

Volume 13 Issue 2, Feb.2026
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Meeting 4th Tuesday
6pm SR Library



Scripps-Mesa Garden Club

Next Meeting
Tuesday, February 24th, 6pm
Scripps Ranch Library Community Room



Learn how to be successful
in growing potted plants
with Master Gardener Diana Drummey

Share your garden photos with the club members. Identify the plants if you can. Newer phone photos OK.

Send photos to: denise.stewart@hotmail.com



Growing Potted Plants with Diana Drummey

Diana Drummey is a retired law enforcement professional with a Master's degree in Emergency Management. A Master Gardener since 2016 and serves as a National Garden Club Flower Show Judge. Diana chaired the 100th anniversary of the Coronado Flower Show and is the Chair of the Southwestern Judges Council. She currently serves as President of the Palomar District Garden Club, where she continues to inspire others through her leadership and expertise.

Born on Earth Day, April 22, Diana's passion for gardening is deeply rooted in her love for nature and sustainability. She enjoys growing vegetables, building raised garden beds, and perfecting the art of composting. Through her work, she educates the public on gardening, pest management, and composting, encouraging others to cultivate their own green spaces and embrace eco-friendly practices.

Scripps Mesa Garden Club January 27, 2026 Meeting by Barbara Measelle, Secretary

Tyler Trimble, tonight's speaker defines his life work 'doing fruit trees'. Following are his recommendations in response to our questions. Clearly this is his expertise.

This is Bare Root fruit tree season. Select a tree with an undamaged root system. Do not prune or cut off terminal roots. Plant in a shallow hole so that the tree sits up on a mound, foot exposed. Width of hole is more important than depth. Beat up the ground a couple of inches away from the trunk so that the roots can more easily spread out. Native soil with its sand and rocks holds oxygen and is better than filling the hole with enriched soil. Note: In Nature 1-3% organic matter, so enriched soil not necessary. Never rake and discard leaves. Leaves are the plant giving back, regulating temperature, encouraging worms, nourishing the earth and providing beneficial fungi. Stake only if tree can't stand on its own, but let it struggle.

Grass clippings don't hold a lot of air. Don't use as mulch.

For mature fruit trees on a slope make the backside lower than front side so water pools behind the tree and water goes out wider where roots are spreading.

Avoid Weed Block fabric as it blocks leaves. Use cardboard which disintegrates eventually.

Better to plant dwarf fruit trees in pots, boxes or wood barrels using sandy soil layered with rich compost and wood chips. Ceramic terracotta pots are cold. Plastic pots ok if set on bricks.

Prune citrus and evergreens past winter, March to May. Before bugs. Foliage should remain dense. Don't open up the middle. Don't cut in summer. Bugs will attack.

For stone fruit trees, you do remove the central branches and conduct additional pruning to ensure that the bark is exposed to sunlight. Spray citrus in cool season November to May, with an organic product, 1X/wk, 4-6 wks. Spray of choice: neem, mineral, oil, soap product. Keep separate and labeled.

Aphids blast off with heavy stream of water. Leaf miners are hard to detect. Use traps with pheromones to catch leaf miners. Hang on outside of tree in June and refresh in August. Japanese beetles also have pheromone trap lures to purchase at nursery

Black Fig Fly new in 2022, lands on fruit which it impregnates with maggots that fall to ground and go into soil. Use broad spectrum nematoid mixture. Cover tree with mosquito netting, clean up fallen fruit.

Leaf Curl. Use Fungicidal spray at Halloween. Pick up leaves. January, February prune and spray. Repeat when buds swell

BIRD of the MONTH Orange-crowned Warbler

by Dave Fortner

This month's bird features the Orange-crowned warbler. At only 5 inches long, these shy warblers are olive green above and greenish yellow below. Their orange crown is rarely seen unless they are alarmed or wet, but it is amazing--I still don't understand how they keep it covered up! Males sing a thrilling, trilling song of sweet, clear notes. Look for them sneaking around in shrubs near the ground searching for all manner of insects. This is the best kind of insecticide I can think of for your garden.



Photo by Cindy Fortner

February Garden Chores



- Prune Fruit trees
- Prune perennial ornamentals
- Remove dead debris from garden and compost it
- Transplant dormant perennial shrubs and trees
- Clean, repair, sharpen tools
- Start cool season veggies indoors
- Plant cold hardy crops outdoors
- Plan vegetable garden calendar
- Clean houseplant leaves and check for pests
- Spread compost Mulch
- Fill bird feeders



To propagate a plant with hardwood cuttings:

1. Find twigs that are about pencil thickness
2. Ensure the stems are from the current season's wood (one-year-old growth)
3. Find the junction where one-year-old growth joins the two-year-old wood
4. The base of the stem will have a node and more dormant buds to develop into roots
5. Use sharp, sanitized pruners to take cuttings 6-10" long, leaving at least 1/4" below the base bud
6. Use a sharp knife to scrape off the bark of the bottom end of the bud
7. Dip the bottom of each cutting in a rooting hormone to stimulate quicker root growth
8. Insert cuttings into a potting mix or a 50/50 blend of peat moss and sand
9. Leave 1/4 to 1/3 of the cutting exposed above the soil line
10. Maintain continuous dampness, but don't over-water
11. Place cuttings in a greenhouse, cold frame, or bright windowsill

Wait several weeks to months until you see visible growth, then up-pot or transplant

Hardwood plants

Forsythia
Mock Orange
Fig

Shrub Roses
Star Jasmine
Bamboo



**President's
Message
from
Dave Fortner**



As the temperatures push the 80s and the days begin to noticeably lengthen, it is hard not to notice that spring is coming to San Diego. The birds know as well as they begin singing more, and with purpose. The swallows have also begun to return with Barn, Tree, Violet-green, and Northern Rough-winged Swallows making their appearances. And some birds are already building nests and having babies. Here is an Anna's hummingbird sitting on her nest that we saw yesterday, and her 2,000+ insects a day diet has just doubled or tripled as she feeds her new babies!

Record rainfall brought in the new year, which nicely added to last fall's 2x rain, and the landscape has changed to green. Even the Anza Borrego desert has begun to bloom. Your garden is getting ready for a new year. A new year for new plants, new flowers, and new vegetables. It's time to take action!

As the rest of the country freezes--if you can even imagine below zero daytime highs in Minneapolis--and the massive winter storm dumps feet of snow and ice from New Mexico to New York, leaving at least 42 dead and thousands without power (or massive utility bills), we should be extra thankful for living here in our nice San Diego bubble. Our springtime, filled with hope, life, and birdsong, is certainly a good placebo to the ongoing Fourth Reich.

**Roses
by
Sal Castellitto**



Annual Dues Are Payable in March

**\$30 in cash or check made out to Scripps-Mesa Garden Club and given
to Char Fitzgerald, Treasurer**

Renew your membership and continue receiving the monthly newsletter