for garden club designs.

March 2, 2026 **Barbara Weiler**, Master Flower Show Judge and an incredible designer but also a fantastic HORTICULTURIST. Watch what she brings to the table.

April 6, 2026 "FLOWER POWER" Our most popular Program. Watch as 4 local college student designers race against the clock to complete a Surprise Package design from materials, containers and theme. Then, like a 3-ring circus, they show a "signature design," a "round robin" and then a "wrap up" design.

May 4, 2026 – The "Grand Finale" Everyone knows **Monica Lewis**, hostess, NGC FS Judge. With her Creative Designs she answers: **What has Music Got to do with IT.**

*Yearly membership to the Palomar Design Forum is \$100
 Single meetings are Donation Based. This is to support the running of the forum.
 Any help is appreciated.*



FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS
 BOUQUETS | WREATHS | VASE/BOX ARRANGEMENTS

PLANTS

GREVILLEAS | LEUCODENDRONS | LEUCOSPERMUMS
 PROTEAS | BANKSIAS | HAKEAS
 EUCALYPTUS | ISOPOGON | ADENANTHOS AND MANY
 OTHER AUSTRALIAN & SOUTH AFRICAN PLANTS

Protea
Plants & Flower Sale

February 13-14, 2026
Friday-Saturday
10am-4pm

0 RUNNING DEER TRAIL
POWAY, CA 92064



It is still protea planting season! Three farm protea growers / propagators will be there to share their protea species and hybrid collections. Collection of both clone and seed grown plants will be available. Whether you're new to protea growing or already have an extensive collection, this is the time to add to your collection!



Great Backyard Bird Count

29th Annual • February 13-16, 2026

Count birds in your backyard, local park, or wherever you spot a bird, and submit your observations online.

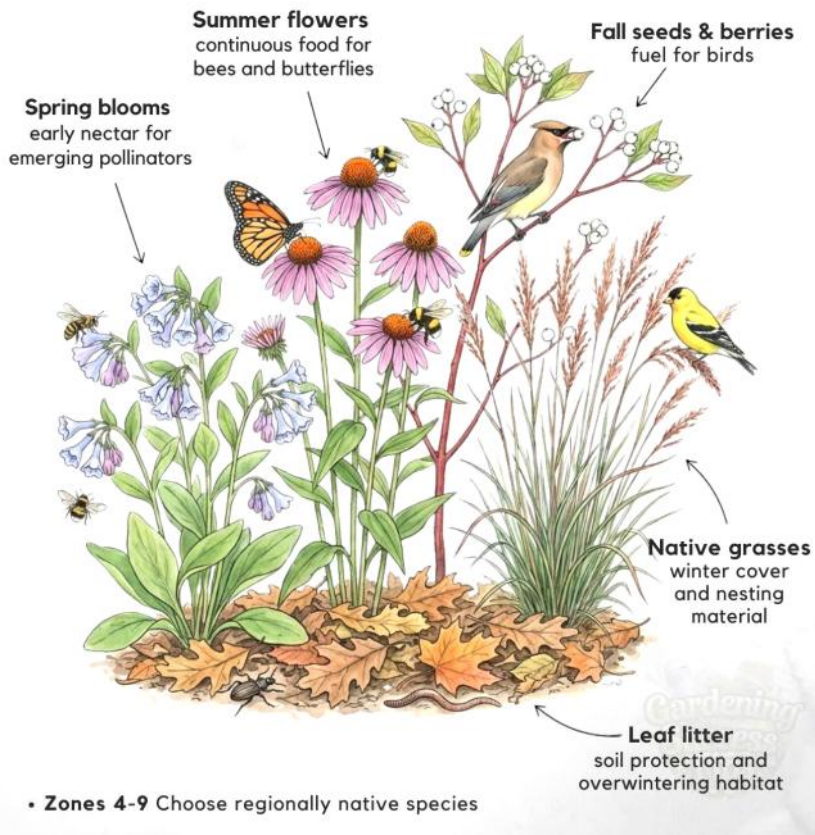
birdcount.org



Northern Cardinal / *Cardinalis cardinalis*
Photo: Seth Konner / Macaulay Library



Create a Year-Round Habitat Using Native U.S. Species



Bees do have a
smell, you
know, and if
they don't they
should, for
their feet are
dusted with
spices from a
million
flowers.

- Ray Bradbury,
Dandelion Wine

Executive Board 2025 - 2026

President	Robert Holton
Vice-President	Bonnie Crawford
Secretary	Barbara Boryla
Treasurer	David White
Parliamentarian	Diane McKee

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

Webpage: www.RamonaGardenClub.com

Find us on Facebook - Ramona Garden Club

Newsletter Editor: maggiocrane@att.net

Affiliations:

National Garden Clubs Inc. - Gardenclub.org

Pacific Region Garden Clubs - pacificregiongardenclubs.org

California Garden Clubs, Inc - Californiagardenclub.com

Palomar District - find through Californiagardenclub.com/ member websites