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<p>May 12, 2022 Planned speaker and topic.</p> <p>An email with Monthly Meeting on Zoom details will be sent to Members close to the meeting time.</p>	<p>Our speaker Lisa Myers owns the Los Gatos Birdwatcher, a South Bay retail store which educates people how to observe and responsibly feed birds in their backyards. The store's mission is to educate, share adventures, and have fun through the love and experience of birds and nature. Lisa will be presenting ways to make your backyard gardens welcoming to wild birds</p>	<p>How to Attract Wild Birds to your Garden Lisa Myers started her birding tour business, Let's Go Birding, with the goal to provide fun and exciting adventures in the field and classroom while introducing people to the many organizations dedicated to environmental awareness & education. Lisa leads birding tours throughout northern California, Yellowstone & Texas as well as Central American hotspots including Costa Rica, Panama, and Belize. Lisa's niche is to make the beginning birders feel welcome and help them on their adventure into birding.</p>
<p>April 14, 2022</p>	<p>Our speaker, Susan Karasoff, is a member of the California Native Plant Society – Yerba Buena (San Francisco) chapter.</p>	<p>Gardening for Butterflies and Caterpillars Susan brings an “only the easiest plants survive” approach to gardening. Susan grows a buffet of colorful native edible and pollinator plants, specifically gardening to feed caterpillars, bees, hummingbirds and people. Susan’s mother-in-law gardens for butterflies and caterpillars in the East Bay in sandy soil.</p> <p>Susan will be assisted in the presentation by CNPS-East Bay member Lesley Hunt and Club members, Bill and Carrie McCormack, who are also members of CNPS and provided local knowledge.</p>

March 10, 2022

Cricket Riley, Landscape Design Consultant, Ruth Bancroft Garden. Plant centered design is the focus of all of Cricket's work at the Ruth Bancroft Garden. From designing gardens, to giving workshops, from writing about plants in the newsletter to ordering plants for the Nursery, educating people on the beauty, diversity and sustainability of regionally appropriate planting is always her goal. "Your garden should look good, feel good, and do good. If we've accomplished those three things, then we're successful". Cricket has an AA in Landscape Architecture from Merritt College, a BA in History from UC Santa Cruz, and a MA in Broadcast Journalism and Near Eastern Studies from NYU.

Gardening in Small Spaces.

Have a small front, side or back garden and don't know what to do? Cricket Riley will go over how to create that perfect 'jewel box' of a space as well as cover plant suggestions from the RBG Nursery that create big impact in small spaces. There are many factors that go into designing a beautiful, useful garden. In this lecture, Cricket will cover many of the different factors you need to consider and help you navigate the process of refurbishing a bed or designing a whole new garden.

February 10, 2022

Michael Marchiano, Naturalist, is a life time resident of the Bay Area with a life time interest in local flora and fauna. He received his BA in History and Political Science from St. Mary's College in Moraga. He went on to do graduate work at the University of California, Berkeley and at St. Mary's and received a California lifetime teaching Credential.

He taught for five years before he entered the field of law enforcement where he spent 30+ years. He is married to his wife Paula of 46 years and has four children, Michelle, Janelle, Matthew and Adrienne and two Grandchildren.

His avocation since childhood has been as a Naturalist. He has hiked and explored through out California since he was six years old. His special interests have been in insects, spiders, reptiles, birds, flowers, and mushrooms found in the Bay Area and California. He photographs local wild flowers and native plants, birds, insects, mushrooms and reptiles, some of which you may see during his presentation. He has taken special interest in correcting urban myths and folk lore about many wild creatures, especially spiders and snakes that live in the Bay Area.

Michael has led outings and done presentations for Mount Diablo State Park, Save Mount Diablo, Lindsey Museum, Audubon, S.F. Exploratorium, Contra Costa Water District, numerous schools and colleges, civic organizations, Scouts, 4H groups, and many other community organizations. Presently he is the resident Naturalist for Wild Birds Unlimited in Pleasant Hill and volunteers as a docent/naturalist with the Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association.

Mt. Diablo: An Island in the Middle of Suburbia.

Michael will focus on the flora and fauna of the mountain, hopefully enticing those who don't know it to want to come explore.

January 13, 2022	Former LAVGC club president, Lydia Roberts.	The RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2021. Lydia was finally able to visit friends and family in England this past September and was delighted to find out that, because of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Chelsea Flower Show had been moved from its usual date in May. It was the first time that the world-famous show had been held in September and a seasonal palette of plants was on display in the show gardens and around the Great Pavilion. Sustainability, climate change, and pollinators were key themes at the show. Lydia will entertain us with photos from the show and also 2 other Royal Horticultural Gardens in England and the amazing Eden Project in Cornwall.
2021	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
December 9, 2021	This month's speaker is our own member Lynn MacFarland. Lynn is a National Garden Club Master Judge and NGC Four-Star Member.	Lynn will present via Zoom on Holiday Floral Arrangements for All. Lynn will demonstrate holiday-themed arrangements and decorations for table and buffet with simple step-by-step instructions.
November 11, 2021	Renee Shepherd of Renee's Garden. Renee is widely regarded as a pioneering innovator in introducing international specialty vegetables and herbs for home gardeners and gourmet restaurants.	Garden to Table from Seeds. Renee's company, Renee's Garden, features carefully selected, well trialed choices of both Certified Organic and conventional seeds for exciting new and time-tested heirloom gourmet vegetables, culinary herbs and a wide range of fragrant and cutting flowers, sourced from seed growers both large and small around the world.

October 14, 2021	<p>Lew Feldman is the Director of the UC Botanical Garden and a Professor of Plant Biology at Berkeley. He is a graduate of UC Davis and received his Ph.D. from Harvard. Subsequently, he joined the faculty of the UC Berkeley Department of Botany (now the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology) where he has spent his entire academic career as a Professor of Plant Biology. He is a plant developmental biologist and his research has focused on root development. His main thrust as Director of the UC Botanical Garden is to ensure that the plant collection is curated and well managed, which involves raising funds to maintain and update the facilities for caring for the plants. Additionally, as Director, he works to promote Garden activities in Conservation, Education and Research.</p>	<p>Lew Feldman will take us on a virtual tour of the UC Botanical Garden, discussing its history, the background on the Garden’s special collection, the Garden’s mission (which includes education, conservation and research) and future directions and goals for the Garden.</p>
September 9, 2021	<p>Suzanne Bontempo owner of Plant Harmony and program manager of Our Water Our World.</p>	<p>Suzanne Bontempo presentation will be “Protecting Gardens During Drought” and will cover ways to manage our gardens during drought, watering efficiently and effectively, improving our soils to hold more water, alternative water resources, and reducing summer pests.</p>
June 10, 2021	<p>LAVGC member Dolores Bengtson</p>	<p>“Change Over Time” is the topic of the June meeting. Gardens often change over time to meet interests and needs. LAVGC member Dolores Bengtson will present a program based on her latest garden change, removing all the turf and many of the trees and plants in her back garden and introducing Mediterranean mounds. The change was to provide a garden more tuned into low water use while offering good habitat for creatures. The presentation will show steps in creating the mounds, installing irrigation, creating pathways as well as showing plants that thrive on drip and those that hold out for a more generous irrigation system.</p>
May 13, 2021	<p>Peter Schumacher from Mt Diablo Beekeepers will be our speaker this month.</p>	<p>All About Honey Bees. Peter became a beekeeper in 2008 when a swarm decided to fly into his backyard. He is now an active member of the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association. The talk will attempt to help point folks in the direction of what to expect and do in the keeping of bees. It will also cover best practices on how to help bees in general. (ed. Note: a novel that tells about honey bees and what their lifestyle is The Honey Bus by Meredith May)</p>

April 19, 2021

Dan Hinkley, the renowned plants man and author.

Dan Hinkley is an award-winning teacher, writer, lecturer, consultant, nurseryman, naturalist and gardener. His latest book, Windcliff, A Story of People, Plants and Gardens, was released just last year. Above all, he is committed to solid and sustainable horticultural practices, above average garden plants, landscapes of distinction, and raising the collective awareness of the diversity of plant life on Earth as well as the magic and mysteries of our natural world. The program will probably not be recorded so will not be available for viewing at another time.

Windcliff, a new sustainable garden.

We are sharing our meeting with the California Horticultural Society this month as this affords us the great opportunity to hear Dan Hinkley, the renowned plants man and author, speak to us about the creation of his new garden, Windcliff. The California Horticultural Society will be the Zoom hosts and the meeting will start at 6:30pm with a plant forum that will last for approximately 30 minutes. The presentation will start directly after that. The plant forum is where CalHort members show photographs and talk about something interesting growing in their garden that month. Please note there will not be a business meeting this month.

11-Mar-21

C. Colston Burrell is an acclaimed lecturer, garden designer and photographer.

Gardener Lovers Travel.

C. Colston Burrell is the author of 12 gardening books, Cole has twice won the American Horticulture Society Book Award. A certified chlorophyll addict, Cole is an avid and lifelong plantsman, gardener and naturalist. He is a popular lecturer internationally on topics of design, plants and ecology, sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm with professional and amateur audiences for 40 years. He escorts garden and natural history tours throughout the United States and abroad through Garden and Nature Tours with C. Colston Burrell. He is principal of Native Landscape Design and Restoration, which specializes in blending nature and culture through artistic design. In 2008 Cole received the Award of Distinction from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers for his work promoting sustainable gardening practices. His work is part of the Smithsonian Archive of American Gardens. He gardens on 10 wild acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Cole will talking to us about many wonderful gardens around the world – many of which, we will no doubt be tempted to visit in the future.

February 11, 2021	Lorene Edwards Forkner , artist and designer, writer, editor and educator is a columnist for The Seattle Times' weekly GROW column in Pacific NW Magazine. She is the author of five garden books, including the newly released, The Beginner's Guide to Growing Great Vegetables, Timber Press 2021. Follow Lorene on Instagram @gardenercook and visit her website, ahandmadegarden.com, where you'll find her recent writing, a schedule of upcoming workshops and events, and a selection of art prints for sale, produced from her daily Seeing Color in the Garden practice.	Seeing Color in the Garden Focus and refresh. Color is one of nature's most sophisticated tools engineered to capture the attention of all living creatures. This presentation demonstrates how to discover hidden hues and enhance your approach to designing with color.
January 14, 2021	Phil Stob	Caring for Garden Tools. Phil Stob will be showing us how to care for our gardening tools with a special emphasis on sharpening! Professionally Phil is an engineer and QC guy but he is also a gear head who likes tools and collects them. Lots of them – the best ones often obtained at garage sales and Craigslist. He learned to sharpen tools and learned that an old sharp tool will outperform most of the new tools you can buy. Well maintained tools make the job easier, more enjoyable, result in better cuts, and healthier plants. Good tools, taken care of, will last you a lifetime. Join us to be inspired on how to tune up your tool collection this winter.

2020	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
December 10, 2020	Jackie Courtright Williams, Alden Lane proprietor	The Winter Garden. Naturally Jacquie has a wealth of specific local information to share about this sometimes forgotten season in the garden and we can be sure it will be a delightful evening where we will all learn something new.

November 12, 2020	Kate Frey - author of "The Bee Friendly Garden"	<p>Community Focused Garden Design</p> <p>Barbara Stott has known Kate for many years and Kate is the first person to have enticed me to even think about gardening in a way that is appropriate for where I live and for the greater good of the natural world. Being from England, my first love will always be lush English style borders but Kate has taught me I can have my cake (another love) and eat it. Kate’s book on “The Bee Friendly Garden” was the inspiration I needed to think differently about the way I garden and as she so aptly says on the cover of her book, “Design an abundant, flower-filled yard that nurtures bees and supports biodiversity”. Of course, I have a garden, not a yard. In 2003, Kate designed a garden for the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show in England and she won a Silver Gilt medal. I saw it so I can tell you that it was a stunningly beautiful garden and apparently the Queen agreed with me. Kate went on to win Gold Medals in 2005 and 2007. So please join us on zoom to meet Kate and learn about: “Locally-focused gardens that strive to contribute to the community (humans, wildlife, and larger landscape). Site specific, filled with flowers, pollinators and artistry; they are places of delight. They contain and encompass the many aspects of landscapes such as appearance and functionality. But what are these community-based principles and practices? How do we create these gardens?”</p> <p>You will see many examples of these kinds of gardens and accompanying sustainable, ecological principles in an inspirational slideshow. Barbara Stott, Program Committee.</p>
October 8, 2020	Debra Lee Baldwin - Succulent expert and bestselling author	Succulents for Our Gardens, Seasonal Décor, Projects and Gifts
September 10, 2020	Rebecca Sweet - Renowned author, speaker and garden designer	Rebecca will show us a fresh approach to explain and simplify traditional design concepts for home gardeners of all levels. Both practical and inspirational, you’ll learn how to break down traditional garden design principles into easy-to-understand and, more importantly, easy-to-implement solutions. The presentation will highlight and reinforce real-life situations, helping you not only identify what has gone wrong with your garden, but how to fix the problem. Whether it is a life circumstance or a pandemic that just won’t go away – Rebecca comments that she is forever grateful to have her garden as a sanctuary. So please join us for our first ever Zoom meeting, to find out just how easy it is to wake a weary garden, turning a ‘blah’ space into a breathtaking place!
June 11, 2020	CANCELLED	
May 14, 2020	David Langendorff	David Langendorff will speak on “ Irrigation Options for Residential Irrigations Systems. ” .” David will help members understand how systems work and which system would be best for gardens with specific irrigation needs.
April 9, 2020	Jan Spieth of Mt. Diablo Beekeepers Association	Jan Spieth will provide a presentation on bee keeping . She will show an active demonstration hive plus display beekeeping equipment. A slide show will provide full information on the challenges and pleasures of keeping bees and the importance of honey bees as key pollinators.

<p>March 12, 2020 <u>CANCELLED</u></p>	<p>Janet Sluis of Sunset Western Gardens As director of the Sunset Western Garden Collection, Janet evaluates, writes and speaks about plant introductions and how to garden with them.</p>	<p>Ms. Sluis is an experienced horticulturalist with a demonstrated history of new plant introductions and plant programs with the horticulturalist industry. She specializes in low water, regionally appropriate, easy maintenance landscapes.</p>
<p>February 13, 2020</p>	<p>Rose Loveall of Morning Sun Herb Farms 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>Rose Loveall has introduced many to the world of flavor, fragrance, and foliage via the use of herbs. Her education and background give her the knowledge and skills necessary to establish her as an authority on the subject of selection and cultivation of herbs. Rose will speak about herbs, their variety and uses. There will be an opportunity to purchase plants. Also, see Ms. Loveall's October, 2016 presentation link below.</p>

January 9, 2020

Armando de Loera, sustainable eco-floral designer and **Adam Schindler**, both of **ROSEANDTHORN DESIGN** will share their knowledge while creating 6 floral designs.

Bloomed This Way! Beauty and Sustainability Together as One. ROSEANDTHORN DESIGN has achieved prizes in both state and national competitions. They are a floral design house in San Francisco, have been featured in the San Francisco Chronicle, Nob Hill Gazette, San Francisco Magazine, the Fine Arts of Museum Magazine and have held exhibitions at The De Young Museum, Saks Fifth Avenue, and the Annual Oakland Tulip Exhibition. Armando de Loera, sustainable eco-floral designer and Adam Schindler, both of ROSEANDTHORN DESIGN will share their knowledge while creating 6 floral designs.

They will educate us on - **Household Hunt** – repurposing household items in decorative design, along with functional support for your flowers; Garden Scents - blossoming fragrant expression in your floral arrangement; Pop of Color – evoking emotion using colorful California Grown Flowers.

At the conclusion of their program, **the six beautiful floral creations made during their presentation will be auctioned** to our members and guests. The proceeds of the auction will go to the club.

2019	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
December 12, 2019	Sharon Howard LAVGC member	<p>Our own Sharon Howard will tell us all we ever wanted to know about salvias. There is a wide variety of salvias, thriving in a variety of growing conditions. Sharon will help us recognize the varieties and understand the best way to use them in your garden,</p> <p>Sharon says about her love for Salvias: “I joined LAVGC in 1994 as we had moved to Livermore in 1988 from the Chicago area and the local plants and flowers were completely foreign to me. I had grown bushels of potatoes and peonies in Illinois but in California there were so many unfamiliar plants I needed help. I have totally enjoyed the club and have learned so many wonderful things from the members. Salvia’s have become my new passion and I probably have 20 or more varieties. I hope to help others develop this wonderful passion for this plant</p>
November 14, 2019	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.	<p>Dr. Brunell will cover diversity, selection, and cultural requirements of native plants for garden use. Also, there will be a discussion about the resources available for learning more about native plants and their culture.</p> <p>Note: due to technical problems the video is short.</p>
October 10, 2019	Mark Whittman , founder of Blue Sky Biochar and environmental activist	Creating Living Soil . Michael Wittman will be our speaker for the evening. During his talk, Michael will provide information on biochar and tell us how to create and maintain living soil. He will cover key components such as biochar, custom compost, worm castings, complex rock dust blend, and mycorrhizae. His own edible garden is a laboratory for what he teaches, including rainwater harvesting, composting, making biochar, and concocting soil -improving mixtures. Michael has influenced municipal planting practices in his home city of Thousand Oaks, resulting in better plant viability and reduced water and chemical use.
September 12, 2019	LAVGC members	LAVGC Special 35th Anniversary Presentation The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will celebrate its 35th anniversary with an interesting program featuring a narrated slide show, “a window into the past”, an exhibit of memorabilia plus a pot-luck and social. Past presidents and guests who have played an important part in the success of the Club have been invited.

June 13, 2019	Jennifer de Graaf Landscape Architect	Fire Here?! A Primer for Understanding Our Own Risks and Opportunities. Our speaker, Jennifer de Graaf, has been interested in gardening as long as she can remember. She studied Landscape Architecture to make a career of it and found that it was best to challenge both her students and clients to understand how things work, rather than just telling them what to do. This approach has led her to the goal of helping people understand the reasoning behind the “defensible zones”, how fires move, why the recommendations we often read can be misleading, and what we can all realistically do about it. She emphasizes that everyone can do something, regardless of how much land they steward, or where they live. She will be discussing typical fire behavior, the synergies (and sometimes tension) between fire and the environment, and how we can select and care for plants to make them as low-risk as possible
May 9, 2019	Katie Koch	Garden to Vase Katie Koch is the owner, farmer, and florist of Flower Mama based in Winters, CA. She grows a diversity of cut flowers with no-till farming practices and is an eco-conscious floral designer. She will demonstrate how to arrange a lush, garden style arrangement in a compote vessel without floral foam as well as a simple market bouquet. She will discuss the varieties of flowers that thrive in our climate and provide insight on post harvest care to maximize vase life.
April 11, 2019	Carole Frost	There’s Magic in the Soil Please join us for our April meeting to hear Carole Frost present “There’s Magic in the Soil”. She’ll cover the importance of building a healthy soil, how we should be treating our soil as its own ecosystem, and the three sides to building a healthy soil. The three sides will include: Soil Biology, Soil Chemistry, and Soil Structure. She’ll also touch on cover cropping and sheet mulching to assist in building healthy soil.

<p>March 14, 2019</p>	<p>John Morton Vice President, San Leandro Dahlia Society</p>	<p>Dahlias If you have ever looked dreamily at beautiful dahlias growing in any garden and wish you knew how to grow, divide, and maintain these beautiful plants please join us for John Morton's presentation on the secrets of growing dahlias. John has been the President of the San Leandro Dahlia Society for more than 15 years and is currently Vice-President of the American Dahlia Society. He is also a Senior Judge of dahlias and participates in the San Francisco Garden Show. John has been growing show dahlias since the late 1980's. Check out his YouTube clips under dahlias 100.5. YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUGyIZ0INPU</p>
<p>February 14, 2019</p>	<p>Andrea Hurd, Mariposa Gardening and Design</p>	<p>Drought Tolerant Garden Design Andrea Hurd from Mariposa Gardening and Design, is an award winning stonemason, garden designer and horticulturist in the Bay Area. She has a long list of credentials. To name just a few; she is featured in Sunset Gardens, KQED, Pacific Horticulture Magazine, Western Horticultural Society, Oakland Magazine and much more! Please check her website at http://www.mariposagardening.com. Andrea has used Permaculture as the guiding design principle for all of the gardens she has worked on and designed. Andrea's garden designs feature her artistic eye, as well as her love for well-built dry-stacked stonework.</p>
<p>January 10, 2019</p>	<p>Bethallyn Black Associate Professor of Horticulture, Diablo Valley College</p>	<p>Winter Weeds As our climate changes, the variety of unwanted weeds are changing as well. Professor Black will tell us about the old and new winter weeds and how best to manage them. Salad anyone?"</p>

2018	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
December 13, 2018	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, 2018	<p>Tora Rocha Curator of the Gardens at Lake Merritt</p>	<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, 2018	<p>Peter Beiersdorfer Livermore</p>	<p>Succulent Tidbits from Four Continents.</p> <p>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.</p>
September 13,2018	<p>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.</p>	<p>Gardening in Our Second Spring</p>

June 14, 2018	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, 2018	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, 2018	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, 2018	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, 2018	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, 2018	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"?

2017	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
December, 2017	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
November, 2017	<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, 2017	<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, 2017	<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, 2017	<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, 2017	<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, 2017	<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, 2017	Ron Stroube, LAVGC member	<p>Orchids 101.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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, 2017	Lee Giroux, LAVGC member	<p>All About Native/Mediterranean Plant Care.</p> <p>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, 2017	<p>Brian Perrin</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>

2016	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
December, 2016	<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, 2016	<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, 2016	<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, 2016	<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, 2016	<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, 2016	<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, 2016	<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, 2016	<p>Bill McNamara Executive director of Quarryhill Botanical Garden. Quarryhill, located in Glen Ellen, is one of the preeminent Asian botanical gardens.</p>	<p>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.</p>
February, 2016	<p>Anita Clevenger Curator of the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden.</p>	<p>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.</p>

January, 2016	<p>Dr. Lisa Tell</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Hummingbirds.</p> <p>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.</p>
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2015	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
December, 2015	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
November, 2015	<p>Nicki Hughes Owner of the Gold Rush Nursery located in Soquel, CA.</p>	<p>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</p>
October, 2015	<p>Toni Gattone</p>	<p>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.</p>
September, 2015	<p>Marlene Simon A horticulturalist at UC Davis, also known as the "Plant Lady" on Sacramento CW31.</p>	<p>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!</p>

<p>June, 2015</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>May, 2015</p>	<p>Novella Carpenter Urban Farmer and Adjunct Professor at San Francisco State University in Environmental Studies and Urban Agriculture. Author of The Essential Urban Farmer.</p>	<p>Urban Farming</p>
<p>to be rescheduled</p>	<p>Dr. Gordon Frankie, Professor of Environmental Science, Policy, Management at UC Berkeley</p>	<p>Native Bees in Your Garden. Dr. Frankie is known for his leadership of the UC Berkeley Urban Bee Lab. His research focus is on the behavioral ecology and community organization of solitary bee species in selected environments in CA and Costa Rica. There are over 1600 species of bees native to California. We usually don’t even notice them unless we are looking for them. Most are solitary, foraging and nesting on their own. Dr. Frankie has been documenting the impact of wild bees on CA native plants and our gardens since 1987. What a great opportunity to find out more about these amazing insects and learn strategies to attract them into our gardens.</p>