

## BURBANK-VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

# OVER THE GARDEN WALL

*Member of the San Fernando Valley District, California Garden Clubs, Inc.,*

*Pacific Region, and National Garden Clubs, Inc.*

*Newsletter Number 209 March 2025 Editor: Ingrid Nonnast*

### **March 6, 2025—Agenda**

9:30 a.m. Doors Open  
10:00 a.m. Business Meeting  
11:00 a.m. "All About Ferns"  
Speaker: Michael Moody



### **Burbank Valley Garden Club Newsletter March 2025**

#### **President's Message**

Hello Gardeners,

As we move into spring, many of us think of spring cleaning. Refreshing our homes and our gardens. What changes do we want to make or not make? One change many of us think about is whether to purchase house plants, bringing a bit of the outdoors inside. An important question to think about before buying house plants, what is the best location for house plants and how to care for house plants. House plants typically originate from tropical environments requiring lots of humidity. Since we do not live in a humid area, it becomes a bit tricky. Kitchen's and bathrooms are usually the best places for house plants since there is often running water evaporation and escaping steam. When thinking about other rooms in your home without a lot of humidity, you might consider purchasing a humidifier to provide that humidity.

Since house plants are grown in pots relying on a person to water and feed them nutrients, we will need to come up with a plan for watering. It is best to check the soil every few days to see if the plants need water. The best way to check on whether to water, is to poke your finger into the soil about one inch in depth. If it dry, it needs water. If it is moist then it can wait a few more days before watering. House plants generally need consistent watering about every 2 weeks. An easy and useful way to ensure adequate watering is to use a watering spike.

<https://www.upontherooftop.com.au/pages/waterpot-spikes-installation-information>. The watering spike is made out of terracotta and allows the house plant to take up water when it needs it. More house plants die of over watering than under watering. Spraying the leaves with tepid water to increase the humidity and keep the leaves free of house dust is also recommended.

House plants respond to the seasons just as though they were outside. The major difference between outdoor plants and indoor plants is most house plants require indirect light. So it is important to move your house plants around to determine the "favorite indirect light spot". If plants get too leggy, it usually means the plant is looking for more light.

Some gardeners enjoy creating large pot planters with various house plants for the natural beauty. While ferns are frequently one of the plants chosen for large pot planter gardens, many gardeners do not know how to give them the care they need to thrive. Michael Moody will be joining us on March 6, 2025 to speak, All About Ferns. Mr. Moody has been collecting ferns since 1981. He is past President of the Los Angeles International Fern Society.

We hope you will join us at 10am Little White Chapel, 1711 N Avon St, Burbank CA for our monthly meeting to learn more about how to grow and care for ferns.

Happy Spring

*Robin*

## March 6, 2025 Meeting “All About Ferns”

Speaker: Michael Moody

### **California’s monarch butterfly population plummets; fire wipes out Topanga habitat**

*by Clara Harter, Staff Writer*

*Los Angeles Times, Jan. 31, 2025*

The Western population of the monarch butterfly has declined to a near-record low with fewer than 10,000 found living in California this winter, a foreboding sign for the future of the beloved black-and-orange insect.

An annual count recorded 9,119 butterflies this winter, according to results released by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. This is the second-lowest population recorded since tracking began in 1997. An all-time low of fewer than 2,000 monarchs was recorded in 2020.

The butterfly’s Western population has plummeted more than 95% since the 1980s, when as many as 4 million butterflies were estimated to spend winter in California, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Without urgent conservation efforts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that the Western population faces a 99% chance of extinction by 2080. Habitat destruction, pesticides and extreme weather fluctuation due to climate change are to blame for the butterfly’s decline.

This year’s particularly poor showing can also be attributed to an usually hot and dry fall, which probably slowed butterfly breeding and the metamorphosis of caterpillars into butterflies, said Emma Pelton, an endangered species biologist with the Xerces Society.

The recent Los Angeles-area wildfires damaged tree groves where these butterflies live, including a habitat in Lower Topanga Canyon where more than 100 butterflies were recorded in last year’s count, she said. Another alarming finding was made at a site in Santa Barbara County, where only 198 were recorded this year after 33,200 monarchs were found there last winter.

The count is conducted by about 400 volunteers at 257 sites along California’s coastline and Baja California, Mexico, where the Western monarch population gathers to pass winter before fanning out across the West from Arizona to Idaho in spring.

This year’s Western monarch count marks a sharp decline from the last three years, when more than 200,000 Western monarchs were recorded each year, thanks, in part, to more favorable weather conditions, Pelton said. But even counts in the 200,000 range mark a dangerous decrease from the millions of butterflies observed in the 1980s that scientists considered a stable population level.

The monarch butterfly was first petitioned to be listed under the federal Endangered Species Act in 2014, but that effort was shelved due to more urgent population priorities. In December, the U.S. agency released a proposal to list the butterfly as an endangered species.

“The iconic monarch butterfly is cherished across North America, captivating children and adults throughout its fascinating lifecycle. Despite its fragility, it is remarkably resilient, like many things in nature when we just give them a chance,” Martha Williams, then-director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said in a December statement. “Science shows that the monarch needs that chance.”

## **California’s monarch butterfly population**

(continued)



The service also has proposed designating 4,395 acres as critical habitat for the Western monarch population across Alameda, Marin, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and Ventura

counties to help support population regrowth.

The agency will be accepting public comments on the proposed threatened species designation until March 12 and make a final decision by the end of the year.

In addition to supporting the designation, the Xerces Society is urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to take into account the effect of pesticides on butterflies before approving the products for market. Currently, the only insect included in the EPA’s required pesticide testing is the adult honeybee.

Testing by the Xerces Society and the University of Nevada in Reno in 2019 found that milkweed leaves, the main food source for the monarch caterpillar, were contaminated by 64 pesticides. One of these pesticides, methoxyfenozide, was found in 96% of milkweed samples, but it is allowed to be used under current pesticide regulations because it is not toxic to bees.

### **March Fundraiser**

On March 6, 2025 we will be hosting a restaurant fundraiser. **Barragan’s Restaurant** has agreed to give us 20% return on their revenue. Many of us are planning to go to Barragan’s for lunch following our monthly meeting. Please come join us as we enjoy each other’s company while supporting our fundraiser .

### **Attention Gardeners:**

Are you **proud** of your garden? Do you like to show it off? Will your garden photograph be in the 2026 Calendar? Then send your photograph to

NOELLA at [nballenger8@gmail.com](mailto:nballenger8@gmail.com)



Please note: **Change in email address:**

Noella Ballenger’s new email address:

[nballenger8@gmail.com](mailto:nballenger8@gmail.com)

**Plant tomatoes after March 15**



## How to Grow Matilija Poppy

The Spruce

Peg Aloï

The **Matilija Poppy**, also known as the tree poppy, is native to California and northern Mexico. Its scientific name, *Romneya coulteri*, takes its inspiration from the name of Dr. Thomas Coulter, the botanist who discovered it. This large white flower has six petals with a ball-shaped center of bright yellow stamens. The petals have a wrinkly, crepey, and delicate texture, but they can withstand strong winds and rain. The flower produces abundant nectar and attracts many bees in spring. It's sometimes called fried egg flower, for its uncanny resemblance to a very large fried egg.

Growing between six and nine feet tall, it thrives in dry, sunny climates and can be found among the unique landscape features of southern California such as dry canyons and even in areas that have suffered from wildfires. It goes dormant in winter and is a deciduous summer plant; the leaves usually start drying out and falling in early autumn. It can be grown as an annual in containers or beds in most places, but will only naturalize where it has suitable growing conditions. Once established, it can become invasive, spreading by a network of rhizomes.

A bit of trivia: In 1890 the matilija poppy was a candidate for the state flower of California, but it was beaten in a vote by the California poppy, which although much smaller comes in a large variety of colors.

### Matilija Poppy Care

These majestic plants need a lot of space, so make sure you're able to accommodate them before planting in your garden beds. Their tendency to be invasive is also a consideration; planting in containers might be the best bet. If planting nursery plants, be careful while transplanting to handle the roots gently.

### Soil

Being native to dry, arid, desert climates, the matilija poppy prefers dry, sandy soil. It requires good drainage, so clay soils might require amendments. Otherwise this flower is fairly tolerant of diverse soil conditions.

### Light

To reach their full height and flowering potential, these plants need full sun exposure. They will grow in dappled shade, but the brilliant golden color of the yellow centers is brightest with full sun exposure.

### Temperature and Humidity

Matilija poppies thrive in dry conditions and warm temperatures. Their hardiness zone is fairly narrow (USDA 8 to 10), which usually indicates a plant that likes very specific growing conditions.



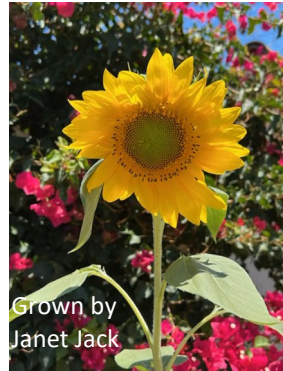
## In My Garden

Charlene Gallagher

### Sunflowers in Three Acts

#### Act One

The large sunflowers that I planted along my side gate were glorious this year. Love to watch them turn their faces toward the sun. I don't know if all are aware that these bright, cheerful flowers do that, and you will grow old waiting for them to follow the sun; but they do follow the



sun's rays. Quite interesting. Anyway, it is a charming fact. They are bold flowers, colorful, and tall. They need to be staked as they grow. The flowers have weight and some species get very large. They come in many colors, take small amounts of water, take little care and when they finish blooming are ugly. Hate to use that terminology, but they are rather stark, and dingy as they stand after their beautiful display. Wait...wait.... don't cut them

down, don't pull them out! Ready for the second act?

#### Act Two

The blooms now dingy and petals faded and old are not pretty, but the centers are very busy turning into seeds. Now watch!

#### Act Three

The birds know where the seeds are to collect and eat the sunflower seeds. Another collection of beauty. Try naming all the birds that visit and peck at the seeds. If you are lucky, you won't be able to name them...Too many birds in all their different colors. That is the third act.

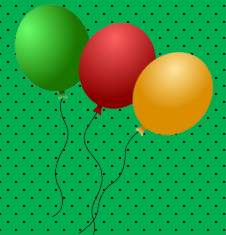
#### The End

## Happy Birthday!

March 17 Shari Pearce

March 17 Karen Winchell

March 30 Sylvia Nielsen-Ioka



### Newsletter Contributions Wanted

Share with members: information, pictures from your garden, maybe some pictures from your latest trip, good stuff. Cut-off date for submission: 15th of every month. Contact newsletter editor.

**B**urbank-Valley Garden Club  
907 North Clybourn Ave  
Burbank, CA 91505-2701

## Happenings

### *2024-2025 Executive Board*

**President:**

Robin Gemmill

**1st Vice-President, Programs:**

Rosalia Gomez

**2nd Vice-Pres., Membership:**

Janet Jack

Susan Law

**3rd Vice-Pres., Ways & Means:**

Laura Duran

**Recording Secretary:**

Anne White

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Nancy Bryant

**Treasurer:**

Ingrid Nonnast

**Parliamentarian:**

Ann Foose

**March 1 @ 1:00 pm - March 2 @ 10:00 am**

2025 Spring Daffodil Show

Alden Lane Nursery daffodil show

981 Alden Lane Livermore, CA 94550

Phone number 925 447-0280



**March 7, 2025, 10 am – 1 pm**

Chula Vista Garden Club Community Plant Sale

Chula Vista Library Civic Center Branch

365 F Street, Chula Vista, CA 91910

CVGardenClub619@gmail.com

**March 20 @ 10:00 am**

Burbank African Violet Society

Little White Chapel

1711 Avon St, Burbank, CA 91505

Program: "All About Orchids" with

Carol Beule, Past President

Southern California Orchid Society

**March 29 @ 10:00 am - March 30 @ 4:00 pm**

South Bay Orchid Society

Spring Orchid Show and Sale

Palos Verdes Art Center

5504 Crestridge Rd, Rancho PV, California

webmaster@southbayorchidsociety.com