

Volume 11, Issue 2, Feb. 2024

WEBSITE

scrippsmesagardenclub.com

EMAIL

scrippsmesagardenclub1993@gmail.com



Scripps-Mesa Garden Club

Meeting 4th Tues. of the month

Next Meeting Tuesday, February 27, 6pm

Scripps Ranch Library, Community Room
The parking lot is under renovation.

Our speaker for February is Niki Vollrath, an expert on soils. She will be telling us how to amend them, what to look for in a good soil, etc.

A variety of orchids thrive in Erica Berick's kitchen window.
She has found the exact proportion of light and moisture to keep them blooming.



February Garden Chores



- Prune bougainvillea, wisteria, evergreens and winter-flowering/winter-interest shrubs
- Sprout your stored potato tubers by setting them out in a warm, well-lit place
- Begin planting your veggie beds, but be sure to provide them cover against frost
- Tidy up dead grasses and unsightly overgrowth all around the garden
- Put netting over your fruit trees to protect fruit against birds
- Clean bird houses and stock them with feed to get ready for bluebirds
- Prune hydrangeas
- Plat cool season seeds such as sweet peas, bachelor buttons, cabbage, kale
- Prep power tools
- Grow edibles indoors
- Add layer of mulch to garden beds
- Plant bare root roses
- Plant tomatoes at the end of the month



A message from Susan Castellana

Ready! Set! Go!

New Year, new gardens, filled with new opportunities. Jump in and try something different this year and rest assured, there is always a fellow member in our club and resources to guide you. Starting seeds, planning a meadow, including a water feature, cultivating a vegetable garden, and blooming orchids in our San Diego area make for your exciting and happy gardening new year.



Scripps-Mesa Garden Club

Email: denise.stewart@hotmail.com

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.

Treasurer's Report

by Char Fitzgerald

As of 1/28/24 we have 8 paid members for 2024. Two are new memberships. Bring your \$30 to our next meeting..

Dues for 2024 are payable now .

Our Garden Book Library Is Installed at Plant Nursery in Poway



(L—R) Char Fitzgerald, Lynnell Hallock and Louise Badham installed and stocked the Scripps-Mesa Garden Club library box at Walter Anderson Nursery on Danielson Ct. in Poway. Lynnell was head of the project to help our fellow gardeners learn more about our hobby and to spread the name of our club.

Minutes of the Scripps-Mesa Garden Club Meeting of November 29, 2023

While it might seem unusual to offer minutes of a Pot Luck meeting beyond praising the delicious and varied offerings that included chili presented in an actual pumpkin, pasta in a pumpkin sauce and other delicacies, something else of value going on. With no speaker scheduled the members caught up on social issues such as which neighbor had moved where, as well as sharing their experience of this year's gardening challenges. Much discussed was the weather cycle running a month late affecting citrus and pomegranate trees. Overheard were worries about the appearance of white flies, the value of worm castings and problems with mice and discussions of possible solutions.

Sal and Yvette Castellito contributed fig jam and beautiful Epiphylla plants for an informal raffle. They informed us of the SD Epiphylla society and alerted us to a marvelous collection of Epiphylla at the SD Safari Park.

Also acknowledged were the sustained contribution of members who make this club work.

Minutes of the January 23, 2024 Meeting

Orchids make up one of the world's largest plant families, with between 15,000 and 35,000 species so it is no wonder that the table provided to our speaker was loaded with unique examples of this beautiful and prized flower which he himself has grown. Our speaker, Chuck McClung, focused on the TOP FIVE Reasons Orchids Fail to Rebloom which suggests that at the most basic, the key challenge is knowing your plant, its native habitat and its growth habits. Does your plant like light or shade or in between? What is its preferred ratio of water and air? Orchids come from environments which usually are not nutrient rich so what to do about fertilizer? The ideal temperature for any one orchid can vary from cool to intermediate to warm. Are plastic pots better than terra cotta? What planting medium is ideal? Knowing your plant is basic and local sources of information are best. He advises caution when information comes from the internet.

Our speaker assured us if we do our due diligence and reproduce conditions found in its native habitat, OUR ORCHID MUST REBLOOM. Happily, he provided excellent handouts, from which I have liberally quoted. Orchids also provide the opportunity to learn an important life lesson, patience, and the value of following the advice of someone who has been successful. Chuck McClung clearly fills that description.

Present at the meeting were 18 members.

*Contributed by
Barbara Maeselle
Club Secretary*