

Volume 8, Issue 1  
Jan., 2021

*Gardeners know  
the best dirt*

Website:  
[scrippsmesagardenclub.com](http://scrippsmesagardenclub.com)

*Flourishing in our gardens*



# Scripps-Mesa Garden Club

*Continue to enhance your gardening skills*

## Our Garden Club Is Invited to Share Online Programming Until We Can Meet Again

The Mission Hills Garden Club has invited our garden club to join them for their monthly presentations.

They know many garden clubs have not been able to meet or have the means to create their own online programming so they have invited other clubs to join them, according to Helen Plutner, Program Chair of our local club.

**Mission Hills Gardeners** will meet virtually the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30pm starting in 2021. If you wish to sign up at the following link: <https://mailchi.mp/295ed3a6a40d/missionhillsgardenclub>

To see info about upcoming events and programs: <https://www.missionhillsgardenclub.org/Events> You can now see two of their 2020 talks featuring Bill Toone and Bill Tall posted online.

**The SD Horticultural Society** has a few posts that would be of interest: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcJRo4u6QDSITsR5CldFVCw>

**CA Native Plant Society:** <https://www.cnpssd.org/events/>  
<https://www.cnpssd.org/events/2020/17/11/beauty-and-the-beast-california-wildflowers-and-climate-change>

*(These websites are supplied by the organizations. They can be tricky. Perhaps just use the organization's name and go from there.)*

### 2020 Garden Club Officers

President  
?  
Secretary  
Jacqueline Brown  
Speakers  
Helen Plutner &  
Lynnell Hallock

Room Coordinator  
Louise Badham  
Refreshments  
Susan Castellana  
Website  
Brydon Bennett

Treasurer  
Char Fitzgerald  
Newsletter & Publicity  
Denise Stewart  
[denise.stewart@hotmail.com](mailto:denise.stewart@hotmail.com)

*See p.3  
for  
More classes  
available online  
With  
SD Floral Society*

# Tomatoes in January!!!???

by Denise Stewart

Back in a previous edition of this newsletter, Bob Gale wrote an article that inspired me to try to grow tomatoes this winter. While I live in a condo, I can't follow his advice to place the pots on cement that would hold the day's heat longer. I had to resort to a pot full of purchased potting soil, my trusted worm droppings and a warm autumn that has produced a healthy and tasty crop of Big Beef hybrid tomatoes. Even though the pot is sitting on a suspended walkway, the tomatoes are fat and happy.

This crop is solid and meaty unlike any tomato I have ever grown or purchased at a grocery store in California. (In my opinion, store-bought tomatoes are made of polyester and pawned off on us as the real thing.)

I will confess I did not add the dry milk powder to the soil mix as Bob recommended. At the time I couldn't locate any at the store. Maybe they would be even better if I had used the dry milk. I will find out next planting late in the spring when I begin a new crop with milk.



## Bob's Question Corner

by Bob Gale

### What's new for Spring?



The "Burpee Tomato Lineup" for 20/2021 looks really great for our next growing season. Most of them look like they would be great in the garden, and I really like the new Orange Wellington variety, by their look, anyway. Just thought you might enjoy seeing these new and improved tomato varieties. I don't know what some of them are, but knowing the hybridizers at Burpee, I am sure they are improved. However, they do look like they will be fun to grow and I'm anxious to try some of them next growing season.

For those new to gardening or maybe just a refresh of your skills, try [www.burpee.com](http://www.burpee.com) and you will find information about sowing, growing, common pests and problems, FAQs about tomatoes.

*Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over,  
she became a butterfly.*



### Scripps-Mesa Garden Club Newsletter

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Phone: 858-693-1456



Contributions of articles, suggestions, artwork, and gardening tips are warmly welcomed. This newsletter belongs to the Scripps-Mesa Garden Club members and is intended to reflect their gardening interests and experiences. Please take part in its mission and contribute an article or a photo.

# San Diego Floral Association **FREE** Classes

## Classes for 2021

Hands-on Projects with Expert Instructors

## JOIN THEM FOR OUR FREE ONLINE VIRTUAL FLORAL CLASSES

Zoom details will be emailed to you when you register.

All classes are via Zoom at 10:00 AM on the 2nd Thursday of each month. **Classes are free to all, but registration is required.**

### January 14, 2021

How to Create a Fairy Garden

Instructor: Kathy Taylor de Murillo

### February 11, 2021

Make Teacup Bird Feeders

Instructor: Kathy Taylor de Murillo



**Where:** Remote. Zoom link to class will be emailed to registered participants

**Fee:** No fee

**Registration:** Although this class is free, you must register at [SDFloral.org](http://SDFloral.org) prior to attending. The class will be online via Zoom. You must pre-register at [infosdfloral@gmail.com](mailto:infosdfloral@gmail.com)

**Prior to the Zoom class these supplies need to be purchased. Check back for details.**

Video games are inspiring a new crop of home and garden DIY projects

<https://www.inverse.com/gaming/animal-crossing-stardew-valley-epic-gardening-inspiration-diy-projects>

## What You Plant

Poet: H. Joseph Chadwick



You've planted love and friendship,  
And since you planted those,  
Your garden's surely blooming  
With lovely memories . . .

And life has been much brighter  
For everyone you've known  
Because of all the gladness  
And happiness you've sown!

2021 Flower of the Year



The Sunflower!





# January Chores

- January is the best time of year to plant deciduous trees .
- This is when nurseries offer the widest selections, so shop for fruit trees this month.
- Plant deciduous ornamental trees like Chinese pistache, crape myrtle and others.
- Plant ornamental perennials and shrubs.
- If your plants get damaged by the cold, don't prune right away. Let the damaged parts protect the rest of the plant from future chills this winter. Wait until late Feb. before trimming.
- Leave leaves. When it comes to evergreen plants and ornamental deciduous plants, leaves in garden beds are good. Leaves from ornamental plants (not fruit trees) keep weeds from sprouting, hold the water in soil, and keep soil warm in winter.
- Check your mulch. Leave a 2- or 3-inch layer over all garden beds.



***Need some succulents? I have some that need a new home. Email me.  
denise.stewart@hotmail.com***

## *Planning your new garden?*

*Scripps Ranch Library will soon be mailing out seeds again while they last.*

## **Seed Library-By-Mail!**

Yes, that's right: order seeds from

home and take advantage of the growing season! Instructions and guidelines here:



<http://srfol.org/seed-library.htm>