

Volume 12, Issue 6, June, 2025

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Meetings 4th Tuesday
6pm



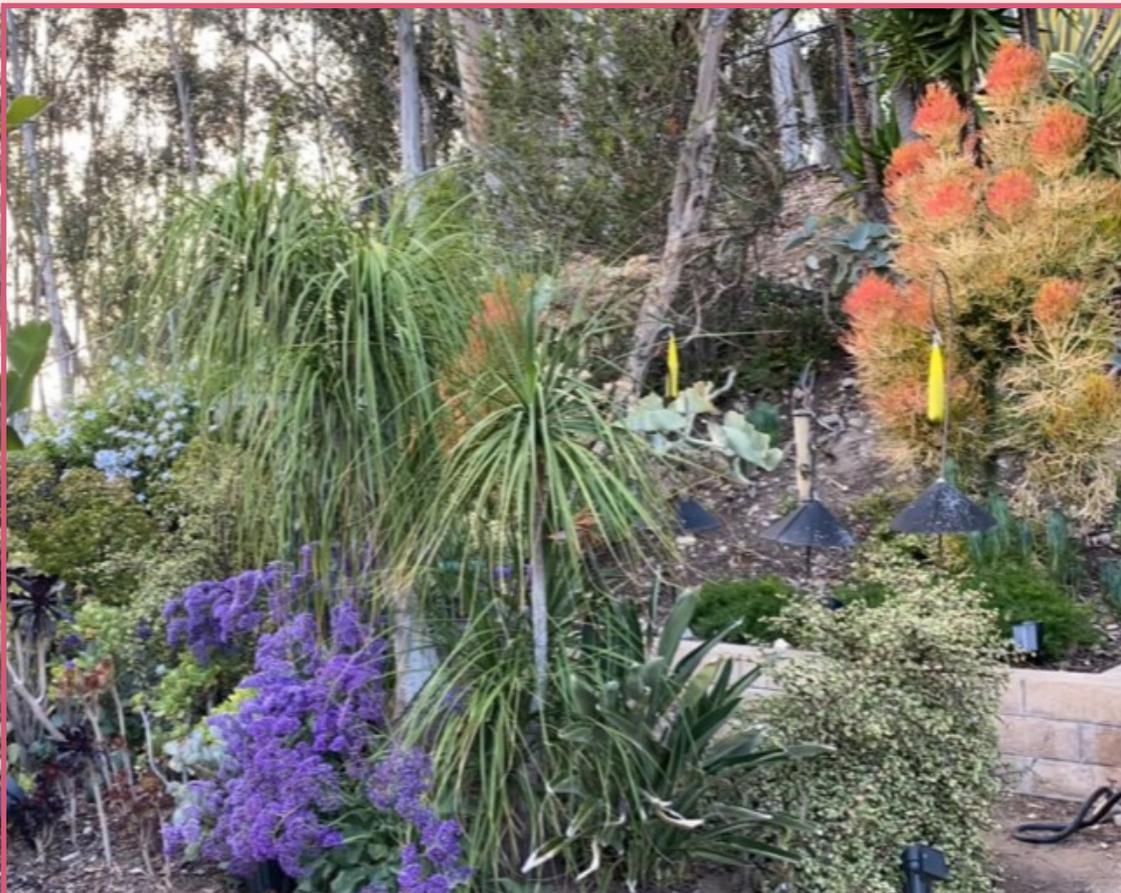
Scripps-Mesa Garden Club

Next Meeting June 24

Debbie Honeycutt's Garden

10855 Canarywood Ct.

Scripps Ranch



A
Display
of
Succulents
Bursting
with
Color
in Karen Lopez's
garden

Summer Events Calendar

July 22 - Garden Tour, Ann Massey, 11454 Caminito Elado, SR

Aug.26 Summer Potluck, Lynnell Hallock, 11082 Turret Drive, SR

Start time 6 pm

A Message from Karen Lopez...

Thank you for the great turnout at our first garden tour last month, which just happened to be in my backyard! I enjoyed having you over to the house and talking about all my different plants.

I stopped by Walter Anderson's and the good news is the library box was not empty and actually had some additional contributions! Hopefully the new signage is making a difference. Any garden books you no longer need can be contributed to the library box. Just place them inside the box next time you visit the nursery. Or, if you prefer, you can bring them to a meeting, give them to me and I will add them for you.

My bird feeders have been SO busy this season. For a few weeks I was refilling the hummingbird feeders daily. It's been fun watching them, Anna's and Allen's the most recognizable for me. I also added an Oriole feeder this year and was surprised to find out how many other bird species, besides Orioles, like grape jelly! I was graced with at least 1 pair of Hooded Oriole visitors and the male is just stunning to see. (Picture below.)

I'm looking forward to our June garden tour at Debby Honeycutt's and hope to see you there.

Happy Gardening!

Karen



Photo by Karen Lopez

A Hooded Oriole enjoys a snack at the birdfeeder outside Karen's kitchen window. The inside is adorned with blooming orchids.

**Thanks for the Treats
at the
May Garden Tour
*Lynnell Hallock
and
Karen Creusere***



June Garden Chores



- ◆ Harvest strawberries
- ◆ Plant summer crops: tomatoes, corn, squash, beans, eggplants, peppers
- ◆ Grow sunflowers from seeds
- ◆ Plant culinary herbs . Plant mint in a separate pot
- ◆ Protect ripening fruit trees from birds with netting
- ◆ Pinch back basil
- ◆ Check irrigation system before the temps heat up
- ◆ Plant for pollinators: rosemary, lavender
- ◆ Tend to the compost bin

Another Opinion on Epsom Salts

Taken from Famers Daily Almanac

Some gardeners swear by Epsom salt as a gardening hack. We're here to tell you that Epsom salt is good for neither plants, such as tomatoes or roses, nor the soil. Yes, it's one of those gardening myths.

While many vegetables (leafy greens, beans, peas) can grow in soil with low magnesium levels, other plants, including tomatoes, peppers, and roses, need high magnesium levels. What if Epsom salt is added to the soil to correct significant magnesium deficiencies? Unfortunately, horticultural studies (Auburn University, Delaware Valley College) prove that adding Epsom salt to the soil (directly or through watering) **does not link to higher yield or healthier growth** from peppers and tomatoes to roses. When it comes to your soil, **do not rely** on Epsom salt to adjust deficiencies in magnesium or sulfur! The only real way to know if your soil is lacking magnesium or sulfur is to test your soil.

Great Horned Owl

By Dave Fortner

Great Horned Owls are the silent hunters of the night. At 22 inches long with a wingspan of 44 inches, these large owls have distinctive feather tufts that look like horns or ears. They are typically nocturnal, so listen for their classic “who whoo whoo” call.

Owls have ferocious appetites and typically eat 3-4 mice or 1-2 rats per day, everyday! If there are chicks, it can be up to an astonishing 40 mice per day! With owls around, there really is no rodent problem. So please, please, please, do not use rat poison as this leaves half-dead mice that poisons the owls.. Up to 60-80% of owls have poison in their system.

Attract owls to your yard by keeping outdoor lighting to a minimum, and perhaps putting up an owl box for possible nesting.

Photo by Cindy Fortner



Dave Fortner's Response to Brydon Bennett's Contribution on Pesticides

Brydon, this is excellent. Although it did leave me wanting for another paragraph (or three).



My 2 cents on your observations are that the exhaust from the cars cannot be good for the plants, and thus weakens them, making them more susceptible to predation. And then, yes, absolutely, there are far, far fewer predators to control the pests, in part due to the traffic, but also due to the roadside spraying which kills everything. The pest insects can rebound much more robustly, and so that's what you inevitably see. This is the real downside to pesticides, as it cripples the natural ecosystem, effecting the top parts more as the poison accumulates as you go up the food chain. I am convinced more and more that the solution to most garden problems is more birds

David Fortner