

Volume 12, Issue 4, April, 2025

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Meetings 4th Tuesday

6pm



# Scripps-Mesa Garden Club

## Next Meeting

Scripps Ranch  
Community  
Center

11885 Cypress  
Canyon Rd.



Tuesday,  
April 22  
6 pm  
EARTH DAY

Scripps Ranch Community Center  
Site for April 22 Garden Club Meeting  
11885 Cypress Canyon Road, SR

Happy House  
Plants  
Master Gardener  
Linda Stewart



## 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



## A MESSAGE FROM KAREN LOPEZ

Welcome April! Important news for our upcoming April meeting. We will be meeting at the same time, 6:00p, but at our new temporary venue: SRCA Community Center, 11885 Cypress Canyon Rd.

If you haven't done so already, please sign up to bring refreshments as needed for one of our upcoming meetings.

Hopefully we will continue to receive April showers to sustain our spring flowers! There are so many colors and blossoms to see as you drive around San Diego. My cymbidium orchids are blooming and the yellow flower stalks from the Aeonium in my yard are so pretty. (Photos below)

Speaking of colors, consider visiting The Flower Fields in Carlsbad, open through May 11th. Surprisingly, I, for one, have never done this!!

Remember to watch out for baby animals, birds and mammals as you prune trees and bushes in your yard.

Karen



## 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.**

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

← **All  
Currently  
Paid  
Members**



## Cooper's Hawk

by Dave Fortner

This month we'll take a break from beneficial insect-eating birds and introduce the fierce-looking Cooper's Hawk. At 15-18 inches long with a wing-span of up to 3 feet (with the female being larger than the male), this medium-sized hawk thrives in woodland and urban habitats. Look for the characteristic "T" or "cross shape" as they are zooming by. While they do eat small birds, they also eat small mammals so having them in your garden is natural pest control. We have seen our Cooper's Hawk swoop down from the fence and catch a large rat as well as him literally running around on the ground catching mice. Predators are essential in keeping their prey population healthy and alert. And please, please do not use poison to kill mice as this can kill their predators like hawks and owls who can eat a mouse a day, everyday.

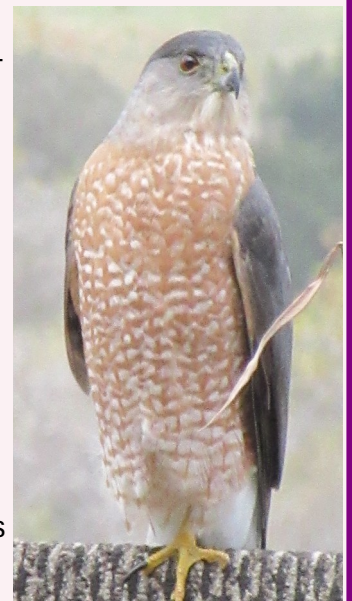


Photo by Cindy Fortner

# April Garden Chores



**Compost** - Turn and keep it moist.  
**Fertilize** caneberrys, citrus, deciduous fruit trees, palms, and heavily-flowering shrubs with slow-release product if not done in March.  
 Implement **disease and insect control** for apple, pear, stone fruits, nut trees, and deciduous landscape trees and shrubs such as roses.  
**Mosquitoes** - Eliminate standing water e.g., in gutters, drain pipes, and flowerpots. Place *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* in birdbaths and ponds to selectively kill mosquito larvae.  
**Mulch** - Apply organic mulch where thin or soil is bare beneath trees and shrubs.  
**Peach leaf curl** - Apply preventive spray once or more during late fall through bud break if leaf curl has been a problem on nectarine or peach.  
**Plant** bare root deciduous trees, shrubs, and vines e.g., caneberrys, fruit and nuts, grapes, and roses. Plant California natives. Select species and cultivars well-adapted to the local site. Water regularly to keep root zone moist, but not soggy.

**Plant** frost-tender species e.g., avocado, bougainvillea, citrus, and hibiscus. Water regularly to keep root zone moist, but not soggy.  
**Powdery mildew** - Check for signs of disease on apple, crape myrtle, grape, rose, and stone fruits. **Powdery mildew** - If severe e.g., on crape myrtle, grape, and rose, avoid fertilization and overirrigation. Prune during the proper time of year to increase air circulation and sun exposure.  
**Prune** deciduous trees and shrubs that need pruning e.g., apple, crape myrtle, pear, rose, spirea, and stone fruits. Make cuts properly to encourage good form and structure. Remove dead, diseased, and borer-infested wood. Except certain pests and host plants warrant summer pruning e.g., shothole borer, apricot, and cherry.

**Prune** pine terminals only during candling (new shoot growth), late spring to early summer, to retard growth and in young pines direct growth. **Prune** winter-flowering shrubs e.g., camellia before next year's flower buds form.  
**Rose pests** - Manage or take preventive actions for powdery mildew, aphids, black spot, downy mildew, and rust.

## MINUTES of the March 25, 2025 Meeting

### Scripps-Mesa Garden Club

Now that all of San Diego has been designated as "In the Fire Zone" this topic takes on an increasing urgency and encourages us to address the topic of defensible space and how that relates to gardening practices. Our speaker this evening, Cindy Brueks a 19 yr Master Gardener came prepared with an illustrated Fire safety video as well as A FIRE SAFETY CHECK LIST and the intention of threatening our complacency with notable facts.

Higher Average temperatures have increased both mega fires and mega winds in CA.

- A fire burns faster than firemen can fight it. It moves faster than they can outrun it.

Even concrete will burn if it gets hot enough.

- Attached wooden fences, if they burn up to the house, the whole house goes.

- Totally clear ZONE O: the first 6 feet from your house or decks

- Flying embers can travel 5.6 miles in the wind and are caught by eaves

- Optimum protection from embers and ash entering home comes with the use 1/8" METAL mesh grid on vents in your attic for example.

- Bushes close to the house burn quickly and take the house with them.

- Choose plants that accept water. Water when planted, then lightly

- Remove debris and all combustibles such as lawn furniture. Vinyl burns.

## Taken from Master Gardeners' April IPM Checklist

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

- Cut off all gas lines on your property before you leave.
- Review fire insurance.
- Know and practice your evacuation route.
- New Senate Bill 1374 defines ZONE O as the first 6 ft around your house or decks.
- Landscape as needed to achieve low density, hydrated mulched plantings.
- Concerning resources: the LA fires used many resources but definitely not all.

**Get the phone app from:**

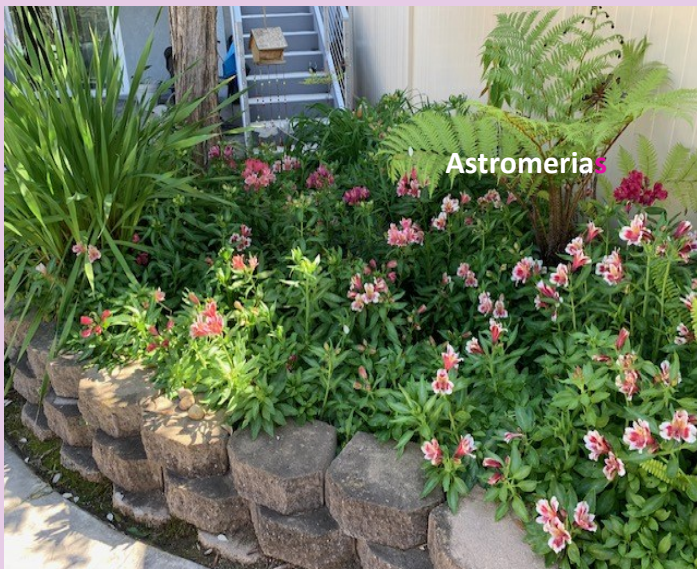
[readysandiego.org](http://readysandiego.org)

Barbara Maeselle, Secretary



Wisteria

*Spring  
is  
Blooming  
in  
Louise Badham's  
Canyonside Yard*



Astromerias



## Spring & Summer Events Calendar

Jackie Brown, Program Chair

Here are the events for the next 5 months

April 22 - Speaker Linda Stewart, MG (Happy Houseplants, Healthy Home)

May 27 - Garden Tour, Karen Lopez (11760 Handrich Drive)

June 24 - Garden Tour, Debbie Honeycutt (10855 Canarywood Court)

July 22 - Garden Tour, Ann Massey (11454 Caminito Elado)

Aug 26 - Summer Potluck, Lynnell Hallock (11082 Turret Drive)

\*\*\*Lynnell volunteered her house instead of going to Community Center

Start time 6 pm for all events