

Volume 12, Issue 3, March 2025

WEBSITE

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Meetings 4th Tuesday

6pm, SR Library



Scripps-Mesa Garden Club

Next Meeting

6pm, SR Library

Tuesday,
March 25th

Drought Tolerant
Plants & Firesafe

Landscapes

Master Gardener
Cindy Brueks

April 22

Happy House
Plants

Happy Home
Master Gardener
Linda Stewart

Location of
April meeting
yet to be deter-
mined.

Annual Dues

\$30

Photo by Susan Castellana



At the February meeting, Debbie Dunn, Master Gardener and Senior Water Resource Specialist with the county water authority, supplied garden club members with informative materials on waterwise plants that invite pollinators, like birds, bees and butterflies into our gardens. *See p.4*

In March, Master Gardener Cindy Brueks will discuss fire safe landscapes.

Scripps-Mesa Garden Club Officers 2025

Co-Presidents - Jean Bruckner, Dave Fortner, Karen Lopez

Secretary - Barbara Measelle

Treasurer / Member Directory - Char Fitzgerald

Program Chair - Jackie Brown

Editor / Monthly Newsletter / Publicity -
Denise Stewart

Venue / Refreshments - Louise Badham

Website / Photos - Brydon Bennett



MARCH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM KAREN

We had a taste of summer last week, but I for one am glad it's back to normal. The early heat always takes a toll on our spring blooms. Now let's hope for more rain this month.

Baby season is upon us, so start watching for birds and mammals, especially when you start pruning trees and bushes. Last year "I" raised 3 broods of hummers, 2 babies each, in nests around my yard. I'm hoping they will be back although I already had 2 of the nests by this time last year!! Check out our bird of the month section featuring Hooded Orioles, who should be making an appearance soon.

Our start time will remain at 6:00p per our February survey. Our March meeting will be held at the SR Library, but April's meeting venue may be moved to the SR Community Center. Watch for an update in next month's newsletter.

A reminder that March is our member drive and fees are due by the end of the month. SMGC is about plants and gardening but also meeting other gardeners and sharing our interests. Let's spread the word and extend an invitation to friends and neighbors to join our club!

Happy Gardening!!
Karen Lopez



Treasurer's Report by Char Fitzgerald

Our club has secured the use of the SR Community Center for our cool weather meeting place with a deposit of \$480.

Membership Dues for the current year are payable now. Either bring a check to the March meeting or mail it to the treasurer's home address.

Paid Members

Louise Badham	Debbie Honeycutt
Brydon Bennett	Karen Lopez
Jackie & Marty Brown	Alva & Gilbert Rivera
Jean Bruckner	Denise Stewart
Betty Burt	
Susan Castellana	
Karen Creusere	
Char Fitzgerald	

**Annual
Membership
\$30**



Photo by Karen Lopez

March Garden Chores



The pH scale shows a range of numbers from 0 to 14 that show how acidic or alkaline something is. On the pH scale, 7 is neutral, and anything below is acidic. Above 7 is alkaline.

When gardeners mention pH, they're really talking about nutrient availability in the soil. Most plants will thrive in a pH range from 6.0 to 7.5, and that happens to be the pH of most commercial garden soils.

Of course, there are exceptions, like acid-loving blueberry bushes that prefer a pH around 5.5. Acidic soil can be amended with garden lime to make it more neutral or alkaline, while garden sulfur is added to alkaline soils to decrease the pH. Compost is neutral and will not affect the acidity of soil when added.

* **Information taken from Home Depot website**

- * **Test for soil pH**
- * **Weed or clear beds**
- * **Clean and sharpen tools**
- * **Prune plants that flower on new growth**
- * **Clean up dead and diseased materials.**
- * **Cut back ornamental grasses**
- * **Cut back and divide perennials**
- * **Propagate softwood cuttings**
- * **Check for pests and diseases**
- * **Start seeds indoors and outdoors**
- * **Repair and add irrigation**
- * **Apply slow release fertilizer**

Hooded Orioles *by Dave Fortner*

In March the Hooded Orioles will be arriving back from Mexico. At 7-8 inches long, these striking orioles are unmistakable. The males are bright orange-yellow with a black mask while the females are olive green above and yellow below. Also listen for the complex song of beeps, whistles, and warbles. They are enthusiastic foragers and will eat a wide variety of insects and spiders, fruit, and nectar. Encourage them to your garden with a jelly feeder, large-holed hummingbird feeder, or sliced fruit such as oranges. We routinely watch them dip insects into grape jelly and then fly back to their nest. If you have a palm tree in your yard, they might even make a hanging grass nest up in the fronds.

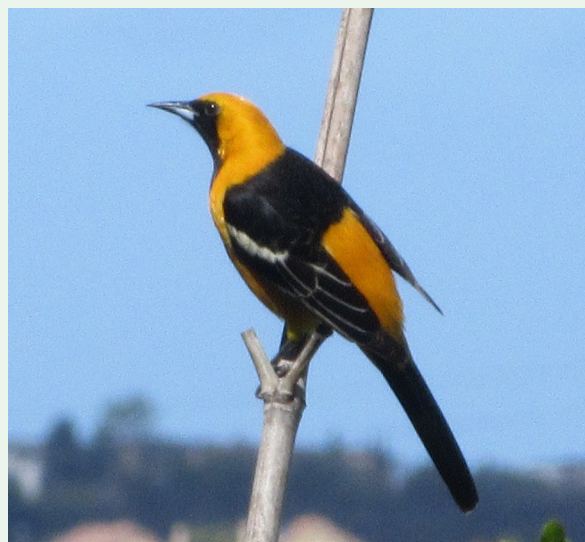


Photo by Cindy Fortner

Tools need sharpening?

Anderson Nursery hosts a tool sharpening event on the first Sunday of each month at 10 to 2.



Minutes from Feb.2025 Meeting *by Barbara Measelle*

Jean Bruckner started the meeting introducing our guest speaker Debbie Dunn, Senior Water Resource Specialist with the San Diego Water Authority .

Ms. Dunn recommends planting water wise plants that invite pollinators, birds, bees, and butterflies into our gardens . To this list of pollinators she added additional species which we don't usually consider as pollinators: moths, flies, small mammals, including bats and even beetles who pollinate at night. And to insure that these pollinators have good stuff to eat she identifies on her website a : "Happy 100 Plant list" of plants that provide sufficient nourishment.

Begin with selecting WaterSmart Plants for the type of garden you want which can be cut flowers or flowering bushes, trees or whatever, but keep in mind the size of the grown plant. Cautioning patience she characterizes , plants in their first year as Sleep; second year as Creep and third year Reap.

Among the plants she favored were many species of Lavender, Ceanothus, Toyon (bush or tree; great along a fence), Grevillea, (a humming bird party place) and Limonium (a 6 month pollinator). Consider what a plant offers pollinators. For example Buck wheat blooms white for us, but when it dries to brown stuff it is good for birds. Lantana can be a low or tall plant but when its leaves burn cut it back severally and it comes back bushier.

Contact Information: Deb Dunn GardenGrlDeb@gmail.com

Jean Bruckner convened our business meeting following the speaker. We will be changing the location of our meetings to the Scripps Ranch Civic Association Community Center which will charge us their non-profit fee. Meeting participants were polled as to their favored meeting times. Members are urged to sign up to provide refreshments .

*The San Diego Horticultural Society will offer a house/garden tour March 21 in Poway and Escondido.

*Consider donating garden books to our lending library at Walter Andersons but add a message to encourage people to return books when finished so that others may use them.



Dear Fellow Members,

We are beginning a new format for our club, and the response is positive and energetic. Let's keep a good thing going. Follow the example of Karen, David, Cindy, Jean, and Susan and share your interests and experiences with our fellow gardeners.

My email: denise.stewart@hotmail.com