



The Garden Trellis



Newsletter for the **SAN CLEMENTE GARDEN CLUB**,
Member of California Garden Clubs, Inc., Orange County District
Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., Pacific Region

February 2011
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Together...for the Love of Gardening!

San Clemente Garden Club

P.O. Box 3891
San Clemente, CA 92674-3891
www.sanclementegardenclub.com

Organized 1951

MEMBER

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Pacific Region
California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Orange County District

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Bette Langford

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15th of the Month

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Sandi Campbell-McClain

Once again, February will be a fun and eventful month! I hope that many of you will get to see how the state garden clubs operates by attending some of the CGCI Winter Board meeting sessions. I know Launa and Bette have been working hard, along with several others from the Orange County District. Hope you all will have a chance to celebrate the California Western Monarch Day on February 5th!

The February program that Bette has lined up for us sounds very interesting. Matt Rayl from Serrano Creek stables, a composting guru, will discuss soil and you will learn how the soils microorganisms work to create the exact fertilizer each plant needs.

Maybe you would like to help in our community gardens this month, or participate in the Propagation Workshop on the 10th, the District meeting on the 14th, the field trip on the 18th, or the Junior Gardeners on the 24th. There are so many great opportunities for participation.

At the January 5th meeting, Julia Bawden Davis gave us some tips on how to beautify our home with houseplants. This included planning indoor gardens, arrangement and placement and how necessary light is to the health of our houseplants. Julia has a wonderful website. All you have to do is google Julia Bowden Davis and you will find all the information you'll need to either get started selecting plants or improving the health of your existing houseplants.

I hope your New Year's resolution included helping with many of our Club's activities! We are, after all, in this club together...for the love of gardening!

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SCGC Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2011 (new date)
Time: 4:00 PM
Place: Bette Langford's home
Where: 102 Calle Cuervo
San Clemente
Phone: 949-498-3317

All members are welcome to attend.

Orange County District, State, and National News/Events

February 3-6 CGCI Winter Board, Costa Mesa, Ayres Hotel, OC District hosts

February 14, 2011 Orange County District Meeting, Lake Forest Clubhouse
22921 Ridge Route Road
Lake Forest, CA 92630
9:30 AM Social Gathering
10:00 AM General Meeting
10:30 AM Program "The Thrifty Gardener"
11:30 AM Luncheon

Reservations should be made with our club treasurer, Mary Gorelick, by February 7. The cost is \$10 per person. Contact Betty Jackson for more information bettyj@andersonjacksongroup.com or (949)-589-9077.

March 17-18 Landscape Design School, Course 3, Palos Verdes, contact Aslafer@cc.rr.com

April 7-10, 2011 California State Flower, Food & Garden Show, Sacramento, for tickets <http://www.calstategardenshow.com/content/tickets>

There is nothing pleasanter than spading when the ground is soft and damp. John Steinbeck

Reaching Out In Friendship

from Ginnie Churchill

If you know anyone in our club who is celebrating something special or needs our support with a phone call or card, please let me know at 949-487-4814 or email me at 725calledivino@cox.net.

We are such a friendly club and remembering the small thoughtful things can mean so much. Let me know how I can help. Thank you



February Program

from Bette Langford

Date: February 9, 2011 (new date)
Time: 9:30 AM
Place: St. Andrews Methodist Church
Subject: Underground Economy or Black Market
Speaker: Matt Rayl

Learn how compost builds and sustains one of the most complex and robust environments in the world of your garden's soil. Matt is the Serrano Creek Stables composting guru.

You will learn how the soil's microorganisms work to create the exact fertilizer each plant needs and how compost provides a greener garden while reducing your water bill by one third.

How can science be such fun? Join us and find out.

Membership

from Isobel Pelham

The Garden Club had three new members join last month. Please add the following information to your yearbooks. Our total membership is now 166.

Patricia Buice
25521 Via Inez
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675-4324
(949) 661-3311

Fiona Young Kouzi
24040 Camino del Avion, #A137
Dana Point, CA 92629-4005
(949) 370-8084; email: fionay@cox.net

Rob McFadgen
108 Avenida Lucia #A
San Clemente, CA 92672-3487
(949) 361-9656; email: robmcfadgen@aol.com

Egg cartons make good seed starters. Fill the cups with damp potting mixture, press in a seed or two, and water. Insert the entire carton into a zip top plastic bag, seal, then open slightly and, with a straw, blow in some air. Reseal. Place it near a sunny window and watch your seeds sprout!

Junior Gardener Program

from Kris Ethington and Stephanie Anfinson

Stephanie has received exciting news. Marblehead's Kokua Garden Jr. Gardener program will receive a **\$1,500 Western Growers School Garden Grant** plus veggie seeds and teaching materials! Congratulations Stephanie and Marblehead on this great accomplishment! Stephanie has worked so hard to pull together the resources, both monetary and human, in such short order. The contributions from Marblehead families, scout troops, and teachers are truly inspiring. Stephanie will need the support of club volunteers to help in the planting of their garden in February and March with K-5 students. All the beds will be planted before spring is over. That requires a lot of time and is a huge opportunity for club members to help inspire and educate students and families in the art and love of gardening. Please contact Stephanie: msanfinson@sbcglobal.net

Marblehead Jr. Gardeners paint pickets



Jr. Gardeners reinforce a raised bed to be painted.



Marblehead's Kokua Garden – nearly ready for planting!

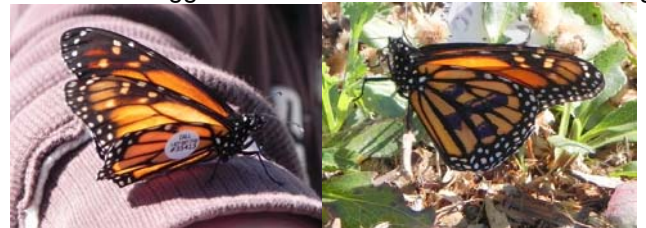


Concordia's Jr. Gardener programs are in full swing. With help from Launa Gould and dedicated parents Rachelle Vesque, Michelle Johnson, and Dallas Bellantonio the 2nd grade beds were prepped for planting. Little Justin Vesque (pre-K) was truly amazing that day. I am not exaggerating; he was so helpful with pulling weeds and plants, transferring valuable seedlings to pots, and carrying nearly his weight in debris, over and over again! 2nd Graders replanted their 'renewable' butterfly garden with plants and seeds. The spring and summer display will be spectacular and ready for the June 4th garden tour. It's always tricky to coordinate the planting of nearly 100 students in one day but it is the best part of being involved with our Junior Gardeners. You can just imagine them sharing the experiences with their families.

Our 5th grade rain water harvesting project at Concordia, funded by the City of San Clemente's Environmental Sustainability Program, will begin February. Already, three rain barrels have been pre-ordered. In order to give all 100 students the opportunity to paint, the project requires multiple steps and needs the support of parents and club members. Please let me know if you are available. With this year's project, Concordia's gardens will be home to 11 rain barrels!

Recently, I demonstrated the scientific study of tagging monarchs and testing them for O.E. (a parasite) to a combo 2nd/3rd grade class. Each time I share my experiences with them I am amazed by their thirst for knowledge beyond the basics, and really beyond their years. A teacher reminded me that they've been exposed to our program since K/1st grade, which has reinforced their knowledge and increased their understanding. Clearly, I need to improve my game and ensure my responses are as sophisticated as their questions!

A Concordia tagged monarch – round Monarch Alert tag



Marked with the 'division symbol' on opposite lower wing

Thanks club members and Concordia families who helped in January. Due to the February holiday, we have re-scheduled the Concordia workday, which will be February 24th instead. Hope to see you then!

Civic Beautification

from Kathleen Scopaz

Rose Garden at City Hall History:

1996 - San Clemente Garden Club members met in January to hear a speaker on pruning roses and to actually prune and plant roses. It has become an annual event for members and the community.

1998 - SCGC members notified the San Clemente Parks and Recreation that the City Hall Rose Garden was in need of maintenance. Parks and Recreation staff replied that due to budget cuts the garden was not being maintained. The Club agreed to maintain the Rose Garden every six (6) weeks and later evolved into every four (4) weeks and the City of San Clemente would pay for supplies, which would be purchased locally at Shore Gardens Nursery.

Now Civic Beautification volunteers maintain the garden monthly and offer on-site, hands-on rose pruning lessons each January. The city pays for fertilizer, cleans up, and places mulch after pruning day.



Winter 2011

Propagation Workshop

from Erika Wehrle

In preparation for our spring event and plant sale, the propagation workshop will be on Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 9:30 AM at Marguerite Beauchamp's house. Bring any plants or clippings, gloves, clippers and any clean pots you may have. Soil will be provided. Call Erika at 218-9511 for more info.

Garden Therapy

from Suzi Klickstein

We did not have Garden Therapy at the RIO in January. On Monday, February 7 at 1pm, we will be assisting the enthusiastic RIO clients as they make their heartfelt valentines. The prep work for the valentines takes place at 10:30 AM on Friday, January 28 at Suzi Klickstein's house. Please give Suzi a call at 366-2653 or email suziklick@gmail.com if you can join us on February 7 and/or January 28.

Community Evening Meeting

from Bette Langford

Daylily Hill nursery owner Tom Jesch spoke at the Community Evening Meeting, January 19th. He was recommended because of his humor and knowledge of roses, ornamental grasses, exotic cactus and succulents. Much to the delight of his audience, Tom demonstrated his unusual pruning techniques that will help plants and roses avoid having a ball or box-shaped look. It was a fun smell-a-thon with plants like Spanish oregano or lemon scented geraniums and many others.

Daylily Hill is a nursery with acres of specialty plants and is located at 32183 Old Hwy 395, Escondido. Take a look at www.Daylilyhill.com, one of the web's premiere plant, landscaping and gardening sites, and see what it has to offer.

Garden Tour News

from Mary Mohr

Turning the page to the New Year, I realize it's time to start thinking about the annual Garden Tour. Please mark your brand new calendar on Saturday, June 4th for this important fundraiser for Garden Club.

For the 2010 Tour, we were fortunate to have the San Clemente Photography Club photograph each of the six gardens. Photos were used in our 2010-2011 Yearbook and a DVD was produced as a gift to the gardeners. Unfortunately our copy of the DVD wasn't working at the January meeting. Perhaps the problem can be solved and the photos viewed at an upcoming meeting.

It's never too early to start thinking about potential gardens for the 2011 Tour. If your garden, that of a neighbor's or friends is a candidate, please let me know (go4mohr@cox.net). Also, I would love to invite members to participate on the Garden Tour Committee. No experience is necessary, just a passion to help make the next Garden Tour a big success.

Field Trip

from Cindi Allen

On February 18, we will have a field trip to Oasis Water Wise Gardens in Escondido. Our host and speaker will be Debra Lee Baldwin who has written two beautiful books about succulents. We will leave the church at 9:30 AM sharp as the drive will take almost an hour and our time with Debra begins at 10:30. She will speak to us for 45 minutes while she demonstrates potting succulents and talks about design combinations.

We have room for 20 members or guests to each bring a container into which you will get Debra's assistance in choosing beautiful succulents to plant. She says Oasis has many succulents to choose from, some which are rarely seen in other places. The nursery provides the potting soil for us.

We each need to bring our own lunches. We'll have an area where we can picnic. Bottled water will be provided. Debra is willing to sign and sell her books to anyone who is interested while we eat our lunch. (Her two books are two of my favorite garden books). She has also offered one-on-one time to each person who would like to get her expert advice for your own work of art. She says she wants to take photos of our combinations in our unique pots we bring, so I hope we can live up to her high standards.

The cost for Debra's time with us is \$10.00 each. The first 20 people to sign up and pay me will be able to make a succulent pot with Debra that day. Don't forget your own container! She recommends colored glazed containers, or terra cotta is okay, too. She said to avoid vividly patterned colored pots, as this will compete with our planted material. If you forget, there are a few containers for sale at Oasis. Debra is a lovely and creative designer. I don't think you will want to miss this opportunity. I already bought my container!

We will finish with our program at about 1:30, which will put us back at the church at about 2:30. If we get more than 20 who want to go, it's okay to come along and even buy succulents for your own pots at home. There just isn't room or enough time for Debra to give individual attention to more than 20.

Show Your Membership Card!!

Club members receive 10% discount at the following nurseries:

Shore Gardens, Ito Nursery, Plant Depot, and Armstrong Garden Centers (SJC and Laguna Niguel)

Awesome Nature

from Simone Costes

In late November I noticed one of my milkweed plants completely devoured and began searching for the culprit - the monarch caterpillar. As I searched, a bee fell into my swimming pool. In rescuing it I spotted the caterpillar on a plastic duck floating by. Imagine the perils. This caterpillar crawled through a planter, up and over a 2-foot wall, across the lawn - passing under 2 bird feeders - across the pool deck, down the side of the pool and somehow hitched a ride on the duck. Amazing!

Not having a fully leafed out milkweed plant, I fashioned a habitat using plastic salad containers, added foliage and twigs. Each day I pinched a few milkweed leaves to satisfy a big appetite. I kept the habitat inside to observe the life cycle. On December 6th it formed a chrysalis; by December 23rd the orange wings became visible. Then emerged a beautiful monarch butterfly.

I phoned Kris Ethington whose daughter, Dani, is researching the Monarch Butterfly. I took my butterfly to Kris and Dani. Data recorded: female, small in size. Dani took a sample of the fuzzy material on her little body to check for disease, marked a wing with a felt tipped pen identifying the point of release, and a tag with an ID # along with an 800 # was placed on a wing. (The butterfly tested negative for disease. Yea)

Then on a beautiful sunny Christmas Eve Day, she was set free flying away in search of tasty flower nectar. Nature is awesome.

Epsom Salt Uses

from Lisa Spinelli

Fertilize your houseplants - Most plants need nutrients like magnesium and sulfur to stay in good health and Epsom salt makes the primary nutrients in most plant foods (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) more effective. Sprinkle Epsom salt once weekly to help nourish your houseplants, flowers and vegetables.

Keep your lawn green - Magnesium sulfate crystals, when added to the soil, provide vital nutrients that help prevent yellowing leaves and the loss of green color (magnesium is an essential element in the chlorophyll molecule) in plants. Add 2 tablespoons of Epsom salt to a gallon of water and sprinkle on your lawn to keep the grass healthy and green.

Insecticide spray - Use Epsom salts on your lawn and in your garden to safely and naturally get rid of plant pests.



P.O. Box 3891
 San Clemente, CA 92674-3891

San Clemente Garden Club Activities

February 2011

February 5	CA Western Monarch Day	
February 3-6	CGCI Winter Board meeting	Costa Mesa
February 7	Garden Therapy (valentines)	1:15 PM
February 8	Pier Garden	8:00 AM
	Library Memorial Garden	8:30 AM
	Marine Monument	9:00 AM
February 8	Board Meeting (new date)	4:00 PM
February 9	Meeting and Program (new date)	9:30 AM
February 10	Propagation Workshop	9:30 AM
February 14	OC District Meeting	9:30 AM
February 18	Field Trip	9:30 AM
February 23	City Hall Rose Garden	9:00 AM
February 24	Casa Garden	9:00 AM
February 24	Jr. Gardeners – Concordia	2:15 PM