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*Gardeners know the best dirt*

# Scripps-Mesa Garden Club

## ***Water, Mulch and Pruning Bring out the Best Blooms from Steffi Boxer's Calliandras***

The calliandra plants were planted back in 1990 in the sunny northeast corner of the garden. Calliandras are tropical plants and are of the pea family. The calliandra plants do need to be pruned every month or so. They bring stunning color and beauty every winter. The plants are heavily mulched annually and watered three times per week. They are on the same watering cycle as my camelia plants.

*Story and photo by Steffi Boxer*



### **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)



**February**  
Is  
**Bird Feeding Month**

Communication among members is improving

# We Now Have an Email Account

Helen Plutner has announced a new email account for Garden Club members. [scrippsmesagardenclub1993@gmail.com](mailto:scrippsmesagardenclub1993@gmail.com) is a new way for people outside our club and members to contact one another. It also provides access to our monthly newsletter.

“Going forward, Denise, our newsletter editor, and Board Members will use the new gmail account to send you your newsletter and any updates related to our club. Please send general questions/concerns/topics/photos to that address. You can “bcc” Denise at her email, as well, if you wish,” Helen explained.

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## February Activities with Mission Hills Club

Adam Graves - Horticultural Specialist at the San Diego Zoo

Thursday, February 25th 6:30 meeting

Mission Hills talk on **Kate Sessions** is now online if people missed the meeting last time. Go to their website: [missionhillsgardenclub.org](http://missionhillsgardenclub.org) and locate the classes you desire.

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## Floral Society Free Classes

The San Diego Floral Society is doing a virtual tour of the Botanical Garden on Feb 17th - <http://www.sdfloal.org/meeting.htm>

Hands-on Projects with Expert Instructors

**JOIN THEM FOR 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.**

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## Master Gardener Spring Program

March 20–28

13 Classes & 3 Workshops for \$35

Access to all classes and workshops online 24 hrs/day from March 20th at 7am to March 28th at midnight

Classes may be viewed multiple times

Register and get instructions for accessing the Seminar: [www.MasterGardenerSD.org](http://www.MasterGardenerSD.org)





Thinking About Buying Seeds for A Colorful Hot/Dry Weather Garden?

## Drought Tolerant Summer Flowers

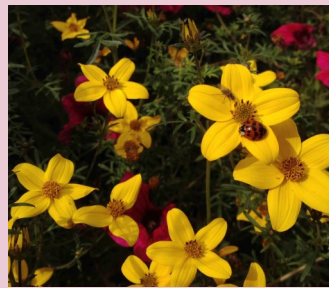


(L -R) Zinnias attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

Marigolds are extremely low maintenance and keep pests away from herbs.



Portulaca are hardy in planters or used as low growing ground cover.



Lantana are tough and more like a small shrub than a flower.

Bidens grow well in containers and beds and may be construed as a political statement.



Verbena thrive in containers or beds and are happy flowing over retaining walls.



Angelonia attract bees with their oily pollen.

Russian Sage makes good borders and attracts butterflies.



# Bob's Corner

by Bob Gale

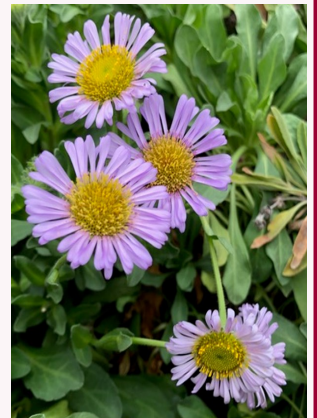
## What flowers do you suggest we plant for spring?



This is a wonderful time for planting the things that love our cool damp weather. One of the best of course, is our trusty nasturtiums. They absolutely love cool weather and then they go to seed and go away once it gets hot. And of course, then they will reappear next spring. Their seeds endure the hot dry soils of summer and then pop right back to life next spring, when our cool damp weather returns.

Other wonderful cool weather plants are the beautiful blue lobelia's, status plants, miniature snapdragons, cineraria plants, pansies, violas, and Sweet Williams plants. These wonderful plants will flourish in our cool weather. So, do enjoy planting cool weather blooming plants right now for a more exciting Spring Garden.

## A Tour of Alexa Kaplan's Winter Garden



(L-R) Scarlet sage,  
Dara's Choice sage  
Hummingbird Sage,  
Seaside Daisy

*Photos by Alexa*

### Scripps-Mesa Garden Club Newsletter

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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.



## More San Diego Floral Association FREE Classes Classes for 2021

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.**

## Cover the Ground with Color

In early 2020 at our garden club meeting I retrieved some *Plectranthus* sp. (*amboinicus*?) from the plant swap. Common names include Cuban oregano or Mexican mint. The texture is semi-succulent and the leaves are very aromatic. I used it to beautify a small bare dirt patch below a neighborhood sign in Serra Mesa and one year later you can see it has filled in nicely. It has proven quite drought tolerant but, not surprisingly, does better with regular water or rain.



Take a Tour of Brydon Bennet's  
Meadow go to  
[scrippsmesagardenclub.com](http://scrippsmesagardenclub.com)



Erica Berick's cymbidium orchids are blooming early this year.

 More Than  
**1600**  
Gallons of Water  
are wasted by a leaking  
faucet. One drop per second  
for a year

2021 Flower of the Year



The Sunflower!



## February Chores

- Wait until the end of this month to trim away dead branches from cold damaged plants.
- Plant bare root roses, fruit trees, berries and shade trees. Keep tree roots moist until ready to plant.
- Plant cool season flowers like calendulas, pansies, poppies and violas.
- Set out cool season veggies like broccoli, lettuce, spinach and peas.
- Finish pruning fruit trees. Spray deciduous fruit trees.
- Plant summer blooming bulbs like begonias and gladiolus.
- Start onions from seed now.
- Start watching out for snails and slugs.
- Fertilize mature avocado trees. They need 2lbs nitrogen/year
- Pinch back strawberry blooms thru May for sweeter berries.



## Online Gardening Events

See last month's edition of the Scripps Mesa Garden Club newsletter  
or check our website [scrippsmesagardenclub.com](http://scrippsmesagardenclub.com)

### Planning your new garden?

Scripps Ranch Library will soon be mailing out seeds again or pick them up while they last.

**Seed Library-By-Mail  
or Pick up!**

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>

