

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 want 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 Luticken, 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 Floral 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

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
Cresperia
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
Cresperia
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
Cresperia
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, IncPresents:**Hawk Watch**

A d d r e s s

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

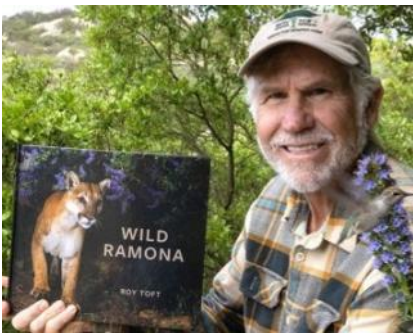


Hawk Watch is an informative educational Biologist Talk and Q & A with falconry or ambassador raptors for you to see up close and personal! The seated program lasts approximately 1.5 to 2 hours and is followed by an option for additional roadside observations of wild raptor and other wildlife including 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 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!

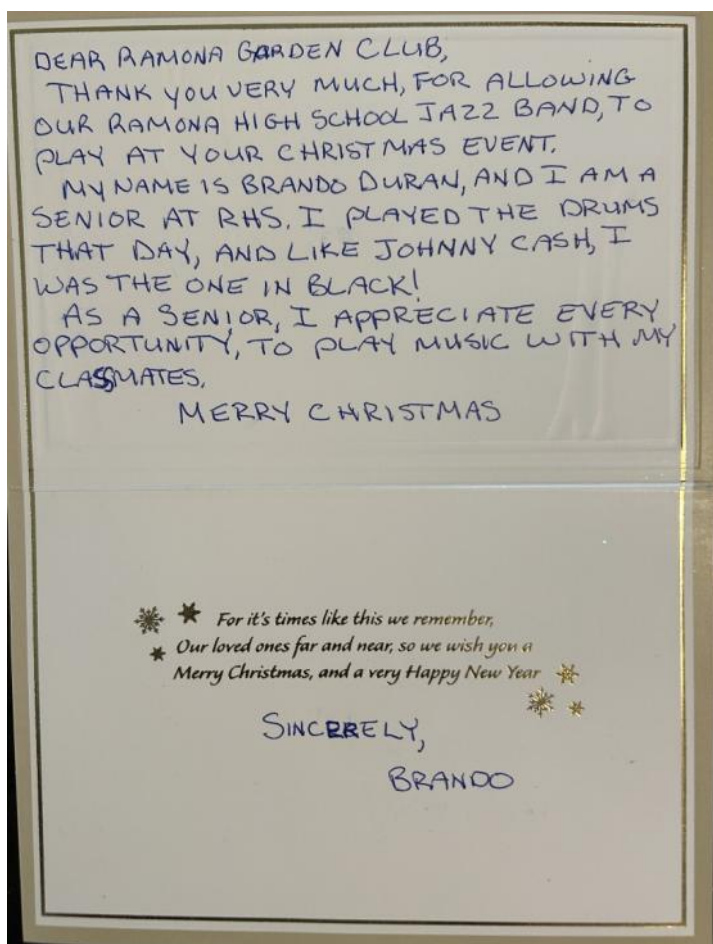


December General Meeting

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.



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)



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

Fail to keep
on top of the
weeds.

Buy more seeds
than I'll ever sow.

Buy plants I don't
have room for.



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

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