

# The Real Dirt

NEWSLETTER OF THE

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB, RAMONA CA  
A CGCI BLUE RIBBON CLUB

**January 2026**

**General Meeting: January 14, 2026**

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

**Doors open at 11:15 am**

**10:00 am Board Meeting**

**January Speaker: Kenneth Abernathy**

**“Saving the Monarch Butterfly”**



Kenneth is the owner of Caterpillar Chow, a milkweed nursery down the hill in Lakeside and a California Naturalist. He grows host plants for pollinators and studies local habitats. He takes what he learns and uses it to help people through education and experience.



Talk will include native milkweeds, why we don't have enough, and what it will take to support an ecosystem that is facing rapid climate change. You will learn the secrets of the Monarch butterfly and the truth behind the loss of the spectacle of the yearly migration.

*“Although much focus is on the decline of Monarch butterflies and honeybees, I wants to point out the whole thing is in more danger than any one species and all for the same reasons. Hopefully I can help change your views on what habitat is and how we can make small changes in our own backyards that impact the entire community.”* This talk is followed by a Q and A session so come prepared!

PS: For those who want to know, yes he will have native milkweed seedlings available to purchase. These sales will support his non-profit.



**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



Hello RGC members,

Well, another year has come and gone as we turn the corner and head into 2026. We are arguably undergoing some of the most “interesting” winter weather I have experienced since moving to Ramona in 2016. And like many of you, I see a number of plants confused about staying dormant, budding or flowering out, and risking a likely damaging frost or freeze.

According to *The Old Farmer's Almanac* (since 1792), their prediction points to a milder, drier winter for Ramona, but with a potential for cold snaps and some stormy, rainy days, especially in mid-to-late January, contrasting with generally warmer trends.

A well-attended craft holiday decoration workshop was held in December to paint or decoupage various sizes of natural wooden rounds for the personal use of RGC members to take home. Whether a first timer or seasoned crafter, photos of several completed hand-crafted designs were impressive. Thank you, Michelle for organizing, and Bonnie for hosting.

We have a wonderful field trip scheduled for the last week in January to tour the Abraxas High School Garden in Poway. Look for the sign-up sheet at our January general meeting.

Lastly, a HUGE shout out to Teri Schmidt, our Chairperson for the Collier Park project, and Ramona Valencia for securing a \$1249 National Garden Clubs' Plant America Grant. There were more than 120 applications, and the applications showed a diverse range of projects and community support across the United States. This grant will be used to install additional pollinator plants offering food, and shelter to pollinating birds, bees and butterflies in an existing drought tolerant garden area within Collier Park.

I look forward to seeing you all at the January meeting,

....Robert



## **Ramona Garden Club Field Trip for January**

### **Abraxas High School Gardens**

**12450 Glen Oak Road, Poway, CA 92064**

**Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:45 am**

We will be taking a tour of the Abraxas High School Gardens in Poway.

A teacher named Bob Lutticken, will be hosting us, and taking us on a tour of the gardens.

Please meet at the Methodist Church parking lot at 11:45, and **we will go to lunch**, and be at the school for a **tour at 1:45 pm**.

That will give us time to share a ride, share a social lunch, and get over to the school in plenty of time.

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

## **A Quick View of Upcoming Activities**

January 5th & 19th - Collier Park Work Days

January 2nd & 21st - Safari Park Work Days (Contact Debbie Gomez for information: deb4fino@pacbell.com)

January 5th - Palomar District Foral Design Forum. Poway Library - Noon (page 13)

**January 14th - General Meeting - 11:15 am      Speaker: Kenneth Abernathy (page 1)**

**Bring your Plants and Flowers in to show on the Horticultural Table  
& a Dish to share for the Potluck.**

**January 28th - Field Trip to Abraxas High School Gardens, Poway 11:45 am (page 3)**

February 11th - General Meeting - Sharon Reeve "San Diego Native Bees"

Newsletter deadline: January 27th

## **Collier Park Plant America Grant Award**

The National Garden Clubs, Inc sponsors a grant program for their member clubs. The purpose of the grant program is to provide financial support for new or existing club projects in the respective communities all across the United States.

**Guess who was Awarded a Grant for this Year???**

**Ramona Garden Club for Collier Park!!**

**From Grant Application:**

Installation of pollinator plants offering food and shelter to pollinating birds, bees and butterflies in an existing drought tolerant garden within a local park. Ramona Garden Club has been involved in developing this park since 2008. This park is visited by over 25K individuals.

A local boy scout troop and local " Serve Ramona " church will assist with planting, mulching etc. The Master Gardeners will be consulting on plant choices and installation.

Thank you Teri, Ramona, Carol & Debbie for working on and applying for this Grant. It will add to our outreach program with education and beauty for our members and the Ramona Community .

*Now is the time of you to join the Collier Park Work Crew!*

*(See upcoming activities for dates of next work parties)*



### January Birthdays

3rd - Stephen Leonard  
4th - Stacey Rudge  
5th - Susan Green  
19th - Carol O'Brian  
20th - David White  
21st - Gerry Bowman  
31st - Carol Wilson



### Ramona Community Plants and Flowers Outreach Program

Julie stepped up and handled both the Ramona Library and the Senior Center Floral Displays in December! Thank you Julie. Here are some of the wonderful displays.

***Please look for the sign up sheet at the General Meeting and help out your club with this wonderful project.***



## Mountain View Community Church Landscaping

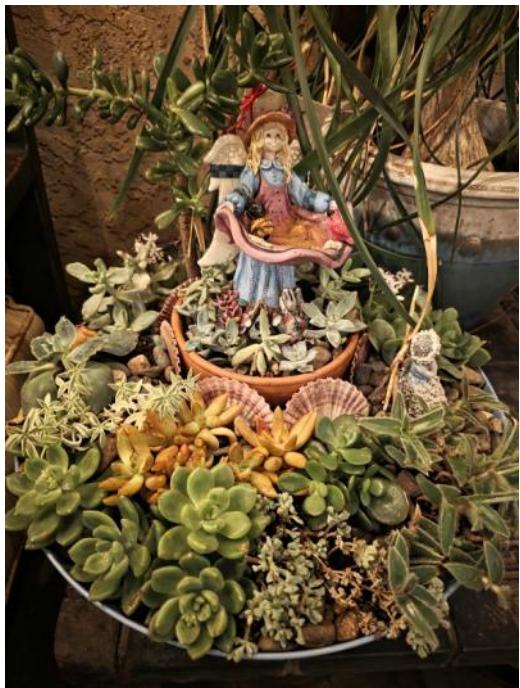
As most everyone knows the Ramona Garden Club pays for the use of their hall in part with landscaping plants. Pastor Josh, Connie and Robert recently took a walk through the grounds and saw how beautifully everything is growing.

Connie keeps an updated spreadsheet on what we have donated, thank you! We get most of the plants from the plant sales so thank you all that have donated to the Plant Sale! Take some time at the next General Meeting to enjoy the landscaping!



Pastor Josh &  
Robert





### A note from our member Stacey.

*"Please thank the person who sent me a beautiful card from the garden club about my car accident. It meant so much to me.*

*Also, whoever made this beautiful creation has brought endless happiness to us and adorns our patio. Its absolutely spectacular."*

*Stacey*

We do have to Thank Diane McKee for the wonderful cards she makes and sends out as Chair of the Sunshine Committee!

### New Members Pictures



Hi, Your Yearbook Editor, Maggie Crane here.



There have been 28 new members since the Yearbook was published!! I want to put a list of the new members in the February newsletter so you can add it to your Yearbook.

If you have joined after it was published in September I will be taking pictures at the end of the January meeting (and maybe before also). I think I will be in the front entrance hall at the church as the light will be better. Please seek me out and we will get as many pictures as we can!

If you will not be at the meeting you can email me a headshot and I will use that one! Nothing fancy, just so we can put a name to the face easier!

**[maggiecrane@att.net](mailto:maggiecrane@att.net)**

**Welcome all to the Ramona Garden Club!**



# Month-by-Month Seed or Starts Planting List

USDA Hardiness Zones 9 & 10

## January

### VEGETABLES

Beets  
Broccoli  
Cabbage  
Carrots  
Cauliflower  
Chard  
Endive  
Fava Beans  
Fennel  
Kale & Collards  
Kohlrabi  
Leeks  
Lettuce, Head  
Lettuce, Leaf  
Mesclun Mix

Mustards  
Onion, Green  
Onion, med. day  
Onion, short day  
Pac Choi  
Parsnips  
Peas  
Potato  
Radish  
Scallions  
Spinach  
Tatsoi  
Turnips

### FLOWERS

Alyssum  
Bluebell  
Borage  
Calendula  
Coneflower  
Cornflower  
Cosmos  
Crespedia  
Echinacea  
Flax  
Four O'Clock  
Foxglove  
Gaillardia  
Godetia  
Hollyhock

Hyssop  
Lavender  
Lupine  
Milkweed  
Nasturtium  
Nigella  
Ornamental Kale  
Poppy  
Rudbeckia  
Sage  
Scabiosa  
Snapdragon  
Statice  
Stock  
Strawflower  
Sweet Pea

Wildflowers  
Yarrow

**HERBS**

Arugula  
Celery/Lovage  
Chives  
Cilantro  
Dill  
Lemon Balm  
Oregano  
Parsley  
Savory  
Sorrel  
Tarragon

## February

### VEGETABLES

Beets  
Broccoli  
Cabbage  
Carrots  
Cauliflower  
Chard  
Endive  
Fava Beans  
Fennel  
Kale & Collards  
Kohlrabi  
Leeks  
Lettuce, Head  
Lettuce, Leaf  
Mesclun Mix  
Mustards

Onion, Green  
Onion, med. day  
Pac Choi  
Parsnips  
Peas  
Potato  
Radish  
Scallions  
Spinach  
Tatsoi  
Turnips

**FLOWERS**

Alyssum  
Bluebell  
Borage  
Calendula

Coneflower  
Cornflower  
Cosmos  
Crespedia  
Echinacea  
Flax  
Four O'Clock  
Foxglove  
Gaillardia  
Godetia  
Gomphrena  
Hollyhock  
Hyssop  
Lavender  
Lupine  
Marigold  
Milkweed

Nasturtium  
Nigella  
Ornamental Kale  
Poppy  
Rudbeckia  
Sage  
Scabiosa  
Snapdragon  
Statice  
Stock  
Strawflower  
Sweet Pea  
Wildflowers  
Yarrow

**HERBS**

Arugula  
Celery/Lovage  
Chives  
Cilantro  
Dill  
Lemon Balm  
Oregano  
Parsley  
Savory  
Sorrel  
Tarragon

**PERENNIALS**

Artichoke  
Asparagus

## March

### VEGETABLES

Beans  
Beets  
Broccoli  
Cabbage  
Carrots  
Cauliflower  
Chard  
Corn  
Cucumbers  
Endive  
Fava Beans  
Fennel  
Gourds & Luffa  
Kale & Collards  
Kohlrabi  
Leeks  
Lettuce, Head  
Lettuce, Leaf  
Mesclun Mix

Mustards  
Onion, Green  
Onion, med. day  
Pac Choi  
Parsnips  
Peas  
Potato  
Pumpkin  
Radish  
Scallions  
Spinach  
Squash, Summer  
Squash, Winter  
Sweet Potato  
Tatsoi  
Tomato  
Turnips

### FLOWERS

Alyssum  
Bluebell  
Borage  
Calendula  
Coneflower  
Cornflower  
Cosmos  
Crespedia  
Echinacea  
Flax  
Four O'Clock  
Foxglove  
Gaillardia  
Godetia  
Gomphrena  
Hollyhock  
Hyacinth Bean  
Hyssop  
Lavender

Lupine  
Marigold  
Mex. Sunflower  
Milkweed  
Morning Glory  
Nasturtium  
Nigella  
Poppy  
Rudbeckia  
Sage  
Scabiosa  
Snapdragon  
Statice  
Strawflower  
Sunflower  
Sweet Pea  
Wildflowers  
Yarrow  
Zinnia

**HERBS**

Arugula  
Basil  
Celery/Lovage  
Chives  
Cilantro  
Dill  
Lemon Balm  
Marjoram  
Oregano  
Parsley  
Savory  
Sorrel  
Tarragon

**PERENNIALS**

Artichoke  
Asparagus

## Wildlife Research Institute, Inc

Presents:

### Hawk Watch

A d d r e s s

The beautiful Begent Ranch  
18528 Highland Valley Rd  
Ramona, CA 92065



Hawk Watch is an informative educational Biologist Talk and Q & A with falconry or ambassador raptors for you to see up close and personal! The seated program lasts approximately 1.5 to 2 hours and is followed by an option for additional roadside observations of wild raptor and other wildlife including a Bald Eagle nest where you drive your own car less than 2 miles on paved roads and come and go at your leisure.

In the event of rain, we will still have the educational program inside the barn, but the usual falconry flight displays will not occur in the barn.

**Every Saturday during**

**January & February**

**Starts at 10 am**

**Suggested arrival at 9:30 am**

**Rain or Shine!**

**Free**

### Ramona Mural H.E.A.R.T. and Roy Toft

The **Ramona Mural H.E.A.R.T.** committee is inviting the community to vote on which stunning photo from Roy Toft's book "Wild Ramona" should adorn our town as our next mural at 8th &

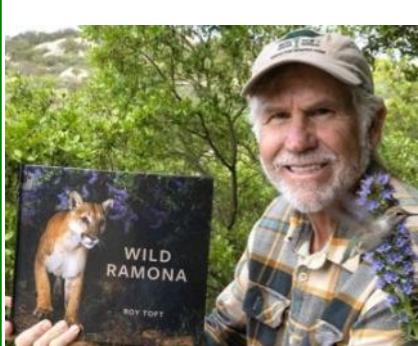
Main!

To cast your vote please choose your favorite photo (share the page number and/or description), and email it to:

**[contact@ramonamurals.com](mailto:contact@ramonamurals.com) by January 15, 2026.**

Copies of "Wild Ramona" are available at 2Create Gallery, Hatfield Creek Vineyards & Winery, Ramona Family Naturals and Ramona Ranch Winery.

\*\*\* Roy spoke at our September Meeting in 2024 and many of us bought his book! Take a look through it and vote on the picture you would like to see on the next Mural!! \*\*\*



## December Holiday Meeting Fun!!



Ramona Garden Club celebrated the Holidays in grand style! We had an awesome Potluck, a full Opportunity Table, a Holiday craft sale table, The Ramona High School Jazz Band and a fun Trivia Game lead by our President.



Just a few of our hard working Volunteers! Thank you and everyone else that always steps up to Help Out and make this a great community!



### December General Meeting

We had the Ramona High School Jazz Band playing Christmas songs for our pleasure!

Everyone said it was a great performance and that they enjoyed it.

The band members had fun playing for us too. We got a wonderful Thank you note from one of the group.



DEAR RAMONA GARDEN CLUB,  
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, FOR ALLOWING  
OUR RAMONA HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND, TO  
PLAY AT YOUR CHRISTMAS EVENT.

MY NAME IS BRANDO DURAN, AND I AM A  
SENIOR AT RHS. I PLAYED THE DRUMS  
THAT DAY, AND LIKE JOHNNY CASH, I  
WAS THE ONE IN BLACK!

AS A SENIOR, I APPRECIATE EVERY  
OPPORTUNITY, TO PLAY MUSIC WITH MY  
CLASSMATES.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

For it's times like this we remember,  
Our loved ones far and near, so we wish you a  
Merry Christmas, and a very Happy New Year

SINCERELY,  
BRANDO



The group with leader: Abbie Gerdes





## Palomar District's 33rd Anniversary Season

### Floral Design Forum 2025-2026

POWAY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

13137 POWAY ROAD, POWAY, CA 9206

Start time: Noon

**January 5, 2026** Returning to us is **Noel Tribbey AIFD**, freelance Designer and lover of ladders. **He creates the WOW! Don't miss a great start to the new year.**

**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.*

## 2026 Flower Shows in the Palomar District:

**--April 18-19, 2026, Coronado Flower Show**

**--May 2-3, 2026, Vista Garden Club Flower Show**

**--May 9, 2026, Poway Valley Garden**

**Club Flower Show**

**--May 12-13, 2026, CGCI Convention (San Diego)**



**A flower is never just a flower – it's a welcome mat for butterflies, bees, and life itself**

New Year's Resolutions...  
I'm going to actually keep:

Fail to keep  
on top of the  
weeds.

Buy plants I don't  
have room for.

Buy more seeds  
than I'll ever sow.



Love my garden  
with all its  
imperfections.

Joseph Tychonievich

**Executive Board 2025 - 2026**

**President** Robert Holton

**Vice-President** Bonnie Crawford

**Secretary** Barbara Boryla

**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: maggiecrane@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**