



Post Office Box 23, Manteca, California 95336  
 Facebook: Manteca garden club  
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### March 2015 Newsletter

President	Paula Elias
Vice President	Gloria Martinez
Treasurer	Ellen Paradiso
Secretary	Lorna Powell
Parliamentarian	Rita Canales



## President's Message

by Paula Elias



Shamrock Clover

Dear Garden Club Members:

March brings us to the first day of Spring. It seems like yesterday we just started our garden season. This is a busy time of year for us so please make sure you are checking our club yearbook for special dates!

A big thank you goes out to Marion for leading the library pot watering and to those members who signed up to help! Thanks to Hank and the rose captains; Wil and Tom S, Marion, Rescha, Barbara and Berti along with rose team members who will be signing up at our March meeting.

It has been wonderful to see pictures on our website of what is going on at the Sequoia Garden. Thanks to Tom P and Tom C for leading the garden effort for our club. I am sure GECAC is appreciative of their support in getting the gardens established at both Shasta and Sequoia schools.

We have an important member who is moving out of state soon and we will sure miss her!!! **Jan Epperson** has done just about everything for our club in one way or another. Jan joined our garden club in 2000 and she quickly came on board to helping with many committees; Arbor Day, Garden Club and Smokey the Bear to name just a few. Soon after joining, Jan was on the board serving as secretary, treasurer, president for two years (2005-2006) and parliamentarian (almost every year since leaving president). Jan was instrumental with helping our club become a non profit club and has been our contact for the Mayor's Committee of the Arts. Wow is all I can say! What a wonderful contribution! We will really miss you Jan and hope when you come back into town, you make sure it is the third Monday of the month and visit us!! Thank you for all you have done for the Manteca Garden Club.

Thanks to the many members who have raised their hand to serve as a chair on a project or serve on the board. You are needed and appreciated! We will have a lot of opportunity for folks to raise their hand in these roles in the coming months. And remember we are still looking for a co president for next year to work with me and continue on it the next!

Looking forward to seeing all members are our March meeting!

*Paula*

### Key Dates

**Meeting**

Monday, March 16  
 Refreshments: 12:30pm  
 Meeting: 12:55pm

**Speaker**

Eric Teberg – Garden Q & A

**San Francisco Flower  
 And Garden Show**

March 18-22 at the San Mateo Event Center, San Mateo, CA  
 Check out their website: <http://sfgardenshow.com/>

# Gardening Chores for March

by Sandi Larson, Master Gardener



March is a great month in the garden. By the end of the month many trees and shrubs are blooming. If we go out of town in mid March I always come back to find things blooming and feel like maybe I've missed a spectacular moment in my yard. Does anyone else feel like they do most of their plant shopping in the spring through maybe May or early June? If I were a smart gardener I would space out my purchases so that each season there is something of interest, fragrance or bloom in my yard. If I had the opportunity to install my yard all over, I'd put in some basic shrubs, basic irrigation and then every quarter or two months add items that I found in my local nursery.

Our soil in Manteca is generally excellent it's sandy-loam. The only drawback to excellent soil is the speed with which our plants grow. I've been guilty of underestimating the ultimate size of trees. I've mentioned many times that I'm always amazed when a landscaper plants several large conifers in a backyard and may not fully estimate the ultimate size. If you're having your yard planned right now verify the maximum height and width of your plants and trees. It'll cost you hundreds if not thousands of dollars to have an oversized tree removed when it outgrows its space. This is an excellent time to plant trees, shrubs, vines and perennials.

March is also an excellent time to start feeding your lawn. You can spot weed control in your lawn rather than apply a weed and feed if weeds aren't much of a problem. If you have bald spots in your grass now is a good time to reseed that spot. Pull as many weeds in your yard as possible while the soil may be moist.

If you've started vegetable seedlings indoors you can start putting them outside this month but don't plant the tomatoes or peppers yet as we can still have frost. If you've started annuals indoors they can start to be put outside during the day but don't leave them out overnight yet. Nurseries will also carry seedlings that have been hardened off already.

It's tempting to shop at nurseries that aren't in the central valley but be aware of what zone the plants will thrive in. I bought a couple of plants once while going through Half Moon Bay and -- not checking out their zone and temperature/humidity needs found out the hard way that the Coast is much easier on plants than in our Central Valley. I'm a slow learner (or maybe an optimist) because I've been known to make this mistake over and over again (like the movie 'Ground Hogs Day!')

March is the time also to start fertilizing your roses before they bloom. Fertilize once a month if you use a fertilizer only. Keep an eye out for the aphids looking for young shoots to devour. Also feed your camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons and other acid-loving plants this month after they have finished blooming. After the danger of frost is over if you haven't already done so prune your hydrangeas, fuschias and bouganvilleas.

This would be a good month to review the condition of your irrigation. I still have seen folks watering on Mondays -- which the City of Manteca has prohibited!!! We are still under drought conditions (as of early February) which means every gallon you can save is important. Also with our hard water in Manteca you will see the drip irrigation clogging up more frequently than if we had better water...softened water won't help your plants either. Build up of salt in your plants will eventually harm them. Occasional use can be ok but not over the long run. If you have softened water and you're watering your indoor houseplants with softened water try and use bottled or hard water whenever possible.

If you have indoor houseplants this is a good time to start using a balanced indoor fertilizer. Summer bulbs will be in the nurseries this month including lilies, dahlias, gladiolus and tuberous begonias. Capitola has a begonia festival every year and this year it's in September 4-7. They also have a famous restaurant called Shadow Brook on a beautiful creek and at the base of a hill. You ride an escalator down to the restaurant. During the Begonia Festival floats go by on the creek. Begonias will grow here but will need lots of shade and need to be kept moist. There are some newer varieties that are a little more heat resistant than previous varieties. I grew one last summer called **Santa Cruz Sunset Begonia** and it did very well in my backyard with quite a bit of sun and not a lot of water. It's of the trailing variety and hardy until the first frost. Check with a local nursery to see if it's available near the end of the month. The San Joaquin Master Gardeners are having a class on Handling Garden Enemies at the Manteca Library in the McFall Room on Saturday, March 21 from 10:30-12 noon. RSVP to 209-953-6100 by March 18 to ensure there are enough materials available for you. No cost to attend. Happy Gardening!



Dahlia and Yellow Version of Smoke Tree



Santa Cruz Sunset Begonia

## Refreshments by Kay Harris and Gail Pace

The following members have volunteered to bring refreshments to the February 16, 2015 Garden Club Meeting:

Bertie Baumeartner  
Joan Cefala  
Barb Stoner

Lanea Bolle  
Sandra Sarras

Refreshments start at 12:30pm. Please call Kay Harris @ 209-823-6366 or e-mail: [snoopi43@comcast.net](mailto:snoopi43@comcast.net).



## March Birthdays

2	Jacque Blevins
7	Sandra Nevares
22	Rita Canales
23	Valerie Pegan-Honn



## Plant(s) of the Month by Eric Teberg

### *Leucadendron Salignum* 'Summer Red'

This wonderful shrub is grown for the striking red bracts that develop at the branch tips in spring and summer.

Water: Infrequent  
Exposure: Full to Part Sun  
Hardiness: to 25°  
Size: 4' Tall x 6' Wide



*Leucadendron Salignum*  
'Summer Red'

### *Hardenbergia Vine*

An evergreen vine that climbs by twining stems.

Exposure: Sun or Lt Shade  
Soil: Heavy, well drained  
Hardiness: 20 - 25°  
Blooms: Winter/Spring  
Height: 12-16'  
Width: Spreading



*Hardenbergia Vine*