

The Real Dirt

NEWSLETTER OF THE

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB, RAMONA CA
A CGCI BLUE RIBBON CLUB

May 2026

General Meeting: May 13, 2026

Mountain View Community Church 1191 Meadowlark Way, Ramona

Doors open at 11:15 am

10:00 am Board Meeting

May Speaker: Sharon Reeve

“Native Bees”



Sharon Reeve is a UCCE Master Gardener since 1998, transferring to California in 2012.

She worked for many years as a consulting Horticulturist for Monrovia Nurseries, and as a landscape designer for BrightView Landscapes and Dave Suda in San Diego.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture, a Bachelor of Arts in Landscape Architecture, and a Master of Science in Ecology.

Sharon writes three gardening columns and two blogs on plants. She likes to study and grow plants in her wildlife garden.

She has a design business called ReWild that specializes in drought tolerant, native, and wildlife gardens.

Her thesis work on Biological Soil Crust Restoration was published in January 2023.

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

Don't forget your plants and flowers for the **Horticulture Table!!**





Robert's President's Message



Hopefully, you had a chance to view the five beautiful gardens on this year's garden tour Saturday, May 2. Preliminary numbers indicate there were about 120 visitors taking in the sights, sounds and fragrances of these impressive Ramona homes. A shout-out to Julie Perreault for organizing the garden Host assignments, and a HUGE thank you to the more than 20 RGC members who volunteered as Hosts to greet and guide visitors at each home.

While the Garden Tour was in progress throughout the Ramona Valley, we concurrently held our annual Spring Plant & Craft sale at Ramona Oaks Park. Shout outs to Janice Strizver, Michelle Zybura, Diane Schafer, and all craft committee members for the many inspiring craft items. Shout outs also to Carol Wilson, Debbie Gomez, and all plant committee members for the beautiful plants and signage. A number of long-time RGC members felt, as did I, this was probably our most impressive plant and craft inventory ever. And of course, a HUGE thank you to the many volunteers who made our day in the park a tremendous success. The weather was perfect, the live music was invigorating, and "vibe" was super positive.

We recently awarded our third \$500 grant of the year to the Ramona Woman's Club for a beatification and irrigation repair project for the front of their clubhouse building. By the way, did you know they are the oldest non-profit organization in Ramona? They first organized in 1912...and their clubhouse was built in 1917...amazing!

As you may know, the California Garden Clubs, Inc., (think parent company) annual convention is in San Diego this year, and we will be participating in their "Marketplace" area to sell RGC crafts.

And finally, Master Gardener Sharon Reeve will be our guest speaker at the May 13 meeting, and her topic is about native bees.

I would like to see you all on May 13.



...Robert



Ramona Garden Club Field Trip for May **Caterpillar Chow, Milkweed Nursery**

11470 Posthill Pl

Lakeside, CA 92040

Parking will be directed. 619-987-7848 (Text only)

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 9:15 am

Kenneth Abernathy, the owner of Caterpillar Chow, will be giving us a tour of his milkweed nursery. He was our speaker in January, and spoke about Monarch Butterflies.

What it is:

- A specialty plant nursery focused on milkweed and native plants used to support butterflies—especially monarchs.
- Also operates with an educational / conservation angle sometimes referred to as Caterpillar Chow Habitat Farms.

Their Core mission:

- Help restore pollinator habitats (butterflies, bees, etc.)
- Provide native milkweed plants, which are essential for monarch caterpillars
- Educate the public on habitat restoration and sustainable gardening

What they offer:

- Native milkweed species (several Southern California varieties)
- Our club members will have the opportunity to buy milkweed on this field trip.
- Custom plant growing / bulk orders (for landscapers or habitat projects)
- Guidance on creating pollinator-friendly gardens
- Small-scale nursery visits (often appointment-based)

We will meet at the park-and-ride at the Methodist Church, on Chapel Way, at 9:15 AM on May 20. Carpooling is suggested, and we will carpool down to Lakeside.

Please text Bonnie Crawford if you have any questions! (805)215-9302

A Quick View of Upcoming Activities



May 4th & 18th - Collier Park Work Days

May 1st & 20th - Safari Park Work Days

May 13th - General Meeting 11:15 am Speaker: Sharon Reeves (page 1)

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

May 20th - Field Trip to Caterpillar Chow Milkweed Nursery (page 3) 9:15 am

June 10th - General Meeting - Installation and Party at Collier Park

Newsletter deadline: **May 26th**

Membership Dues for 2026-2027

Dear Ramona Garden Club Members,

I hope all of you are in the best of health, good spirits and enjoying your gardens beauty.

The RGC values your membership and continued support of the club and we hope you will still be renewing your membership this upcoming club year 2026-2027.

We are planning for another great year of speakers, field trips, social time, plant/craft sales.

Membership renewal time is approaching.

Dues for the July 1, 2026 - June 30,2027 are due by June 30, 2026

Membership dues are staying at **\$30 per person, \$10 for additional family member/household.**

I will be at May's & June's luncheon to accept renewals or you can mail it to:

RGC- Membership Chair PO Box 1412, Ramona, CA. 92065

Thank -You, *Julie Perreault*

We are still searching for a Membership Chair for 2026 - 2027



Elections Upcoming for Ramona Garden Club 2026 - 2027

Toni White and Barbara Boryla worked as the Nomination Committee this year and have been able to put together nominations for each of the openings for the 2026 - 2027 Executive Board. They are as follows:

Robert Holton	President
Bonnie Crawford	Vice President
David White	Treasurer
Barbara Boryla	Secretary

Please attend the General Meeting in May to participate in this very important vote!

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at that time with prior okay from people nominated.



College Scholarships

Our Garden Club Committee has chosen two winners! We are sworn to secrecy until May 13th, Scholarship Night, when all the students find out what awards they have won.

This year we received 6 qualified applications and were able to interview each one. What a pleasure to listen to the stories of these kids' dreams as they pursue their life goals in the areas of plant and soil science, agricultural systems, wildlife biology, conservation, research and leadership development.

It is always difficult to choose only two, but Robert, Stacey and I were in agreement on the finalists and the ultimate recipients. Stay tuned for more details!

...Connie Sabon

May Birthdays

3rd - Jane Vidal
 3rd - Barbara Boryla
 7th - Beate Bernunn Kalajian
 8th - Katie Shilts
 9th - Guiseppe Scire-Cirneco
 10th - Pamela Strider
 11th - Toni White
 14th - Scott O'Brien



15th - Jack Schlotte
 16th - Marsha Cook
 17th - Eric Shapira
 20th - Karla Brustad
 21th - Jim Faust
 25th - Linda Ball
 25th - Jackie Jackson
 28th - Susan Vanderveen
 30th - Geoff Green

From our Gardens and in Our Sanctuaries

Some of our beautiful gardens!



California Buckwheat
 Growing everywhere in
 our hills!



Lauren found a stunned Hummingbird while she was working at Collier Park!

She placed him in a safe place until he could fly away.

It is time to go over to Collier Park and see what is blooming and what birds are singing!

Join the work crew and make "our park" beautiful!

From Ramona's Garden

Lots of bees enjoying her flowers.





Community Garden at Collier Park

The Ramona Garden Club has a garden bed at the Community Garden that isn't being used right now. If any member of the club would like to plant something in it please talk to Robert to get all the information on it.

We would like it to be used again!



Volunteers Grow our Garden Club

Needed for 2026 - 2027

Membership Chair: Talk to Julie for more information

- * Keeps the Roster of members
- * Signs up New Members
- * Welcomes and checks in guests and members at General Meetings

Publicity Chair: Talk to Robert for more information

- * Sends announcements out to media outlets
- * Writes short articles about our club for local papers

Newsletter Editor: Talk to Maggie for more information

- * Creates a monthly newsletter and emails to members September to June
- * Works with President, Vice President and various Chairs to get information on events in club.

It can be a much smaller newsletter than we have now... You can make it your own design!



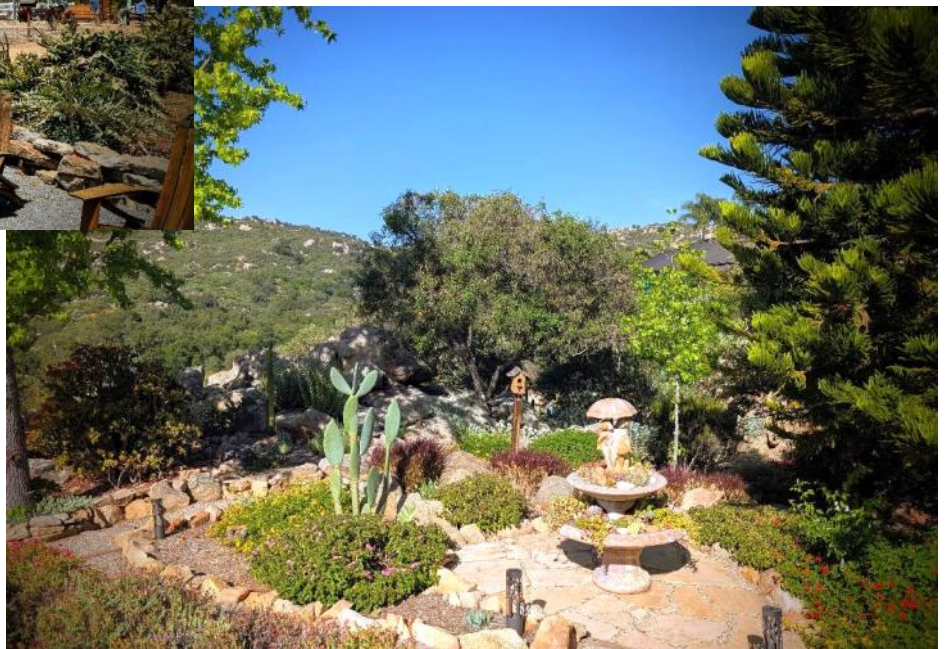
Ramona Garden Club Garden Tour & Spring Plant & Craft Sale 2026



A few pictures from the Plant/Craft Sale



A few pictures from the Garden Tour Homes.



From the Garden Tour. Jane Presenting the "Rock" to homeowners.



Pre Tour for all the Volunteers

April Meeting Fun!!



Our April General Meeting was very well attended. We had Bob Luticken from Abraxas Garden in Poway speaking on how the high school garden teaches the students about gardening and life.

We had tables full of Horticulture and Craft Items and Raffle Prizes. Barbara and Diane sold tickets to the Garden Tour.

The tables looks wonderful as always and potluck was enjoyed by all.

Come to our next meeting
and join in the FUN!



April Field Trip to Guy Woodward Museum in Ramona



Members of the Club were able to have a private tour of our local Museum and learn a lot about the early days of Ramona.



Bonnie, our VP of Programs, is looking for ideas for next year's Field Trips. If you have any suggestions that she could look into please let her know.

Thank you Bonnie for all the different field trips you have put together!!

Good Job!!



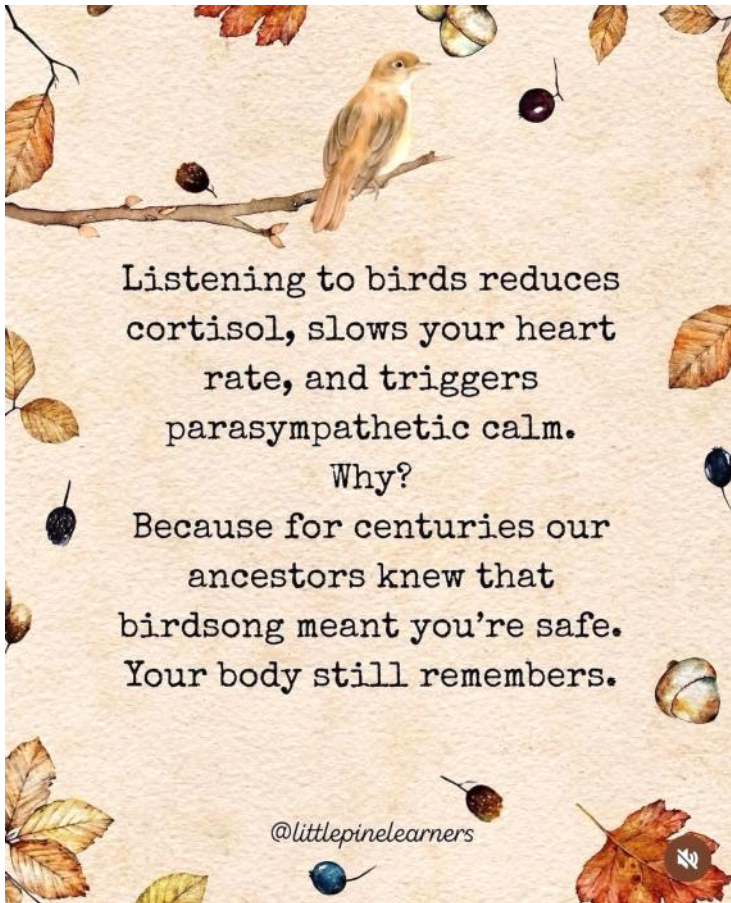
Craft Workshops - Fairly Gardens

Just a couple of the Craft Workshops that were held to support the Craft Sale last weekend! Thank you all for the beautiful work!



Book Bouquets





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

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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