

The Real Dirt

NEWSLETTER OF THE

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB, RAMONA CA
A CGCI BLUE RIBBON CLUB

February 2025

General Meeting: February 12, 2025

Mountain View Community Church 1191 Meadowlark Way, Ramona

Doors open at 11:30 am

10:00 am Board Meeting

February guest speaker: Dawn Standke

Horticultural Myth Busting

It's easy to find gardening advice online - but how much of it makes sense?

At our February 12th meeting,

Dawn will join us to answer some Horticultural Myth Busting questions that will cover topics including:



- Should I put banana peels on my plants?
- Do eggshells, Epsom salts or Tums cure blossom end rot on tomatoes?
- Should I use do-it-yourself weed killer?
- Will adding gravel to the bottom of a container improve drainage?

Dawn has been a University of California Master Gardener since 2005. In addition to debunking horticultural myths, she likes to grow fruit, vegetables, and plants that attract birds and butterflies. She lives with her husband in Rancho Penasquitos where they tend a wildlife friendly garden. Bobcat kittens have been born in their backyard for five years in a row.

Check out this video of last year's bobcat kittens playing in a cardboard box:

<https://youtu.be/zC84vHq3ngY?feature=shared>



Teri & Jane's Corner



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE FOR FEBRUARY

Teri and I wish you all a very Happy Valentine's Day!

Enjoy! Our meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 12th. Join us at 11:30am for a wonderful potluck and our speaker, Dawn Standke who will address "Horticultural Myths".

We do need 3 folks to volunteer for the Nominating committee. It is important we get started immediately as our election will be held in May (along with our Plant & Craft Sale).

We will be getting ready for the sale as well. Debbie Gomez and Carol Wilson are helping with the Plant Sale. Diane Schafer will be working with Carol Wilson on Craft items that we create for the sale. Both Diane and Carol are good teachers and I have learned so much from both of them over the years. The sale will be held on Saturday, May 3rd in Ramona Oaks Park from 10am - 2pm.

I hope we can all work together to make this a successful sale as we have upped our contribution to the Scholarship fund to \$5000. Help us support our promising Ramona scholars attain their goals.

We are now up to 88 members as of our last membership update. We are doing so well as a club and Teri and I hope you have been enjoying the great speakers and field trips this year as well. I hope you will join us to create some spectacular crafts for our sale and get involved. It is such fun to create with our very talented craft artists and help propagate some plants for our sale. Enjoy Presidents' Day as well!

Your Co-Presidents, *Jane and Teri*



We will be having our normal fantastic Potluck at the February meeting.

Please bring something to share.

Ramona Garden Club Field Trip for February

February 19, 2025 Field Trip

Chandler Herb Garden - San Diego Zoo Safari Park



The Chandler Herb Garden is designed and maintained by dedicated Ramona Garden Club volunteers, with Debbie Gomez as our committee chair.

Whether you are an herbal novice or steeped in their lore, it's a fragrant habitat worth exploring. There are more than 30 varieties here, so prepare your nose to be delighted!

In addition to the herb garden, other gardens include; the California Nativescapes Garden, Baja Garden, Old World Succulent Garden, Bonsai Pavilion, and Water Wise Garden. February admission (parking excluded) is FREE for seniors 65 and above, so lets show our SD Zoo Safari Committee some love. See sign up sheet at February meeting or contact

Robert Holton: reholton1@yahoo.com 720-346-8677



This is the Herb Garden that the Ramona Garden Club has been maintaining for many years! As Robert said, Come out and see what these hard working members have been doing for many years!!

We want to thank Robert Holton and Ramona Valencia for setting up these field trips for our enjoyment. Robert puts in a lot of work organizing these each month. He has found different botanical gardens and farms that we might not have heard of before.

Meet with other members of the club and enjoy a day out! If you have the time please join in the fun and see new areas in San Diego.

A Quick View of February Activities

February 7th - Safari Park Work Day

February 3rd & 17th - Collier Park Work Days

February 3rd - Palomar District Season Floral Design Forum (page7)

February 12th - Board Meeting 10 am General Meeting and Potluck 11:30 am

February 19th - Field Trip to Chandler Herb Garden - San Diego Zoo Safari Park (page 3)

February 25th - Newsletter Deadline

Ramona Community Library Flower Arrangements

Look how wonderful the arrangements at the Library look this month!! Thank you to Connie Sobon for the arrangement of “birds” on the right and for the picture!

I don’t know who brought the other two arrangements but Thank you also.

It really is an easy and worthwhile volunteer project that makes our community beautiful.

Kathy Kilcrease is the chairman of this committee.

(The library will be closed between February 19th and April 21st for their new roof)



Save the Date!!

Ramona Garden Club Plant and Craft Sale

May 3, 2025

Ramona Oaks Park 25341 Pappas Rd, Ramona

10 am to 2 pm

Don't forget that our Spring Fund Raiser is coming up quickly. It is time to start propagating plants. Please start your plants soon as we want to make sure they are well rooted and looking very healthy. When you start your plant make sure you remember that it has to be labeled, so get the label on early so you don't forget!

Easy Plants to Propagate:

- Any kind of Succulent
- Salvia
- Hydrangea
- Begonias
- Scented Geraniums
- Coral Plant
- Veggie Seeds

We will have more Craft Workshops so watch the newsletter and sign up at the General Meetings and with Diane Schafer @ zoomnphoto@yahoo.com

Please join us in Volunteering with this very important fund raiser. We will be asking for help with Propagating, Crafting, setting up and selling on day of sale. It is also very important to get the word out about the sale. Tell all your friends and family so we have lots of people show up on May 3rd.



January Field Trip to The Farm at Fox Point Farms



January Question of the Month

“What is your most hated pest in your garden?”



Connie: Gophers. Her cats are better at mice and rats but also catch gophers.

David White: Gophers. Gopher Hawk is his preferred traps

Diane S. Gophers. She tries to trap but the gophers are smarter than she is!!

Robert H: Racoons. He makes chicken wire rings around plants to protect them so they can't dig.

Vern Kilcrease: Slugs. He uses iron bait that is safe for other critters. Second worse is Aloe Mite. For that he uses a systemic.

Carol O' Brian: Gophers

Rebecca Holton: Gophers. They use gopher cages to protect plants

Frank Bonillo: Grasshoppers

Cactus Jack : Ground squirrels. He uses the Squirrelinator

Julie: Gophers She likes the Gopher Cinch, best trap ever. They caught 12!

Carol W: Rats!! Use a snap trap, have caught 70 between late spring and Dec. 31St!!!!

Maggie: Ground squirrels

Jane: Ground Squirrels

Jennifer: Gophers. Her Jack Russell/Chihuahua mix dog kills them for her.

February Birthdays

4th - Rebecca Hillix-Garcia

16th - Grace McKenney

20th - Art Vidal

26th - Kathy Marshall



Palomar District Floral Design;

February 3, 2025 A special designer, Dyanna Madro, an NGC Master Flower Show Judge, who brought Miniatures last year. This year Full size designs "with Love" from the Winningest Designer at the San Diego Fair this year.

March 3, 2025, Barbara Weiller, Master Flower Show Judge. Not only an incredible Designer but also a fantastic Horticulturist. Watch what she brings to the table.

Location: Rancho Penasquitos Public Library 13330 Salmon River Road, San Diego
Arrive Early. Doors open at 11:30 am. Program starts at Noon.



Did You Know?



Allowing your body to absorb sunlight for a short 20-minute period each day prompts it to produce over 200 antimicrobial agents that work to eliminate fungi, parasites, and viruses.

Toni Won the Red Ticket Door Prize!!

Thanks to Julie of the Membership Committee for providing these special prizes!

January General Meeting

The January Meeting that almost didn't happen!! We were having another Red Flag Event with high winds and power shut downs. Luckily the church's power stayed on and we got to have a great meeting!! It was touch and go there for a while.

Our Speaker was Ruth Tiffany an ARS Master Rosarian and she shared lots of information about growing roses in San Diego.



At this meeting we celebrated 10 years of having Mountain View Community Church as our home base. We presented Pastor Josh with a Carrotwood Tree and a huge thank you for making this a great meeting place for us.



Our Hospitality Committee working hard every meeting to set up our world famous potluck!!

Carol, Rebecca, our fearless chairman and Toni

Thanks to all of them and to everyone that brings food to share.



Rebecca made up Flower Arrangements for all the tables! They were beautiful and they got raffled off at the end of the meeting. Thank you, Rebecca!



HAWK WATCH 2025

Member for a day! FREE EVENT!

WHO:

You! Bring the whole family. Join us and become a WRI Member for this **free**, educational program rewarding for ALL ages! Bring the kids!

WHAT:

Visit the Ramona Grasslands with the Wildlife Research Institute's HAWK WATCH in Ramona for our RAPTOR CELEBRATION. You can observe both our wintering and resident raptors. You will see raptors such as the Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, the wintering Ferruginous Hawk, the Red-tailed Hawk, Prairie Falcon and the Red-shouldered Hawk, and Burrowing Owl. Nineteen (19) species of raptors alone have been recorded at this Raptor Hotspot! You will learn the life-histories of these hawks and eagles and the significance of the Ramona Grassland ecosystem to the raptors' survival from WRI Biologists. There will be information and demonstrations of WRI's over 30 year research on Golden Eagles. There is also an opportunity to see some local wildlife and raptors up close with Critter Encounters!

WHEN: SATURDAYS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY

January 4, 11, 18, 25 & February 1, 8, 15, 22

The program begins promptly at 10 AM.

we recommend you arrive by 9:30

Come rain or shine...we never cancel!

WHERE: Beautiful Begent Ranch at the Ramona Grasslands

18528 Highland Valley Road Ramona, California 10AM-1PM

www.wildlife-research.org

The Wildlife Research Institute is a non-profit organization whose mission includes educating the public about conservation and wildlife appreciation. Bring binoculars if you have them, however we will have scopes for your use. Join us at the Begent Ranch, just 1 mile west from the intersection of highway 67 and Highland Valley Road. Ample parking is available, just follow the signs. Refreshments, coffee, rolls, and doughnuts are provided!

Directions:

From the south & west, Take Highway 67 to Ramona and turn North (left turn) on Highland Valley Road for 1 mile and look for our signs, HAWK WATCH, on the right, 18528 Highland Valley Road.

From the north, take Highway 78 to Ramona Main Street (Hwy 67) turn right, proceed 3 miles to Highland Valley Road turn north (right turn) for 1 mile and look for our sign, HAWK WATCH.

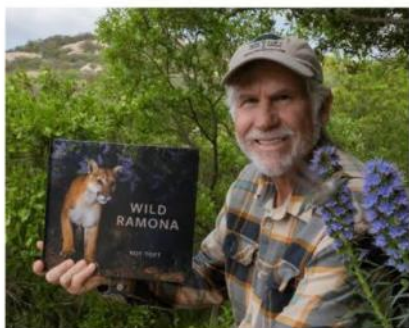
For large groups test leighbittner@wildlife-research.org or additional info visit www.wildlife-research.org

The Wildlife Research Institute, Inc is a federal and state 501 (c)(3) non-profit dedicated to wildlife research, conservation, and education and is located in San Diego County.



Time Sensitive: February 1st @ 2:00 pm

The Friends of the Ramona Library present:
Wild Ramona With Roy Toft



**February 1st @ 2PM
 Ramona Library**

In Honor of the late Dr. Michael Barker, Roy will talk about his new coffee table book, Wild Ramona, which covers the animals moving and living on the Toft property in Ramona. Roy is a full-time wildlife photographer. He spends 6-9 months in the field every year producing natural history content for magazines and books. Roy's images have been published widely in popular magazines like National Geographic, Discover, Smithsonian, and Audubon.

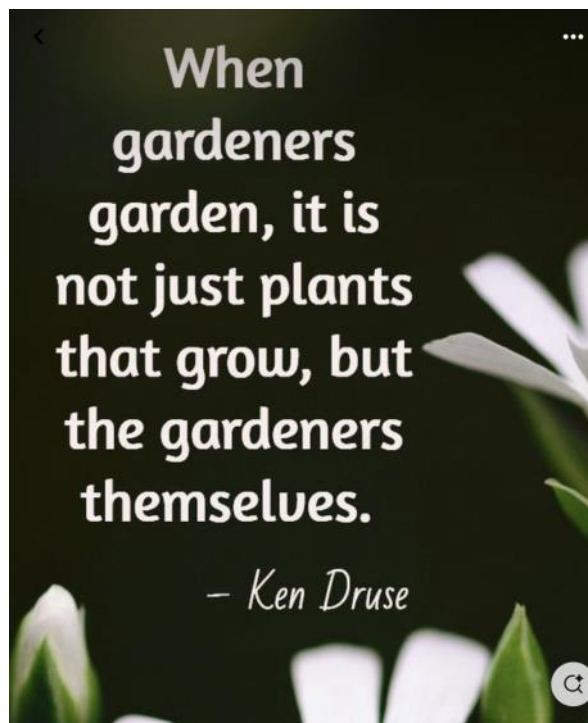


Sponsored by the Friends of the Ramona Library

Website: friendsoframonalibrary.org

Email: friendsoframonalibrary@gmail.com

1275 Main Street, Ramona, CA 92065 • FORL Bookstore (442) 358-9173



Executive Board

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

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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