

The Real Dirt

NEWSLETTER OF THE

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB, RAMONA CA
A CGCI BLUE RIBBON CLUB

October 2025

General Meeting: October 8, 2025

Mountain View Community Church 1191 Meadowlark Way, Ramona

Doors open at 11:15 am

10:00 am Board Meeting

October Speaker: Diana Drummey

Floral Design: "Holiday Designs from the Unexpected"



Come meet Diana at our October meeting!
She is a lot of fun, and you will love her floral
demonstration!

Diane Drummey is a retired law enforcement professional
with a Master's degree in Emergency Management.

She has been a Master Gardener since 2016, and she
serves as a National Garden Club Flower Show Judge.

Diana chaired the 100th anniversary of the Coronado Flower Show and is the Chair
of the Southwestern Judges Council.

**Diana currently serves as the District Director of the Palomar District of the
California Garden Clubs, Inc.,** where she continues to inspire others through her
leadership and expertise.

We will be raffling off part of her presentation so come enjoy the demonstration
and maybe you will go home with a new floral design!

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



Robert's President's Message



Happy Autumn Everyone,

While I typically enjoy all the seasons here in Ramona, October usually feels to me like the real beginning of fall, and (thankfully) the end of extreme heat. Like many of you, I enjoy growing various types of lettuce and veggies, and the cooler October weather allows me to increase the cool-weather varieties.

The **Fall Plant and Craft Sale is Saturday, November 1**, so October is the perfect time to continue, or begin, to work on crafts and/or plants we can sell to support our scholarship and grant programs. To help coordinate this event, please contact Carol Wilson, regarding plants, and Michelle Zybura, for crafts, to let them know what, and the amount you plan to bring.

Speaking of crafts, if you have a wooden craft in mind, but don't have the tools or machine(s) to bring it to life, contact me as I may be able to help you. And of course, volunteering to help with the various tasks of running the event, is also a great way to support your club.

Our October 8 meeting will have another excellent guest speaker, Diana Drummey. Her topic is floral design, and she will be raffling off what she creates during her session.

Finally, by all measurements and feedback, our September season kickoff meeting was a HUGE success! Of interest, Nan Serman sent a very complementary email about her time with our club. She went on to say she wished other groups were as organized, and hospitable as she experienced with us. Well done everyone!

Robert

Ramona Garden Club Field Trip for October**Annie's Canyon, Solana Beach****Lunch at Tony's Jacal in Solana Beach****Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9:00 am**

Annie's Canyon, Solana Beach

Meet at 9:00 am at the Methodist Church off Dye Road.

We will carpool together

Sign-ups will be available at the October General Meeting

For more information contact Bonnie at:

bonniec953@gmail.com

We will enjoy lunch afterwards at Tony's Jacal in Solana Beach.

**A Quick View of Upcoming Activities**

October 6th & 13th - Collier Park Work Days (page 5)

October 3rd & 15th - Safari Park Work Days (see September Newsletter for more info)

October 8th - General Meeting - 11:15 am Potluck and Speaker: Diane Drummey (page 1)

Bring your Plants and Flowers in to show on the Horticultural Table

October 20th - Palomar District Meeting (page 13)

October 22th - Field Trip to Annie's Canyon, Solana Beach 9:00 am (page 3)

November 1st - Plant and Craft Sale 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Ramona Oaks Park (page 5)

November 12th - General Meeting

December 10th - Holiday Potluck and Ramona High School Band for entertainment

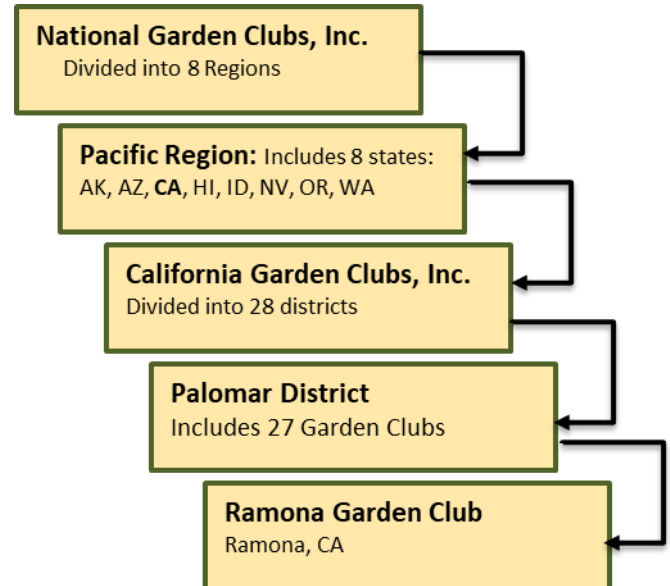
The Structure of the Garden Club

Palomar District Director, Diane Drummey

We will be having a very special guest at our October Meeting! Not only is our speaker a Master Gardener and a National Garden Club Flower Show Judge she is our **District Director for the Palomar District of the California Garden Club, Inc.**

We are grateful to her for taking on this very important position and helping our club, our District and the State.

Please give her a Ramona Garden Club Welcome!



THE RAMONA GARDEN CLUB IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB, INC. STRUCTURE WHICH INCLUDES THE CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

THERE ARE MANY BENEFITS AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO RAMONA GARDEN CLUB AND ITS MEMBERS THROUGH THIS ORGANIZATION.



Ever Wonder About the September Equinox?

- **Date:** The September equinox usually falls on September 22nd or 23rd.
- **Terminology:** The word "equinox" comes from the Latin *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night).
- **Northern Hemisphere:** Signals the end of astronomical summer and the beginning of autumn.
- **Southern Hemisphere:** It marks the end of astronomical winter and the start of spring.
- **Significance:** It's a key astronomical event that divides the year into two halves.

Ramona Garden Club Fall Plant and Craft Sale

November 1, 2025

Ramona Oaks Park 25341 Pappas Rd, Ramona, CA

10 am to 2 pm

There will be a volunteer sign up sheet at the October meeting.

There are three shifts you can sign up for or come and spend the whole day.

Set up is from 8 - 10 and you would be helping unload vehicles and organizing plants. Sales is from 10 - 2 and clean up is from 1:30 - 3

Plant deliveries will be from 8:30 - 9:30.

We need lots of plants, cardboard boxes for the customers and gently used garden items to sell.

Please label your plants with the plant name and a brief description.

We also need shoppers so spread the word. Hope to see you there.

Carol Wilson caroljaywilson@gmail.com



Work Days at Collier Park

Mondays October 6th & October 13th



Let's meet in our Collier Park Garden on Monday, October 6 and 13, anytime between 8am - 11.

Come for hour (or more) and help prune and weed.

Or... donate a painted rock!

At home - NOW is the perfect time to plant - peas, carrots, greens, beets, broccoli and many more!

Container gardens are fun and easy. **Let's get dirty!**

"In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous." Aristotle

See you in the garden - Teri @ terismith87@yahoo.com

Arts and Crafts

Starting **at the October Meeting** we are introducing a **Craft Materials & Finished Work Donation Table**. This will be a space where members can:

- Donate extra craft or garden-related supplies they no longer need
- Share finished handmade items with fellow members
- Purchase donated items, with proceeds benefiting club activities .
- It's a wonderful way to recycle, inspire each other, and support our programs.



Let's keep the creativity growing—your participation and ideas will make these new additions a success! Thank you in advance.

Happy gardening and crafting, **Michelle**

mzybura@hotmail.com

Two New Standing Committees for 2025-26

Sunshine: Chairperson, Diane McKee

Whether a significant positive or difficult situation has occurred to a RGC member or immediate family member, a beautiful handmade card expressing the appropriate sentiment can provide a ray of sunshine for the recipient. Contact Diane with the necessary information, and she will take care of sending the card on behalf of the RGC. Contact her @ sagelandvineyards@yahoo.com



How To Toolbox: Chairperson, Diane Schafer

Wondering “how to” get started on something new? This committee will provide a list of RGC members with their associated skills, and job-specific experiences to assist you. The job description, and process are currently being developed, and will be widely communicated when operational.

Membership News

A photograph of a printed form titled "Ramona Garden Club Name Badge Order Form". The form includes fields for Name, Address, and Email. It also contains instructions about payment (check to Julie Perreault or cash) and a note about the turn-around time (one month) and pickup location (next meeting).

Ramona Garden Club Name Badge Order Form

For all our new members and for any member that doesn't have a name badge here is an order form.

These forms will be at the membership table at all General Meetings.

We had several new members at our September meeting. We will have the new names and emails and the all new ones that come to our October meeting in the next newsletter so you can add them into your Yearbook.

If you didn't pick up your Yearbook yet they will be at the October meeting.

September Question of the Month

"What Plants in your Yard attract Bees?"



Bonnie Crawford - "Zinnia and lavender are the 2 big ones".

Robert and Rebecca Holton - "Butterfly bush, Cleveland sage, Tecoma and Dusty Miller".

Michelle Zybura - "Lantana, Hibiscus, Roses and Lavender".

Jane Vidal - "Red tipped Photinia".

Sandy Bedard - "Oregano".

Lynn Thierolf - "Bird of paradise, Statice and Pride of Madeira".

Barbara Boryla - "Salvia, Pepper trees, Lavender, Hibiscus and Trumpet flower."

Debbie Gomez - "Rosemary and *Algae in my pond*".

(Thanks to Carol W for collecting all these answers. Watch for her at the October Meeting and answer the Question of the Month for October)

October Birthdays

3rd - Kelly Manring

8th - Jeannie Baby

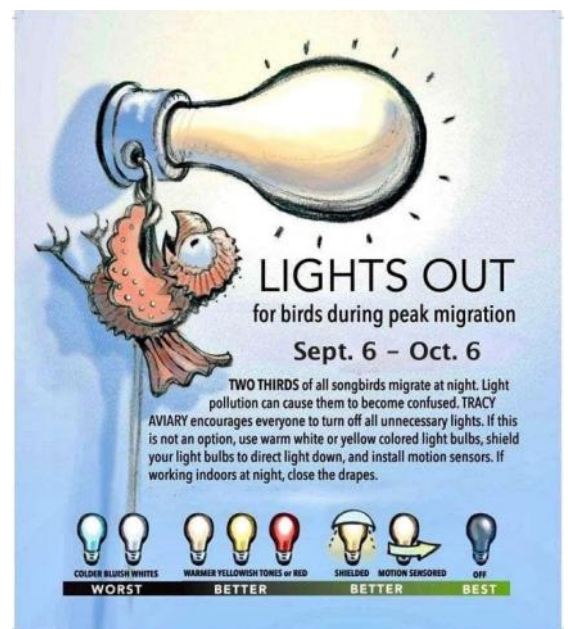
13th - Vern Kilcrease

21st - Sherry Aargon

24th - Diane McKee

27th - David Sabon

29th - Teri Schmidt



From our Gardens and in Our Sanctuaries



I found this praying mantis in our yard, on an Angel Trumpet.

I thought it was an albino, but when I researched it, it probably had recently molted, and that's why it was white.

Later that evening, I saw it a few feet from the plant, on our sliding glass screen door.

It was already a lighter green, so after they molt, their color returns pretty quickly. *Bonnie*

Robert has a Praying Mantis on the bottom of his feeder .



This isn't exactly garden pictures but it's in our yard, with a trail cam. I put water out for the critters - to keep them out of our pond! 😊 The first is mom and 2 kittens - Debbie



Karen has bees, monarch "cats" and a Lynx spider eating a bee!! Circle of life in our yards!

September General Meeting

Our September General Meeting was a Huge Success. We had a full house with members and guests. Our speaker was Nan Sterman sharing with us about Herbs and Spices.

We got some business done, Robert led his first meeting as President and everyone pulled together and made it a smooth running operation!



Robert and Bonnie welcoming our speaker
Nan Sterman



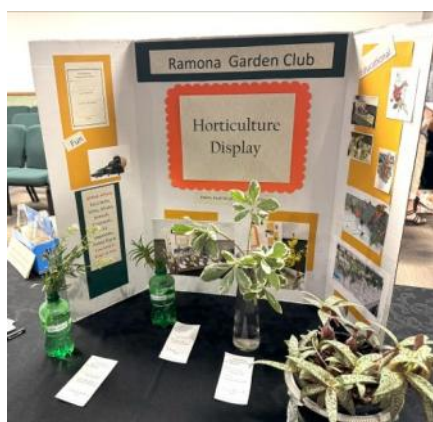
Famous Potluck lived up to it's name!



Nan had a book signing and sold some herbs



Our beautiful meeting room was full by the time the speaker started!



People brought plants for the
Horticultural table



Our membership helpers were kept very busy,
Carol talked about the upcoming Plant sale,
and our New Parliamentarian, Diane, gave a lovely
inspiration.



September Field Trip to Alta Vista Botanical Gardens, in Vista



It was a perfect day for the field trip and 10 members joined in the fun. After hiking around the wonderful Botanical garden they went to lunch at "The Yellow Deli" in Vista.

Bonnie and Rebecca both got carrot cake in celebration of their upcoming birthdays!



Thanks Bonnie for planning this trip for the Ramona Garden Club.

Make sure you watch for the upcoming trips and join the group when you can!



About Native Bumble Bees

Source: *The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation*



Bumble bees are important pollinators of wild flowering plants and agricultural crops. They are able to fly in cooler temperatures and lower light levels than many other bees, making them excellent pollinators—especially at higher elevations and latitudes. They also perform a behavior called “buzz pollination,” in which the bee grabs the flower in her jaws and vibrates her wing muscles to dislodge pollen from the flower. Many plants, including a number of wildflowers and crops like tomatoes, peppers, and cranberries, benefit from buzz pollination.

Nesting

Bumble bees are the only bees native to North America that are truly social. They live in colonies, have different divisions of labor or castes, and have overlapping generations, usually with multiple broods throughout the spring, summer, and fall. However, unlike the non-native, European honey bees, the bumble bee colony has an annual life cycle. At the end of the summer the foundress queen, her workers and male offspring will all die; only the newly emerged, fertilized queens (gynes) survive to hibernate through the winter. In the spring, she will find a new nest that eventually may grow, depending on the species and available resources, to 50 – 500 individuals. Bumble bees need a cavity in which to build their nest.

Life Cycle

The queen creates the first few brood cells from wax, and then provisions them with pollen and nectar and lays eggs. It will take four to five weeks for the first eggs she lays to emerge as adult bees; these bees become workers, taking on the tasks of foraging and helping the queen tend the growing number of brood cells. Depending on their role in the nest, workers may live for one to two months, by which time there will be more workers to replace them. The queen will continue to lay eggs, and the colony will grow steadily through the summer. At the end of summer, new queens and drones will emerge and mate. Because bumble bees have an annual life cycle, they generally only occupy nest sites for one year.



Palomar District Fall Membership Meeting

Monday, October 20, 2025

Mickey Cafagna Community Center

13094 Civic Center Drive

Poway, CA 92064

Host: Poway Valley Garden Club

Reservations required by: October 10, 2025

Cost: \$22.00 per person. ~~Checks to: Poway Valley Garden Club~~

9:30 am: Doors open: Registration, shopping, raffle for handcrafted bird houses and centerpieces

10:00 am: General Meeting

Breakfast: Crustless quiche, fruit, pastries, yogurt, granola, coffee, tea, juice

Program: Bill Toone, "Roar of the Monarch: A Journey Across Three Countries and Back"

This is the first meeting of the year for the Palomar District.

This is the closest one to us so is a perfect time to try it out and see how much fun it is. We meet and learn from garden clubbers from all over the county. They always have great garden stuff to buy or try your luck at the fabulous raffle items.

Let David White, our treasurer, know if you are coming either before the General Meeting or at the October Meeting. Either bring the money to the general meeting or mail a **check made out to Ramona Garden Club** to the RGC mailbox.

P.O. Box 1412 Ramona CA 92065

Lets get a big turnout for this and put Ramona Garden Club on the map!!



cleansd.org/events

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

Webpage: www.RamonaGardenClub.com

Find us on Facebook - Ramona Garden Club

Newsletter Editor: maggiecrane@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