

2019	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
September 12, 2019 (planned speaker and subject)	Leslie Bennett	Edible Vegetable Growing
June 13, 2019 (planned speaker and subject)	Keren Ram Front Porch Farm, Healdsburg	Flower Arranging for Every Day
May 9, 2019 (planned speaker and subject)	Angela Sip	Water
April 11, 2019 (planned speaker and subject)	Rebecca Otto	Sierra Wildflowers
March 14, 2019 (planned speaker and subject)	John Morton San Leandro Dahlia Society	Dahlias
February 14, 2019 (planned speaker and subject)	Forest Service	Dying Trees in the Sierras
January 10, 2019 (planned speaker and subject)	Bethally Black	War of the Weeds

2018	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
December 13 (planned speaker and subject)	Pete Veilleux	<p>Growing California Native Plants in the Garden – A Few Favorites.</p> <p>In 2003 Pete Veilleux began his native plant nursery and started designing and building native gardens for friends. Now he regularly designs and builds native landscapes for long-lasting, self-sustaining landscapes which help people get the maximum use and pleasure from their gardens. One of Pete’s goals is to help people make the connection between their yards and the remaining wild spaces around us. He wants people to experience the beautiful harmony that he sees around him when exploring the wild places. Pete will show slides of both wild places along with photos of created landscapes featuring plants that feed the birds and butterflies. He will bring an assortment of native plants to discuss and sell.</p>
November 8	Tora Rocha Curator of the Gardens at Lake Merritt	<p>How our landscape practices are affecting our local ecosystems.</p> <p>How you can make a difference (with emphasis on pollinators).</p>

October 11	Peter Beiersdorfer Livermore	Succulent Tidbits from Four Continents. Succulents come in many different varieties, such as stem, leaf, and root succulents, and are as varied as the places in which they grow. Peter Beiersdorfer will introduce plants from around the world, including regions rarely thought of as being home to succulent plants. He will discuss succulents in habitat from the Rhine Valley of Germany, the Swiss Alps, the Cape Floral Region of South Africa, the highest mountain of Spain, the badlands of Argentina, and islands off the coast of North Carolina. Each region has its own specialty, such as aeonium forests, sea of flowering bulbs, creepy cacti, wildflower meadows, the world's largest quiver tree forest (<i>Aloidendron dichotomum</i> aka <i>Aloe dichotoma</i>), and massive baobab trees (<i>Adansonia digitata</i>). It's a talk not to be missed. Peter will also bring some of his plants for sale.
September 13	Dr. Mark Brunell Dr Brunell has a Phd. in Biological Sciences and teaches at University of Pacific in Stockton. Best of all, he lives in Livermore and has worked with the Garden of Grace behind Asbury Methodist Church there, so he knows our area's gardening very well.	Gardening in Our Second Spring
June 14	Linda Jensen, LAVGC member	LAVGC Spring Santa Barbara Tour. LAVGC's own Linda Jensen will share her photographic talents, along with other members who traveled on last Spring's Santa Barbara tour , and entertain us all with narrative and photos of the trip.
May 10	Leslie Bennet Founder and owner of Pine House Edible Gardens, an Oakland-based landscape design firm, and co-author of "The Beautiful Edible Garden".	The Beautiful Edible Garden. Leslie Bennett is a well-known landscape designer and author, who focuses on aesthetic edible garden designs. She works to bring together ecologically sound landscape design principles and small-scale urban agriculture, working with both ornamental and edible plants to create integrated landscapes. So join us to learn how you too can have a stylish outdoor space, using vegetables, fruits and herbs.
April 12	Sharon Howard LAVGC member. We are so glad Sharon could present when the scheduled speaker cancelled due to illness.	Lavender Growing and Propagation

March 8	Stephanie Falzone Project Manager of PlantRight, holds a master degree in environmental science and management	What Gardeners Can Do to Stop the Sale and Spread of Invasive Plants. A large percentage of the invasive plants in California were originally introduced as ornamentals through the horticultural trade. Stephanie Falzone is Project Manager of PlantRight, a campaign which partners with the nursery and landscape industries, conservation groups and academia to prevent further introduction of invasive plants in California while promoting safe and beautiful alternative plants.
February 8	Jeff Rosendale Co-owner with his wife Lisa, of Sierra Azul Nursery and Gardens in Watsonville.	Waterwise Garden Design with Mediterranean Mounds. Jeff Rosendale has been designing gardens and landscapes since 1974. He has worked with nurseries, horticulture, gardens and people in the Bay Area and Central Coast, always with an eye on less lawn and more plants in a landscape in our Mediterranean climate.
January 11	David Rust President of the North American Mycological Association and Co-founder of the Bay Area Mycological Society	Mushrooms: what are they and what are they doing in my garden? David Rust will introduce us to the world of mushrooms and help us understand their role in the natural world. Mr. Rust's presentation will cover the ecology of mushrooms in the garden, the benefits and dangers of introducing mushrooms, while making us aware of pathogenic fungi and how to deal with them. Often, there is great interest and concern about mushrooms in people's lawns. David's talk will address the question of "how are mushrooms helping my garden survive and are they a sign of garden health"?

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December	Darrell Schramm Darrell Schramm is a recently retired professor from the University of San Francisco where he taught for twenty-years. He serves on the board of Heritage Roses Group, the oldest heirloom rose organization in the world, and edits its magazine, Rose Letter. Not one to just talk and write about roses, he has about 187 roses in his Vallejo garden.	A History of the Rose in California. Mr. Schramm has combed through historical archives and hundreds of old catalogs of nurseries to glean the history of the CA rose as presented in his book "Rainbow, A History of the Rose in California". Through Darrell's words and photos, we will all gain a new appreciation and understanding of this favorite California flower, the rose. Mr. Schramm will have copies of his book available for purchase.

November	<p>Leslie Buck Leslie is a garden designer and aesthetic pruner who specializes in natural design in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has over two decades of experience, holds a fine arts degree from U.C. Berkeley and the Bordeaux School of Fine Arts in France. In 2000, she studied with Uetoh Zoen, one of the oldest and most highly acclaimed landscape companies in Japan. Leslie is the author of a new Japanese garden memoir 'Cutting Back - My Apprenticeship in the Gardens of Kyoto'.</p>	<p>Aesthetic Pruning Leslie Buck will speak about a favorite subject, "Aesthetic Pruning". Leslie plans on a "hands on the branch" demonstration to help us learn the practice of aesthetic pruning.</p>
October	<p>Joan Morris Joan Morris is the pets & wildlife columnist for the Bay Area News Group. She also writes about gardening and is the founder of Our Garden, a demonstration garden in Walnut Creek.</p>	<p>Getting along with the creatures in your garden. We all have creatures in our gardens, some we love and some we'd rather dispatch elsewhere! Joan Morris has some tales to tell!</p>
September	<p>Bill 'the Bulb Baron' Welch William R. P. Welch is a leading authority and hybridizer of Tazetta narcissus and has the world's most diverse and color-advanced collection of Amaryllis belladonna hybrids.</p>	<p>Easy Bulbs for our Mediterranean Gardens. "Bill the Bulb Baron" will speak on bulbs that work for problem soils and other hostile conditions that we face. Bill is a leading authority and hybridizer of Tazetta narcissus and has the world's most diverse and color-advanced collection of Amaryllis belladonna hybrids. In addition to these bulbs, he will have lots of bulbs that naturalize well in our climate for sale. This is a good opportunity to get fall bulbs for your landscape. To see his bulbs, go to his website http://www.billthebulbbaron.com. Come and enjoy hearing all about bulbs and take advantage of the convenience of selecting choice bulbs directly from bulb expert Bill.</p>
June	<p>Sharon Howard, LAVGC member</p>	<p>Members' Favorite Plants. Looking for some wonderful new ideas for beautiful garden plants to grow in your garden? Easy to grow plants that do well in our area, have been tested by the club's experts and hear why they are so special? Please join us for a delightful evening of socialization with friends and fabulous pictures many of our members have shared. Sharon Howard has prepared a Power Point presentation that will give you some great new ideas to make your garden the pride of your neighborhood.</p>

May	<p>Corky Quirk Founder of Sacramento's "Northern California Bats," Corky's group rescues injured bats, then rehabilitates and releases them back into the wild.</p>	<p>Bats: Environmental Benefits and How They Can Help Us in Our Gardens. Most of us already know that bats are good for our gardens, but many people still fear them. Corky Quirk aims to educate the public, dispel myths about bats, and save their habitats where possible. She will bring some of her little friends for us to meet, as well as tell us what we can do to help them continue to survive. Corky gives a great talk!</p>
April	<p>Susan Ballinger April's speaker, Susan Ballinger, is no stranger to our club; she was president in 94/95. Susan developed her horticultural skills while working at Navlet's and Alden Lane plus worked for local landscape design companies before starting her own business, Susan Ballinger Garden Design in 1998.</p>	<p>Designing for Small Gardens. Susan's goal is to design beautiful outdoor rooms that feel comfortable, inviting, and interesting; creating gardens that bring out the best in the site potential while fulfilling the client's goals. Susan's presentation, "Designing for Small Gardens", will give us strategies for turning that small outdoor space into a garden reflecting our expectations and needs.</p>
March	<p>Ron Stroube, LAVGC member</p>	<p>Orchids 101. Orchids date back to the dinosaur age. They are one of the largest plant families in the world with one out of every eight flowering plants being an orchid. Our very own orchid expert, member Ron Stroube, will present an overview of the popular orchid types for the home gardener, particularly Cymbidiums and Phalaenopsis, complete with PowerPoint slides. Ron will also provide some basic information on the care and requirements of orchids such as, light, temperature, humidity, potting media, re-potting, dividing and propagation.</p>
February	<p>Lee Giroux, LAVGC member</p>	<p>All About Native/Mediterranean Plant Care. Long time LAVGC member, Lee Giroux, will talk about and show pictures of her garden through the seasons and describe how she prunes specific plants in the fall and winter months. She will include her soap box philosophy of how to water and fertilize a drought tolerant garden. Lee says: I began my new life as a drought tolerant gardener 7 years ago, when I moved to the hills East of Livermore and started a new garden. We have no public water service and rely on a well for all our water needs, plus we were dealing with the drought. I attended several seminars on the subject, the one that really cemented my commitment was at the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden. I bought a lot of books and became more and more excited about the new adventure. Seven years later I am still excited and have lots of information to share about my success and failures with my "amazing garden"</p>

January	<p>Brian Perrin Brian Perrin is a veteran staff member at Alden Lane Nursery for 30 years.</p>	<p>You can grow edibles in containers, raised beds, and planters. Brian Perrin will show us how easy it is to grow your own vegetables, no matter the size of the gardening space. Brian set up the edible beds and the edibles in tin garbage cans at the Alden Lane Nursery so he is prepared to share his tips and tricks for success with us. He will also cover soil preparation, vegetables to plant now and later for spring and summer and the dreaded topic of pest management.</p>
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December	<p>Lita Gates Our speaker has been in the nursery industry for over 40 years. She is a Landscape Designer, Landscape Consultant and a Certified California Nurseryman. She has designed over 2,000 gardens in her career.</p>	<p>Planted for Christmas. Planting in containers is her unique specialty and interest. Lita will show us how to put together plants that we like into attractive planters that we want to give.</p>
November	<p>Janet Sluis. As director of the Sunset Western Garden Collection, Janet evaluates, writes and speaks about plant introductions and how to garden with them. We'll hear about some of the exciting new plants that have just come out, or will come out soon.</p>	<p>Plant Choices for the California Landscape. Our speaker, Janet Sluis, believes that "busy lives and limited resources don't mean you can't garden!" She backs up her statement by promoting new plants that work well in our changing climate and with our demanding schedules. She says we can have plants that need little maintenance, water or pest control and still are lovely, lush and colorful.</p>
October	<p>Rose Loveall Rose Loveall, along with her husband Dan Sale, owns Morningsun Herb Farm, a specialty nursery located in the countryside of Vacaville. Morningsun propagates and sells over 600 varieties of culinary, medicinal and landscaping herbs, as well as many unusual perennials for hummingbird and butterfly gardening, scented geraniums and heirloom vegetable starts in the spring. Besides the retail nursery, Morningsun also ships plants throughout the United States.</p>	<p>Herbs are a hot topic and not just because peppers (hot and not) are the 2016 "national herb of the year." At garden shows, in publications, and on the web, the word is herbs – for expanded culinary uses such as appetizers/cocktails, as a draw for pollinators in the garden, and even for decorative purposes. So what herbs grow well around here, and under what conditions? As owner of the highly-regarded https://www.morningsunherbfarm.com in Vacaville, Rose Loveall is not only one of the most knowledgeable herb growers around, her practical advice, and charming personality are not to be missed.</p>

September	<p>Terry Lyngso Terry Lyngso is President and CFO of Lyngso Garden Materials and a big believer in, and educator of, organic gardening.</p>	<p>Soils: the Foundation for a Healthy Garden Soil is the foundation for healthy plants, clean water and carbon sequestration. Learn about who lives in the soil and the relationship between plants and soil life. Learn how the soil life builds a living soil structure and the benefits of a living soil structure. Most importantly learn some simple practices that you can do in the garden to support a diversity of beneficial life. Ten years ago when she moved to Loma Mar they had a garden of annual weeds and bind weed. Now it is a large native garden where they also grow apples, pears and vegetables. A video of Terry's talk at the LAVGC meeting is not available. This video was made as part of a series of talks set up by the California Native Plant Society of Santa Clara Valley. They do about 3 talks a month at libraries and a number of them are recorded and on YouTube. Most are related to Native Plants (particular plants, designing, attracting wildlife, etc.). Terry gave this talk in February, 2015 titled "The Role of Soil in Surviving a Drought". The talk is similar to the LAVGC talk.</p>
June	<p>Robert Kourik Robert Kourik from Occidental CA has over 30 years in the business of garden design, sustainable gardening, permaculture and appropriate horticultural methods. He has written many books on all garden related matters. Learn more at http://www.robertkourik.com.</p>	<p>Dealing with a Drought How to Effectively Use Water in a Drought.</p>
May	<p>Hollie Lucas-Alcalay Owner of Hollie's Homegrown a small organic, herb farm in Moraga, CA. She specializes in growing culinary herbs, herbal teas, and medicinal herbs for bath & body products. Hollie was honored as a Food Finalist in 2014 for Martha Stewart's American Made, a national competition highlighting businesses that support local economies and celebrate the hand-made. Also, Hollie was the winner of Whole Foods "Local Food Maker" grant which supports local food artisans.</p>	<p>Herbs as Medicine. What herbs grow best in our climate, how to use them, and their health benefits will be the topic of Hollie Lucas-Alcalay,</p>
April	<p>Paul and Darya Ferrer Paul and Darya Ferrer own Succiko, a Castro Valley shop specializing in succulents and air plants.</p>	<p>Succulents in our Homes. Paul and Darya Ferrer will provide an overview of the succulent species and growing conditions, and demonstrate design ideas for indoor use.</p>

March	Bill McNamara Executive director of Quarryhill Botanical Garden. Quarryhill, located in Glen Ellen, is one of the preeminent Asian botanical gardens.	The Edge of the World Revisited - Plant Hunting in China, The Mecca for Botanical Explorers We are honored this month to have Bill McNamara as our speaker. Overcrowding in the "Plantsman Paradise" of East Asia is causing massive urban and agriculture expansion, which in turn leads to plant extinction. Quarryhill, in partnership with the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, and the Howick Arboreteum, has made a series of expeditions to Asia for the purpose of research and conservation. This talk is about these expeditions.
February	Anita Clevenger Curator of the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden.	Climbing Roses Anita Clevenger will discuss: Climbing Roses. What is the difference between a rambler and large flowered climber? Do you know that not all climbers grow the same way? What are great climbers to grow in our valley? Come and learn more about climbing roses, how to prune them, structures to grow them on, water requirements and much more from Anita Clevenger.
January	Dr. Lisa Tell Dr. Tell is the Director of the U.C. Davis Hummingbird Health and Conservation Program, which promotes public involvement with science and natural history projects for hummingbird biology, health, disease ecology, and conservation.	Hummingbirds. Hummingbirds aren't just fascinating and entertaining birds in our gardens. They are important pollinators in our local ecosystems. Our January speaker, Dr Lisa Tell, will share with us some of her vast knowledge of hummingbirds, how to attract them to our gardens, and what we as gardeners can do to help hummingbirds. Join us for what will be an informative program about one of our favorite birds in the garden.

2015	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
December	Ann Ralph Our December author and speaker, Ann Ralph, worked at the Berkeley Horticultural Nursery where she taught pruning classes, and managed the fruit tree department.	Pruning Fruit Trees Ann has been promoting the idea of pruning to create small scale trees for a long time and will be here to tell us how we can create our own small scale fruit trees that are easy to pick. Her charming book, Grow a Little Fruit Tree will be available for sale.
November	Nicki Hughes Owner of the Gold Rush Nursery located in Soquel, CA.	Plants that deserve more limelight. If you are interested in water-wise plants that also benefit pollinators and beneficial insects (and who doesn't?), this is the talk for you! Nicki will talk about and bring examples of "Plants That Deserve More Limelight". She will tell us about lesser known plants that should be grown in our area and promises to bring many plants "That Deserve More Limelight" for sale. And Nicki has beautiful plants. For those of you who went to the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, you may have seen her wonderful booth. So, if you love plants, and who doesn't in our club, come and enjoy the talk and bring your cash or checkbook to purchase a few plants

October	Toni Gattone	Adaptive Gardening. We all love to garden and want to learn simple ways to tend our gardens with less stress and aches and pains. Toni Gattone is going to help us adapt new strategies to garden smarter and use some special tools or modify our existing tools. Please come and enjoy an informative presentation on making gardening an ageless pursuit.
September	Marlene Simon A horticulturalist at UC Davis, also known as the "Plant Lady" on Sacramento CW31.	Uncommon Native and Mediterranean bulbs to grow and naturalize in your gardens. Please join us as we welcome back Marlene Simon, a horticulturalist at UC Davis, also known as the "Plant Lady" on Sacramento CW31, to talk about uncommon bulbs that naturalize in our climate. Please join us as she opens us up to explore bulbs other than the ones that are offered in most garden centers. She might be bringing some with her so come to the meeting to find out!
June	Roger & Janie Chapin, LAVGC members. Roger and Janie are Pleasant Hill residents whose front and back gardens are populated by a variety of roses, a redwood grove, and many perennials.	Gardens of England. Postcards from 30 English Gardens. Many of us would absolutely love to stroll through the fabulous gardens of England if given half a chance. Please join us this month as we do a visual stroll through English gardens with club members, Roger and Janie Chapin who gave themselves that treat – and have wonderful pictures to share. As Janie narrates, Roger's pictures will make us feel like we're right there. Stourhead, Hidcote, Sissinghurst, and Mottisfont Abbey (the rose garden of rose gardens) are just a few of those featured. They also visited David Austin's Rose Nursery in Albrighton.
May	Novella Carpenter Urban Farmer and Adjunct Professor at San Francisco State University in Environmental Studies and Urban Agriculture. Author of The Essential Urban Farmer.	Urban Farming