

Volume 12, Issue 9, Sept.2025

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Meetings 4th Tuesday

6pm



Scripps-Mesa Garden Club



September 23rd meeting

featuring a presentation by

Dave Fortner

and

Cindy Fortner

Birds in Our Gardens

Scripps Ranch Community Center

11885 Cypress Canyon Rd., SR

6pm

A Smile from Mother Nature

While Dave and Cindy Fortner were out in their garden, Mother Nature presented them with this encounter of a Towhee (our bird of the month) and a desert cottontail.

Photo by Cindy Fortner

Oct. 28 - SAL CASTELLITO explaining the Master Gardener program

Nov. TBA

Dec. No meeting



President's Message ...

Can you believe it's already September? I can't!! Where did the summer go?

We had a great turnout for our annual August potluck. Thanks to Lynnell for hosting our end-of-summer celebration again this year in her beautiful and lush backyard. Thanks to everyone else for all the delicious side dishes, salads and desserts. Potlucks are the best!

Jackie has lined up speakers from within for the next 2 months. David and Cindy Fortner will educate us about birds in September, and Sal CASTELLITO will present info about SD Master Gardeners in October. Remember our meetings will be at the SRCA Community Center on Cypress Canyon Rd until further notice.

Remember to add any garden books you no longer want to our library box at Walter Anderson's, or bring them to the next meeting, give them to me and I will add them for you. My neighbor volunteers at the library Book Nook and I've asked her to watch for gardening books that I can purchase and add to our library box. She collected several books this month and one that caught my eye is "Twenty Reasons Not to Garden (And Why I Ignore Them All)" by Luke Ruggenberg. When my neighbor brings the books home tomorrow I think I might keep that one and read it myself. Sounds like it should be entertaining.

Happy Gardening!! **KAREN**

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." Audrey Hepburn



Garden Club Bird of the Month

California Towhee

By Dave Fortner

This month's bird features the California Towhee. Towhees are large sparrows, and along with the Spotted Towhee, are a relatively common San Diego bird. At 9 inches long, these stocky, long-tailed birds are a matte brown with a rufous patch under their tail. They spend their days foraging on or near the ground, scratching for seeds, and also eating insects, fruit, and even snails. You can often hear their short, somewhat scolding 'chirp' call.

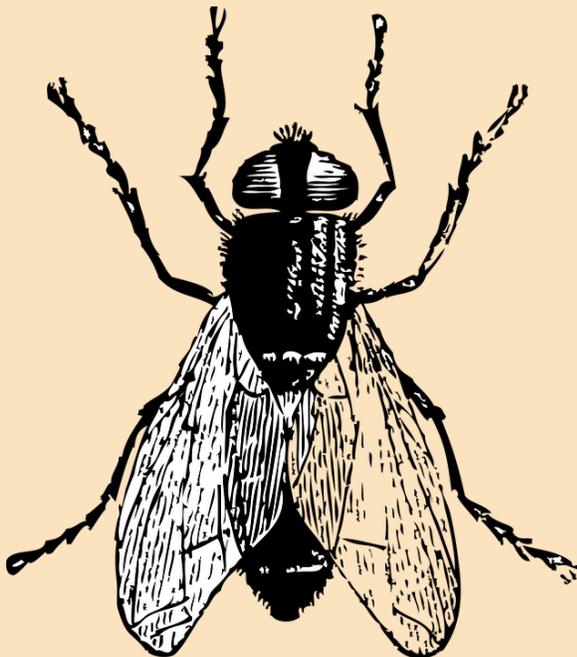
Attract them to your yard with a ground-level seed feeder and water feature, as Towhees love to take baths. One of my favorite birds.

Photograph by Cindy Fortner

September Garden Chores



- Continue succession planting fall crops of collards, kale, turnips, spinach, carrots, lettuce, green onions, beets, and cold-loving cabbages.
- Pinch off the growing tips of vining crops, such as indeterminate tomatoes, squash, and melons, to force the plants to redirect their energy to fruit production.
- Plant out transplants of broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, and cauliflower later in the month if the weather cools.
- Give herbs a good trim, forcing a flush of new growth for harvest next month.
- Don't deadhead any flowers you plan to save seeds from so they can set seed heads. [Keep deadheading](#) all other flowers.
- Cut down on fertilizer to allow new growth to harden off.
- Purchase or order perennials, shrubs, and fruit trees to plant later this month and into October.
- Mark out which perennials you'd like to divide next month and where you might put them.
- Water and [turn your compost pile](#) after adding crushed pine cones.
- Order your choice of spring bulbs and chill them for 8 to 12 weeks so you are ready for planting when the weather cools this winter.



Check your fig trees for black flies

San Diego County fig trees are being attacked by black flies since 2022. The bugs inject maggots into the fruit where the maggots hide. They are not visible until you bite into the fruit.

Nematodes will mitigate the flies and the damage they do to the fig crop.

Cut fig trees to the ground in winter and cover them with netting as they grow tall in warmer weather. Keep the ground around the trees clear.

Cut figs open and check them before eating.