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**Scripps-Mesa  
Garden Club**

## **Native plant expert tells us how to do it California style**

**October 26th Meeting, 6:00 pm Scripps Ranch Library**

*The meeting will be indoors. Masks required.*



Lee Gordon, a local resident, will give the presentation about creating native gardens with local native plants, including how to plant, irrigate and care for them, as well as good plants to consider. He is a member of the California Native Plant Society, an experienced native gardener, and head of a small team working to expand populations of one of the rarest and coolest plants there is, San Diego willowy mint.



(L) Bob Gale's blue Morning Glories tumble over the fence and cover the ground. The pink cantus buxifolia and white bergmancia add drama to the scene.

(R) Bob's son Jeff built his dad a raised planter to make crop tending easier.

You know that if you don't rake the fallen leaves they turn into soil, right? They don't break into your house and drink all your wine or anything.

Did you hear about the clumsy musician who tried gardening? He dropped the beet.

One minute you're young, carefree and hip. The next minute you're photographing veggies in your garden.

You can't buy happiness, but you can buy plants and that's pretty much the same thing.

## 2020 Scripps-Mesa Garden Club Officers

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**Speakers**

Helen Plutner &  
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Denise Stewart

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**New Officers Needed**

# October Garden Chores



Enjoy the beauty of blooming roses now through October with a few easy steps, starting this month when spring's first bloom peaks and ebbs. Start by cutting roses either while they are in full bloom to perfume your home or when they are spent and no longer adding beauty to the garden. Both steps are a kind of pruning that will stimulate new blooms. As a rule of thumb, make the cut above a growth node at a five-leaflet leaf pointing outward at a mid-way point on the cane. Cut too high on the cane and the new roses will have weak stems; too low a cut will slow rebloom and may result in an unsightly plant. Feed lightly with an organic or all purpose fertilizer and water deeply. Repeat after each bloom cycle to keep roses flourishing - and flowering in the months ahead.

Now is a good time to dig and divide to rejuvenate these plants and use the cuttings around your garden. Some candidates include daylilies (in inland gardens), alstroemerias, clivia, agapanthus (preferably late in the month), fortnight lily (Dietes) and iris. All have fleshy roots and shallow root balls. Dig them up and divide the clumps with a sharp knife or shovel. Then replant immediately.

## Trees and Vines

- Continue periodic, thorough irrigation to maintain adequate soil moisture until winter rains begin.
- Operate drip irrigation systems until we receive at least two inches of rain; this helps prevent salt injury.
- Prune out dead and severely damaged shoots of deciduous trees before foliage drops.
- Cover grape clusters with paper bags (poke small holes for ventilation) to protect maturing fruit from yellow jackets and birds.

Sprawling oaks and sycamores aren't suited for small urban lots, but several other native trees are good candidates. Some to consider for patio and street trees are the heat-loving desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) with its rosy-pink blooms; shiny-leaved Catalina cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp *lyonii*) with white flowers followed by red berries; western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) with deep pink flowers followed by heart-shaped leaves, the classic red-berried toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) loved by birds or one of the tall blue-flowered wild lilacs (*Ceanothus* 'Ray Hartman') that grow to 20 feet or more. Fall is ideal for planting natives; shop for them and get advice from experts at the fall sale sponsored by the California Native Plant Society, San Diego chapter. Details are at [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org).

This information was taken from Master Gardeners San Diego website

[www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org)



## Scripps-Mesa Garden Club

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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.



At our first regular Garden Club meeting in many months Chuck McClung shared his expertise on growing and re-blooming orchids.

**HOW ORCHIDS REBLOOM**  
**Chuck McClung**  
B.S. Biological Sciences, M.S. Botany

*"Solving your gardening dilemmas"*

Gardening seminars, consultations, and maintenance:  
Orchid consultations, diagnoses, repotting services  
Edible landscapes, vegetable and herb gardens, fruit trees  
Design assistance, small spaces, indoor plants  
Color, whimsy, fragrance, beauty

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