

LAVGC Programs

The Club began recording programs in 2016. For speakers who agreed to be recorded, links to their videos are included under their program title. Photos and handouts that speakers provided are linked in their program description. Early programs starting in 2009 are also listed in this file along with any handouts they provided. This historical information might be helpful to the program planning committee.

Last updated: January 11, 2025

Programs 2024-2025 Membership Year

Note: *Programs that have not yet occurred are subject to change.*

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2025	LAVGC Awards and Social	--
May 2025	TBD	
April 2025	TBD	
March 2025	TBD	
Feb 2025	TBD	
Jan 2025	Winter Pruning—here we come: focus on fruit trees. Imagine the possibilities! https://youtu.be/SC0dQTu5w1g	Steve Campbell, Hollandia Nursery
Dec 2024	Holiday party	Members
Nov 2024	Pruning Native Plants https://youtu.be/Z2GNo6xY33U	Laura Cornett, Las Positas College
Oct 2024	Growing daffodils https://youtu.be/LIABuiEQMQQ	Kirby Fong
Sept 2024	The Art and Economics of Urban Flower Farming https://youtu.be/rNBchM7zNCs	Elizabeth Fields, Five Fields Flower Farm

Programs 2023-2024 Membership Year

Note: *Programs that have not yet occurred are subject to change.*

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2024	LAVGC Awards and Social	--
May 2024	Creating Pollinator Corridors with Native California Plants https://youtu.be/vXn-tXa7ITc https://lavgc.org/Docs/Pollinator_pathways_brochure - final.pdf https://lavgc.org/Docs/GG.DisplayAd5.e.res.pdf https://lavgc.org/Docs/East Bay Chapter Brochure.pdf	Carol Garberson
April 2024	Garden Nomenclature https://youtu.be/qSuLFeICJzw https://lavgc.org/Docs/JenniferdeGraaf_Plant_Nomenclature.pdf	Jennifer DeGraaf
March 2024	Soil Ecology and Gardening Strategies https://youtu.be/BOW8NfmiGPg	Dave Phelps
Feb 2024	Irises https://youtu.be/kZ1mte0r63g	Carol Dahout
Jan 2024	Sustainable and Edible Gardening in Small Spaces https://youtu.be/uy5zO4-qVTo	Christy Ross
Dec 2023	Holiday party and auction	Members
Nov 2023	Garden Design and Drought Tolerant Plants	Sarah Lee
Oct 2023	Fall Salads—From Garden to Table https://youtu.be/impDOcplgt0	Alicia Eltgroth and Pam Johansen from Alden Lane Nursery
Sept 2023	It All Began in a Garden (Ann describes her garden's evolution to a succulent garden) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuJo4-6xq_o	Ann DuMont

Programs 2022-2023 Membership Year

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2023	Planting Considerations in the Understory of Existing Trees and our Year-End Potluck Social https://lavgc.org/Docs/JenniferdeGraaf-TreeUnderStoryFINAL.pdf	Jennifer de Graaf, an eco-conscious garden designer from Oakland
May 2023	Sensory Garden Refresh Project https://lavgc.org/Docs/SensoryGardenMemberMtg5-11-2023.pdf	Dolores Bengston, Beth Clark, Nancy Harrington, Michelle Suski, Michelle Tallon, Betty Nostrand
April 2023	Pruning Various Types of Flowering Plants and Bushes https://youtu.be/Q_SKVI0Sv4g	Lita Gates, Western Garden Nursery
March 2023	Geraniums and Pelargoniums https://youtu.be/Hx3ojsSSnh0	Robin Parer, owner of the Geraniaceae company in Marin County
Feb 2023	Tips for Seed Saving and Propagation	Guy Duran, Sandy Wood, Laura Cornett from the Alameda County master gardeners
Jan 2023	Branching Out https://youtu.be/LQ8bTMv5r4E Design1 Design2 Design3 Design4 Design5	Lisa Ayala, floral designer
Dec 2022	The Little Seedling that Could https://youtu.be/IEoEgp9xgKk	Tom Carruth, Curator of the Rose Collection at the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California
Nov 2022	Succulent Crafting	Anna and Karen Zakaria, from 4 Surya Garden
Oct2022	Good insects and bad ones: how do I tell? https://youtu.be/3bxOcEjzOsQ	Dr. Vernard Richard Lewis, a retired UC Berkeley professor of Entomology
Sept 2022	Garden Up! Smart Vertical Gardening for Small and Large Spaces https://lavgc.org/Docs/RSweetGardenUp9-2022.docx	Rebecca Sweet, Harmony in the Garden

Programs 2021-2022 Membership Year

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2022	Social	--
May 2022	How to Attract Wild Birds to your Garden	Lisa Myers, owner of Los Gatos Birdwatcher
April 2022	Gardening for Butterflies and Caterpillars	Susan Karasoff, member of the California Native Plant Society – Yerba Buena (San Francisco) chapter.
March 2022	Gardening in Small Spaces	Cricket Riley, Landscape Design Consultant, Ruth Bancroft Garden.
Feb 2022	My Diablo: An Island in the Middle of Suburbia https://youtu.be/NMzcYvzu50I	Michael Marchiano, naturalist
Jan 2022	The RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2021 https://youtu.be/Hp73ukn9JHk	Lydia Roberts (member)
Dec 2021	Holiday Floral Arrangements https://youtu.be/dvppC3d7S9o	Lynn MacFarland (member)
Nov 2021	Garden to Table from Seeds https://youtu.be/QhJ-u3Y0I5U	Renee Shepherd, from Renee's Garden
Oct 2021	Berkeley's unexplored treasure; the UC Botanical Garden https://youtu.be/Dh9-S2H9QNw	Lew Feldman, Director of the UC Botanical Garden and a Professor of Plant Biology at Berkeley.
Sept 2021	Protecting Gardens During Drought https://youtu.be/oHzGPM9j-WU	Suzanne Bontempo, owner of Plant Harmony and program manager of Our Water Our World.

Programs 2020-2021 Membership Year

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2021	Change Over Time https://youtu.be/EnSZKwP0Nec	Dolores Bengtson (member)

May 2021	All About Honey Bees https://youtu.be/VVO1irz16Uo	Peter Schumacher, Mt Diablo Beekeepers
April 2021	Creating Windcliff – Mistakes and Miracles Along the Way	Dan Hinkley, teacher, author, nurseryman, naturalist and gardener.
March 2021	Gardener Lovers Travel https://youtu.be/0-p4CAZ0qmE	C. Colston Burrell, lecturer, garden designer and photographer.
Feb2021	Seeing Color in the Garden https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ud9TnV8	Lorene Edwards Forkner, artist, designer, writer, editor, educator, columnist
January 2021	Caring for Gardening Tools https://youtu.be/qyXNnY1nReM	Phil Stob
Dec 2020	The Garden in Winter	Jacque Williams-Courtright, Alden Lane
Nov2020	Community Focused Garden Design	Kate Frey, landscaper, author of The Bee Friendly Garden
Oct2020	Succulents for Our Gardens, Seasonal Décor, Projects and Gifts	Debra Baldwin, Succulent expert and bestselling author
Sept 2020	Refresh Your Garden Design – simple strategies to wake a weary garden Handout: https://lavgc.org/Docs/RSweetRefreshGardenDesign9-2020.docx	Rebecca Sweet, Renowned author, speaker and garden designer, Harmony in the Garden

Programs 2019-2020 Membership Year

Month	Program	Speaker
March, April, May, June 2020	Canceled due to Covid	
Feb 2020	The World of Herbs	Rose Loveall, Morningsun Farm
Jan 2020	Bloomed This Way! Beauty and Sustainability Together as One	Armando de Loera and Adam Schindler, Roseandthorn Design

	https://youtu.be/GYLCsbTirUo	
Dec2019	All You Wanted to Know About Salvias https://youtu.be/_miFYLxZFL4	Sharon Howard (member)
Nov 2019	California Native Plants in the Home Garden	Dr. Mark Brunell, Phd. in Biological Sciences. Teaches at University of Pacific in Stockton
Oct 2019	Michael Wittman, founder of Blue Sky	Michael Wittman, founder of Blue Sky Biochar and Environmental
Sept 2019	35th Anniversary Celebration, Program https://lavgc.org/Docs/LAVGC35AnniversaryFinal.pdf https://lavgc.org/Docs/LAVGC35GardenToursFinal.pdf	LAVGC Members Dolores Bengtson, Betty Nostrand, Beth Clark

Programs 2018-2019 Membership Year

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2019	Fire Here?! A Primer for Understanding Our Own Risks and Opportunities https://youtu.be/S8Uv0jg3gVw	Jennifer de Graaf, landscape architect
May 2019	Garden to Vase https://youtu.be/sKv5wLmjDdw	Katie Koch, owner, farmer, and florist of Flower Mama based in Winters, CA
April 2019	There's Magic in the Soil https://youtu.be/eV9uN6yCkTU	Carole Frost
March 2019	Secrets of Growing Dahlias https://youtu.be/8tkQC515gck	John Morton, Vice President San Leandro Dahlia Society
Feb 2019	Drought Tolerant Garden Design https://youtu.be/aju7-n_fow	Andrea Hurd, Mariposa Gardening
Jan 2019	Plants Out of Place https://youtu.be/huVoou7R23g	Bethallyn Black, Associate Professor of Horticulture, Diablo Valley College
Dec 2018	Growing California Native Plants in the Garden – A Few Favorites	Pete Veilleux, East Bay Wilds Native Plants Nursery

Nov 2018	How Our Landscape practices affect our local ecosystems https://youtu.be/PnCnM_72oLM	Tora Rocha, Curator of the Gardens at Lake Merritt
Oct 2018	Succulent Tidbits from Around the World	Peter Beiersdorfer
Sept 2018	Gardening in Our Second Spring http://lavgc.org/Docs/Brunell%20Gardening%	Dr. Mark Brunell, Phd. in Biological Sciences. Teaches at University of Pacific in Stockton

Programs 2017-2018 Membership Year

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2018	Santa Barbara Road Trip	Linda Jensen (member)
May 2018	The Beautiful Edible Garden	Leslie Bennett, Founder/owner of Pine House Edible Gardens and co-author of "The Beautiful Edible Garden".
April 2018	Lavender Growing and Propagation https://youtu.be/RD8cljuh8c	Sharon Howard (member)
March 2018	What Gardeners Can Do to Stop the Sale and Spread of Invasive Plants https://youtu.be/wJMrKTCDLn8 Plant Right: https://plantright.org/ CA Invasive Plant Council: https://www.cal-ipc.org/ National Invasive Species Information https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/	Stephanie Falzone, Project Manager of PlantRight
Feb 2018	Waterwise Garden Design with Mediterranean Mounds https://youtu.be/SiYIXdac52M	Jeff Rosendale, Co-owner with his wife Lisa, of Sierra Azul Nursery and Gardens in Watsonville.
Jan 2018	Mushrooms: what are they and what are they doing in my garden https://youtu.be/OIvbiOzPDRU	David Rust, President of the North American Mycological Association and Cofounder of the Bay Area Mycological Society

Dec 2017	A History of the Rose in California	Darrell Schramm, professor University of San Francisco, author "Rainbow, A History of the Rose in California"
Nov 2017	Aesthetic Pruning	Leslie Buck, garden designer and aesthetic pruner
Oct 2017	Getting along with the creatures in your garden	Joan Morris, pets & wildlife columnist for the Bay Area News, writes about gardening and is the founder of Our Garden, a demonstration garden in Walnut Creek
Sept 2017	Easy Bulbs with Bill the Bulb Baron https://youtu.be/YeHJiELqB_c	William R. P. Welch (Bill 'the Bulb Baron' Welch), leading authority and hybridizer of Tazetta and other narcissus, amaryllis

Programs 2016-2017 Membership Year

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2017	Members' Favorite Plants	Sharon Howard, member
May 2017	Bats– Environmental Benefits and How They Can Help Us in Our Gardens https://youtu.be/tzjCSchRcf0	Corky Quirk, Founder of Sacramento's Northern California Bats (NorCalBats)
April 2017	Designing for Small Gardens https://youtu.be/cpNcfo0ZuSs	Susan Ballinger from Susan Ballinger Garden Design
March 2017	Orchids 101 https://youtu.be/uwgU_6ssbw8	Ron Stroube, member
Feb 2017	All About Native/Mediterranean Plant Care https://youtu.be/OC0tSEDxOOs	Lee Giroux, member
Jan 2017	You can grow edibles in containers, raised beds, and planters https://youtu.be/U_zOBYfGkWA	Brian Perrin, Alden Lane Nursery
Dec 2016	Plants for Christmas	Lita Gates, Western Garden

	https://youtu.be/fb2qjM3fwtM	Nursery
Nov 2016	Plant Choices for the California Landscape https://youtu.be/NoVjrn_LF3c	Janet Sluis, Sunset Western Garden
Oct 2016	Herbs for our Climate https://youtu.be/9-hzT6V94jY	Rose Loveall, Morningsun Herb Farm
Sept 2016	Soils: the Foundation for a Healthy Garden https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMFh6ggF	Terry Lyngso, President and CFO Lyngso Garden Materials

Programs 2015-2016 Membership Year

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2016	Dealing with Drought https://youtu.be/dep6e_zvm4Y	Robert Kourik, garden designer
May 2016	Herbs as Medicine https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YcaPTquV	Hollie Lucas Alcaay, Owner of Hollie's Homgrown Herb Farm in Moraga
April 2016	Succulents in our Homes	Paul and Darya Ferrer, Succiko, a Castro Valley shop specializing in succulents and air
March 2016	The Edge of the World Revisited – Plant Hunting in China. Mecca for Botanical Explorers https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eljaeDRlhg	Bill McNamara, Executive director of Quarryhill Botanical Garden
Feb 2016	Climbing Roses https://youtu.be/FC3RELySO1c	Anita Clevenger, Curator of the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden
Jan 2016	Attracting Hummingbirds to your Garden https://youtu.be/187jljaqGys	Dr Lisa Tell, Director of the U.C. Hum Davis Hummingbird Health
Dec 2015	Pruning Fruit Trees https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ILYqwPI	Ann Ralph, author of Grow a Little Fruit Tree
Nov 2015	Plants That Deserve More Limelight https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGc4FjjBZ	Nicki Hughes, Gold Rush Nursery

Oct 2015	Adaptive Gardening https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8VsqA3L	Toni Gattone
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Sept 2015	Uncommon Native and Mediterranean Bulbs to Grow and Naturalize in your Garden	Marlene Simon, horticulturalist at UC Davis
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Programs 2014-2015 Membership Year

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2015	Postcards from 30 English Gardens https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLOmbw	Roger and Janie Chapin (members)
May 2015	Urban Farming https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zdevNrl	Novella Carpenter
Apr 2015	Meeting rescheduled	
Mar 2015	Mediterranean Gardening and Plant Hormones	
Feb 2015	Salvias Around the World	Kermit Carter, Flowers by the Sea
Jan 2015	All About Seeds	Swallowtail Garden Seeds
Dec 2014	Mother Nature Rules	Dolores Bengtson (member)
Nov 2014	Aesthetic Pruning	Maryann Lewis
Oct 2014	?	
Sept 2014	Waterwise Gardening	Susan Handjian

Programs 2013-2014 Membership Year

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2014	All About Iris	Stan Morgan, Mt. Diablo Iris Society
May 2014	Filoli, its History and Garden	Tom Davids

Apr 2014	Shade Gardening in the Valley	Patrice Hanlon, Heather Farms
Mar 2014	Roses and the Rose Industry	Bill Mann, Star Roses
Feb 2014	South African Aloes	Brian Kemble, Ruth Bancroft Garden
Jan 2014	Pruning Fruit Trees	Dan Resor
Dec 2013	?	
Nov 2013	On the Way to the Garden, I Discovered Soil	Stephen Andrews
Oct 2013	Begonias for Beginners	Gary Douglas Turner
Sept 2013	Late Season Fruits for the Home Garden	Bethallyn Black

Programs 2012-2013 Membership Year

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2013	Potluck Social and a talk on Olive Oil	Charles Crohare of Olivina
May 2013	Aesthetic Pruning of Citrus for Fruit Production	?
April 2013	Salvias	Ernie Wasson Cabrillo College
March 2013	The Geranium Family: both Hardy (cranesbill) and Pelargoniums	Robin Parer
Feb 2013	Hydroponic Cultivation	Natalie Elola, The Lucky Garden, Dublin
Jan 2013	34 English Gardens in 13 Days	Anita Clevenger
Dec 2012	Gardens Within 2 Hours of the Livermore Amador Valley The Gardens Within Driving Distance of the Livermore Amador Valley document below contains over 180 gardens that are publicly accessible within 2 hours of the Livermore Amador Valley. Past LAVGC tours, websites, garden tour books, and recommendations from LAVGC members were used to create this document.	Sharon Howard and Karen Jefferson

https://lavgc.org/Resources/Public_Garden_recommendations.xlsx

https://lavgc.org/Resources/Public_Garden_recommendations_ver4.pdf

Nov 2012	Mushrooms!	Debbie Veiss
Oct 2012	The Techniques and Art of Bonsai Handout: https://lavgc.org/Resources/BasicBonsai.pdf	Charles Harder
Sept 2012	Winter Gardening with Organic Principles	Trish Hildinger

Programs 2011-2012 Membership Year

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2012	End of the year potluck and speaker on bees	Gordon Frankie
May 2012	Care and Culture of Succulents	Ernesto Sandoval
April 2012	Behind the Curtain at Monrovia Nursery	Nicholas Staddon
Mar 2012	?	
Feb 2012	Garden Design by Dennis Murray of Meadow Brook Design	Dennis Murray
Jan 2012	Non-toxic Methods of Controlling Animal Pests in Your Garden	Janet Miller
Dec 2011	Wildlife in the Garden	Gary Bogue
Nov 2011	Medicinal Herbs from Our Gardens	Denise Korosley
Oct 2011	Mystery Roses Around the World	Gregg Lowery, Vintage Gardens
Sept 2011	Garden Up! Ideas on Vertical Gardening	Susan Morrison

Programs 2010-2011 Membership Year

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2011	Year-end potluck and panel	Club members
May 2011	Garden Myths	Linda Chalker-Scott
April 2011	Good Bugs, Bad Bugs	Emma Connery
Mar 2011	Drought Tolerant Plants from Rosendale Nursery	Jeff Rosendale
Feb 2010	The History of Roses in Livermore	Jolene Adams
Jan 2011	Plant Genetics Made Simple	Kathy Echols
Sept 2010	California Native Plants	Troy McGregor
Oct 2010	The Four Seasons of Maples	Barry Hoffer
Nov 2010	Winterizing Your Garden	Brian Perrin, Alden Lane
Dec 2010	Inviting Birds into Your Garden	Jenny Papka

Programs 2009-2010 Membership Year

Month	Program	Speaker
June 2010	How to Effectively Use Water in a Drought, and LAVGC Club Member panel	Robert Kourik
May 2010	Garden Friends or Garden Pests	Emma Connery
Apr 2010	The Importance of gardening for farmers: Embracing Failure for Success	Fred Hempel
Mar 2010	Designing Beautiful and Bountiful Gardens: Edibles and More	Susan Ballinger and Victor Ruesga
Feb 2010	Breakthroughs in Natural Organic Practices	Gisele Schoniger from Kellogg Garden Products
Jan 2010	Australian and South African Plants	Kathy Echols

Dec 2009	Soil Composition and Your Plants	Brian Debasitis
Nov 2009	Daylilies	Neal Richmond, Bay Area Daylily Society
Oct 2009	Preparing and Planting the Winter Garden	Bethallyn Black
Sept 2009	Spring Annuals to Plant in the Fall	Patrice Hanlon, Gardens at Heather Farms