

The Real Dirt

NEWSLETTER OF THE

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB, RAMONA CA
A CGCI BLUE RIBBON CLUB

MARCH 2025

General Meeting: March 12, 2025

Mountain View Community Church 1191 Meadowlark Way, Ramona

Doors open at 11:30 am

10:00 am Board Meeting

March Guest Speaker: Roy Wilburn

Tomatoes, Tomatoes, Tomatoes



Farmer Roy will talk about all aspects on how to grow great tomatoes.

He will touch on varietal selection, seeding, planting, cultural practices, and pest control.

He was a commercial grower of tomatoes, strawberries, peppers, and many other row crops for 20 years up and down the Baja California coast, but especially near San Quentin.

He was also a grower of culinary herbs in Oceanside for several years.

He is currently Director of Horticulture for Poway Gardens Senior Living, a 32-acre memory care community, nestled in the hills of northern Poway.

So, if you like to grow and eat tasty tomatoes, and who doesn't, don't miss this one at our March 12 meeting. See you there!

We will be having our normal fantastic **Potluck** at the March Meeting.

Please bring something to share.

We will also have our **Horticultural Table** ready to receive your selections from your garden.

We have had beautiful weather after the rain so your garden is sure to be blooming! Let's fill up the table this month.



Teri & Jane's Corner



Hello Dear RGC Members,

Well, 'Spring has sprung' as they say. The Astronomical Spring begins on March 20, which as we all know is the date of the spring equinox. Yay, we can warm up a tad and our joints will be happier.

We have some fun things lined up to keep us informed and entertained: Our speaker is Roy Wilburn (aka Farmer Roy), whose topic is all things **tomatoes**. Thanks Robert!

Furthermore, Robert has lined up a **field trip** to Balboa Park to see the newly rebuild **Botanical Building** on the first day of spring: March 20th!! Please join us in the park which is the jewel of San Diego: Balboa Park. Details on both are in this newsletter.

Don't forget to save the date for our big fundraiser of the year: our Spring Plant and Craft Sale. It will be on May 3rd, 2025. We hope it will be all hands on deck to support this event as the proceeds will help fund our Scholarships. This year we are awarding \$5,500 in scholarship to our Ramona scholars! Help us make this event the best fundraiser ever!!!

Cheers to Spring from....Jane and Teri

March Birthdays

1st - Liz Inglis

3rd - Linda Joop

5th - Linda Mulick

5th - Julie Perreault

11th Jerry Raymer



17th - Diane Schafer

20th - Debbie Gomez

23rd - Bob McComber

24th - Louis Colton

30th - Lisa Gouse

Ramona Garden Club Field Trip for March

March 20, 2025 Field Trip

Balboa Park Botanical Building and Gardens



After more than a century of weather and wear, the historic Botanical Building has been carefully revitalized, bringing it back to its 1915 grandeur while incorporating cutting-edge updates.

For the first time in its history, the building includes interior misters, state-of-the-art lighting, and new water features, creating an immersive and dynamic space for visitors.

Admission is free and there are many other attractions in the area. Look for the sign-up sheet at the March 12 meeting or contact Robert Holton at: reholton1@yahoo.com

A Quick View of March Activities

March 7th & 19th - Safari Park Work Day (page 10)

March 3rd & 17th - Collier Park Work Days (page 6)

March 3rd - Palomar District Season Floral Design Forum (page 11)

March 12th - Board Meeting 10 am General Meeting and Potluck 11:30 am (page 1)

March 20th - Field Trip - Balboa Park Botanical Building and Gardens (page 3)

March 25th - Newsletter Deadline

******May 3rd - Plant and Craft Sale - Ramona Oaks Park ***** (page 5)**

Ramona Community Library Flowers Is Moving to the Senior Center!

As many of you probably already know, the Ramona Library is closed at least a couple of months for roof repair.

We have offered to take an arrangement to the Senior Center weekly and they are delighted.

We are taking the arrangement in on Thursdays and picking it up the following Thursday.

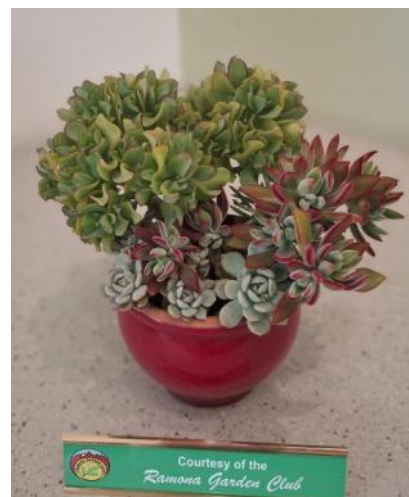
They have no problem with us leaving brochures or sale advertisements as well.

Please contact me if you are willing to take either a plant arrangement or flowers to the center. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Ramona Senior Center inside Ramona Community Center 434 Aqua Lane, Ramona, CA

I can give you more details if you are interested in participating in this service to our community. Talk to me and sign up at the March meeting or give me a call!

Kathy Kilcrease, Chairperson 619-851-1852



We did a little belated Happy Birthday to You singing at the February general meeting to Georgie Suitor!! Happy 90th Georgie!!

(Her birthday was the day the power was off for our general meeting in December)



Julie Perreault was honored with a Penny Pines Certificate for all her work this past year. Here is Diane McKee, Chairperson of Penny Pines presenting the certificate stating that the US Forest Service will plant trees in her honor.

Ramona Garden Club Plant and Craft Sale

May 3, 2025

Ramona Oaks Park 25341 Pappas Rd, Ramona, CA

10 am to 2 pm

Upcoming Plant and Craft Sale

Our big fundraiser is coming up on **Saturday, May 3**. The Plant and Craft Sale will be from 10 to 2 at Ramona Oaks Park in Country Estates. Hopefully some of you are propagating plants for us. It's probably a little late to start now but there is still time to dig up plants that already have roots.

We will also be selling **gently used garden items**. Items such as birdhouses, birdfeeders, pots, windchimes or whatever you have to give us.

The crafters have already been busy making some unique draped cement planters for the craft sale.

*****We know there are many talented people in our club and would like to ask you to donate any crafts you make for our sale. They do not have to be garden related and if they don't sell you can have them back. It will give more variety to our sale and create a chance to make more money for the club.**

Contact Diane Schafer or Carol Wilson with any questions. Caroljaywilson@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing what you create.



Work Day at Collier Park

Monday, March 3, 2025 8 am to 11 am



Rock party! Come help us reline the paths in our Collier Park Garden!

David W donated a big pile of rocks so come on out on **Monday, March 3, between 8-11am.**

If that's not your cup of tea, come and pull some weeds or do some pruning.

It's fun to work together and help beautify the garden for our community to enjoy.

We'll have another work day on **March 17, St. Patrick's Day.**

Come to the garden and enjoy the GREEN earth and the pretty flowers blooming in the last few days of winter!



Collier Park Updates:

Loren and I got a lot of pruning done today in the CP garden!! ...Teri

Spend some time in the Collier Park and enjoy the wonderful plants, the many birds and quiet time to think! It is a showpiece in Ramona!!

February Question of the Month

“What is your Favorite Nursery?”



Teri: Ramona Garden Club Plant Sale! She is very sorry Gnosis is no longer in business.

Lauren Moll: Walter Anderson in Poway

Julie P: El Plantio in Escondido. Her son worked there for years.

Diane McKee: Walter Anderson. It is so convenient.

Connie Sabon: All of Them!!! El Plantio, she has been shopping there for at least 50 years.

Lynn Thierolf: Rancho San Diego Nursery 2031 Jamacha Rd, El Cajon. Family owned, reasonable prices and wide variety of plants.

Cactus Jack: Misson Hills Nursery. Established by Kate Sessions in 1910

Robert Holton: Walter Anderson, El Plantio, Green Thumb in San Marcos

Bonnie Crawford: Walter Anderson, Lowes in Poway. There is a lady there named Kate who is very knowledgeable and helpful.

Ramona Valencia: Green Thumb in San Marcos. Gets all her citrus trees there.

Linda K: Grangetto's Farm and Garden Supply in Escondido

The Kilcrease's: Oasis in Escondido. Great selection of cactus and succulents.

Maggie Crane: Theodore Payne Native Nursery in Sun Valley. Also have ordered from Moosa Creek Nursery and you can pick up plants at Water Anderson.

There are a lot of great nurseries on this list! Where do you buy your plants?

Don't forget to come to Ramona Oaks Park on May 3, 2025 and get lots and lots of wonderful plants at our Spring Plant and Craft Sale!!



Ramona Garden Club Scholarship Update

As we are moving forward toward our Spring Plant and Craft Sale we thought it was a good time to let everyone know why we are raising funds!

The Ramona Garden Club has **given out \$47,000 in Scholarships** to 44 high school seniors since the program began in 2008.

And we are slated to give another \$5,500 this year!

In addition, the Club has awarded **\$10,422 in Grants** to charitable community organizations and schools for building and planting gardens.

Summarizing this data unearthed by Teri has been a fun project, especially seeing those totals! ... *Connie Sabon, Scholarship Chairperson*

I hope this inspires everyone to make this the best plant/craft sale ever!!

Cement Draping Workshop Held last Month



Just some of the wonderful craft items that we will be selling at the Plant/Craft Sale!

Can you believe how creative our group is? Thank you ladies for taking the time to make these. It looks like you had a lot of FUN!!

Is it a Horticultural Myth?

Dawn Standke
Ramona Garden Club
February 12th, 2025

February General Meeting

February was another fun and busy meeting! Our speaker, Dawn Standke from the Master Gardeners, told us all about Horticultural Myths and how to tell if what we are reading on the internet is true and good for our area.



Robert, our VP introduced Dawn and also told us about the upcoming field trip.



Carol, one of our Plant Sale Chairmen told us how we can help with the upcoming fund raiser.



Rebecca made the tables look Lovely in honor of Valentine's Day!

As always, the world famous potluck put smiles on everyone's face!



Connie our Scholarship Chairperson told us about how we much we have given in Scholarships and grants over the years.



Come to our next meeting and join in the FUN!

February Field Trip to The Chandler Herb Garden



On Wednesday, February 19, under a beautiful blue Ramona sky, 11 intrepid RGC members met up at the Mountain View Community Church parking lot to caravan over to the Chandler Herb Garden at the SD Safari park.

The group met RGC volunteers Debbie Gomez, Susan Schwartz and Betsy Macomber at the Herb Garden. They explained the many interesting aspects of the garden, and what it's like with elephants occasionally watching from a nearby area.

With several new friendships having been forged, a memorable time was had by everyone.

Debbie Gomez invites you to volunteer at the Chandler Herb Garden, offering membership to the Park and the Zoo, and other perks. Contact Debbie Gomez to express interest in volunteering at the Chandler Herb Garden.

[\(760\) 705-6192](tel:7607056192) (deb4fino@pacbell.net)



Palomar District Winter Board Meeting hosted by Fallbrook Garden Club

Six of our members made the trip up to the Palomar District Winter Board at the beautiful Pala Resort.

They had a large turnout from across the District. They had an installation of incoming officers and general information on district, state and local clubs was shared. There are four meetings during the year and always fun and very informative. Watch the newsletter for summer meeting information.



We want to thank Sharon Tooley, the outgoing District Director for all her hard work these many years.

Pictured is: Teri, Rebecca, Robert and Jane
Linda is waiting to speak on Flower School in Poway.
No picture of Ramona!



Palomar District Floral Design;

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.



Join the San Diego Master Gardeners for an exciting educational event at the beautiful

Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead
Escondido, California!

When: Saturday, March 22, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Learn all about seed starting, vegetable gardening, native plants, garden art, food preservation, irrigation, and more!

This family-friendly event also features activities just for kids, so bring the whole family to enjoy a day of learning and fun outdoors.

Mark your calendars and don't miss this opportunity to grow your gardening knowledge!

12655 Sunset Dr. Escondido, CA 92025



645 Main Street, Ramona, CA



12122 Cuyamaca College Dr
West El Cajon, CA 92019



The Flowers of late winter and early spring occupy places in our hearts well out of proportion to their size.

Gertude S. Wister



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Find us on Facebook - Ramona Garden Club

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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

Ramona Garden Club Plant and Craft Sale

May 3, 2025

Ramona Oaks Park 25341 Pappas Rd, Ramona

10 am to 2 pm

Come and join us in the park for a Plant and Craft Sale!

There will be a great variety of plants of all kinds for you to buy just in time for your late spring garden.

Get great prices and a jump start to all your plantings.

There are also crafts that our members have made that are fun and special. Not your everyday online yard art.... Inventive and Interesting pieces to enjoy.

Come get something for your Mom for Mother's Day!! Come early and get the good picks and then plan on visiting all the other vendors in the park!

