

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

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

Pacific Region, and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Newsletter Number 219 March 2026 Editor: Ingrid Nonnast

March 5, 2026 —Agenda

9:30 a.m. Doors Open
10:00 a.m. Plant Sale and Basket Boutique



MARCH 20, 2026

Burbank—Valley Garden Club March 2026 — President's Message

Greetings Gardeners,

Last month we had Stephanie Hiett join us to talk about the City of Burbank Seed Saving Library. She spoke on how the Seed Library came to be, why it is important to our community, how it has been received by residents, how current seed donations are sorted and made available to the community and future plans for the Seed Library. As you grow your produce this year consider leaving a few unharvested plants go to seed for donation to the seed library. Next year we will look to have a speaker on seed harvesting.

This month we will be holding our annual Plant Sale and Basket Boutique March 5. Thank you to those who have already signed up to help with the plant sale. We will be opening up our Plant Sale to the community. This serves two purposes. First, we can introduce ourselves to the community. Second, we hopefully sell more plants. I have sent out Grower and Seller Plant Sale Guidelines to ensure the sale runs smoothly. This year we will be accepting Venmo payments. If you have customers who wish to pay using Venmo please send them to the Venmo table for payment. As always we will have coffee and pastries available for everyone priced accordingly.

Thank you to everyone who signed up in support of our Basket Boutique. As we did last year, we will come together with all of the items to fill and wrap the baskets. Basket wrapping will take place on Sunday March 1st at 1pm at Eula's home. Please check your yearbook for her address. Bring your baskets and items for the basket. We will provide the cellophane wrap, basket stuffing and ribbons. The Basket Boutique Raffle is a fundraising opportunity, please remember to share the flyer for this event with friends, neighbors and family. The more the merrier.

This month our restaurant fundraiser will be on Thursday March 12 at Corner Bakery, located at 800 N San Fernando Rd. Burbank. The fundraiser will go from 7am-9pm. Thank you for supporting our club scholarship fund while enjoying a meal.

Please join us, we will be meeting at the Little White Chapel, located at 1711 North Avon St, Burbank on Thursday March 5, 2026. Doors will open at 9:30 am. Plant Sale and Basket Boutique Raffle will start at 10am lasting till noon.

Robin

MARCH 5—PLANT SALE & BASKET BOUTIQUE

Bring your money.



Any profit the Burbank-Valley Garden Club makes from the sale of plants and baskets goes to the scholarship fund.

Not All Bugs are Bad

The Bogalusa Daily News

Let's Get Growing with Dr. Mary Helen Ferguson

When extension agents get calls about insects, it is often because one is or appears to be injuring a plant. However, the reality is that roughly 99% of insects are not "pests." In fact, if you know what to look for, you may see insects that are helping to keep pest insects under control.

Many people have seen aphids on their vegetable or ornamental plants. These are sometimes called "plant lice." They suck sap out of plants and excrete a sugary substance called honeydew. We often see sooty mold growing on that honeydew. There are a number of beneficial insects and even some fungi that help manage aphids.

We sometimes see aphid "mummies." The aphids have holes in them and look like they've been blown up like a balloon. This is caused by parasitoid wasps that lay eggs in the aphids. The eggs hatch, and the larvae feed on the insides of the aphids. The larvae pupate and become adults, which make holes in the mummies as they exit.

The minute pirate bug is one insect that preys on thrips. Like thrips themselves, minute pirate bugs are not easy to see with the naked eye, but with a hand lens, one can see that they're black and white. Based on work done in Florida, it was found that having one minute pirate bug for every 40 western flower thrips was enough to provide adequate control.

If you've grown tomatoes, you very well may have seen tomato hornworms at one time or another. If you see white cocoons on the back of a hornworm, let that hornworm stay. The cocoons are those of a parasitoid wasp. These wasps lay eggs in the hornworms. After eggs hatch, larvae emerge from the hornworms and spin cocoons on their backs. The wasps will pupate in the cocoons, emerge as adults and, hopefully, go lay eggs in other hornworms.

GIVING BACK

Eat to support
Burbank-Valley Garden Club

❤️ **25% Donate**



Thursday, March 12th
7:00 AM – 9:00 PM



800 N San Fernando Blvd, Burbank



Use promo code 659
In cafe or at
cornerbakerycafe.com before
checkout.



Members enjoying fundraiser lunch at Mucho Mas In February 2026.



Gardening Activities for March in Southern California Garden Design

Plant Flowers in Your Kitchen Gardens

When planning your kitchen garden be sure to include an abundance of flowers in your plan. Not only are the flowers beautiful and useful for those spring and summer arrangements, but they also attract pollinators and beneficial insects. The pollinators will help increase the production of edible and beneficial insects, which will help keep pest issues such as aphids, hornworms, and mealy bugs under control. Plant flowers such as asters, coreopsis, marigolds, yarrow, and zinnias.

Transplant Warm-Season Crops

For many of the most populated areas of Southern California, the average last frost date is shortly before the end of March. For some cities, frost is rare; and in other cities, the last frost date may have passed back in February. From the end of March through April, you'll want to transplant warm-season crops. Be sure to harden off starts before transplanting them. This means moving the starts outdoors for progressively longer periods over a 7- to 10-day window. During this time, keep plants out of direct sunlight as well as excessive heat and wind. Hardening off helps plants acclimate to outdoor growing conditions. If you didn't plant starts indoors, buy them at a local garden center or start your plants now (many varieties will be ready to transplant in 6 to 8 weeks).

Give Your Soil a Spring Boost

As spring begins, many plants begin their growth cycle which includes foliar or woody growth. This type of growth demands nutrients, especially nitrogen. Cover your garden beds with a layer of organic compost or fertilizer to ensure plants are well fed to begin the season. Keep compost or fertilizer away from tree or shrub trunks or plant stems because it can cause rot or other pest issue.

Prune Avocado Trees

Generally, the avocado harvest is complete by March so it's a good time to prune back trees. They do not require pruning, but it's good to prune for overall shape and tree health. Remove any dead or diseased branches, as well as those that may have been scorched. Pruning trees also forms a strong, balanced, interior branching structure. If one limb gets too big it can break during the fruiting season with the added weight from maturing fruit.

Fertilize Citrus & Protect Trees from Pests

As the growing season begins, fertilize your citrus with a citrus fertilizer. Fertilization can be done monthly through July. Follow the application directions on the package of any fertilizer you apply. When fertilizing your citrus, look for any pest issues or dead branches. If ants are present in great numbers then you likely have a pest issue such as mealybugs, aphids, soft scales, or whiteflies. Ants feed on the honeydew these pests excrete. Help prevent pest issues and ants by skirting the tree branches (removing low-hanging branches) at 12 to 30 inches off the ground.

Did you know?

Camellias were wild plants growing in the countryside of China, Japan, and South Korea. They were first cultivated possibly 5000 years ago and were used as a tea. High Tea Anyone?

D.G.

In My Garden

Charlene Gallagher

I had a pleasant surprise this late winter. My sweet peas reappeared and started blooming. Big surprise to me, and I thought I knew all about gardening.

Let's see, I have been gardening for over 50 years; have taken how many different, available classes in gardening, spent how much money on garden projects, hired and fired how many gardeners, consulted with how many garden experts and mostly enjoyed getting "down and dirty."

The smell of a freshly cut lawn is perfume to my nose. The smell of sweet peas is a perky reminder that spring is here. The big sycamore bearing new leaves, after a naked winter, reminds me of its kindness during the hot, hot summers.

Did I just hear a chorus of birds singing? Going to be an early spring. Well, I can get carried away, after a nice rain, warm sun, floating clouds and fresh air. I hope all fellow gardeners feel the same way. We are a special group. Sort of "mama's" to mother earth. She is in our care now.

Happy Spring

March 20 marks the first day of spring

Happy March Birthday

March 17 Shari Pearce

March 24 Kathleen Hyson



Welcome New Members

Francesca Gardner
4825 Carpenter Ave
Valley Village, CA 91607
Cell: 914 610-8614

Janina Saltis
6153 Beeman Ave
Valley Glen, CA 91606
323 633-3871
janinasaltis@gmail.com

Bruce Hale
3025 Alabama St
LaCrescenta, CA 91214
818 744-7252
halebruce@gmail.com

Melissa Salana
4825 Carpenter Ave
Valley Village, CA 91607
cell: 917 701-2108

Maria Pettit
122 South Reese Pl
Burbank, CA 91506
818 823-5480
mariapettit18@iclon.com

Rhina Walton
2334 Beanostill St
Duarte, CA 91010
626 857-6154



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

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Happenings



March 7 to March 9: Dana Point's 54th-Annual Festival of Whales

As the official Whale Watching Capital of the World, Dana Point celebrates its 54th-annual Festival of Whales, majestic marine life with educational exhibits, art shows, and unforgettable whale-watching excursions.

March 19 10:00 a.m. Burbank African Violet Society

Little White Chapel, 1711 North Avon St, Burbank, CA

"Care and Culture of Growing Streptocarpus" Program presented by club members Chris, Hanna and Susan. For more information call 661 940-3990.

Balboa Park Botanical Building, San Diego: Timeless Elegance in Glass and Green

Location and Access: Balboa Park, San Diego, CA;

open daily; free entry (no pets inside).

Located inside this graceful 1915 glasshouse, over 2,000 plants thrive in steamy elegance—exotic orchids unfurl in jewel tones, ferns cascade like emerald waterfalls, and palms reach toward the arched ceiling. Framed by lacy lily ponds shimmering outside, it's a historic jewel glowing with verdant life. The surrounding park adds open-air charm.

California Botanic Garden

Claremont: Native California's Crown Jewel

1500 N College Ave, Claremont, CA; open daily; entry fees apply.

The largest native plant garden in the state showcases thousands of Baja and SoCal species in vivid bloom—fiery poppies, silvery sages, and delicate perennials thriving in natural harmony. Trails wind through habitats teeming with butterflies and birdsong, revealing ecological stories. It's a breathtaking tribute to California's fragile, irreplaceable beauty.

<https://www.calbg.org/>