



Garden Notes

"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

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June 2018

Welcome to the SC Garden Club newsletter!

 Please send us questions about gardening



Ruth Bancroft Garden

This [garden in Walnut Creek](#) showcases a wonderful collection of cacti and other succulents. [Ruth Bancroft](#) didn't start it until she was in her 60s and she continued to work in it until she was over 100.

Chino Basin Water Conservation District Tour



On May 5, about a dozen of us had fun touring this [facility](#).

Free landscaping and irrigation help (but only to those living in San Bernardino County); classes and free monthly mulch are

available to everyone. They've recently started a free seed library –grow the plants in your garden and collect some seed to return to the library to increase the store of locally-adapted varieties.



Mystery Plant Identified!

This plant was added to the sharing table at our May meeting. A few days later, we saw a patch in Vivian and David Serbin's garden and they were able to identify it as "Mexican petunia" ([Ruellia brittoniana](#)). It produces spreading clumps of stems up to 3' tall, tolerates sun to part shade,

Ornamental of the Month

Leucospermum species



[Pincushion proteas](#) are stunning evergreen shrubs with softly hairy leaves that spiral around the stems, pointing more or less upward. The spectacular flowers appear in spring, 3-4" wide in yellow, red, orange, or some combo. Vary from groundcovers to 8' tall and wide, but all need full sun, excellent drainage, good air circulation, and like poor soil, preferably a bit acidic.

Edible of the Month

Fragaria vesca



[Alpine strawberries](#) are quite small but intensely flavored. If you have 20 plants, you might pick enough each day to garnish a bowl of cereal. About 8" tall and one foot wide, evergreen but should be cut back in fall or winter to renew. Nice edging for flower beds. Mostly sun/ some afternoon shade, regular water. Produce fruit spring through fall. Buy [plants](#) or [seeds](#).

low to high water, any soil type, and has a scattering of 1 ½" wide trumpet-shaped purple blooms much of the year.

We are Seeking Additional Board Members and Gardens for the 2019 Tour!

*Let us know if you are interested in joining the Board or in being
considered as one of the tour gardens*

Louisiana Iris (a group of 5 species and many cultivars)



I planted one of these in a 16" pot without drainage about 20 years ago and it is still going strong. It gets watered once a week and has never been fertilized or divided. I remove the dead leaves when I see them. Even with some tall shrubs to the south it bloomed, but now that those are gone and it gets more light (but is protected from hot, afternoon sun), it exploded with 4" blooms mid-April to late May; flat, velvety purple, several to a stem, contrasting with the fortnight lily nearby. It dies back a bit in late fall but enough stays green to hide the pot. Trouble-free and gorgeous! [Schreiner's Iris](#) has a lot of info.

Favorite Quote (courtesy of Sharron Neyer)

***"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful;
they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."*** Luther Burbank

Upcoming events and more

Jun 2: PolliNATION Festival, free, 9am to 3pm, at [Chino Basin Water District](#)

Jun 13 : Garden Club – 6:30-8:30 pm, talk at 7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont. **"Beautiful Plumerias"**

Smart Gardening Workshops: 9:30-11 am, free. For dates and locations, see http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/sg/wk_schds.cfm

Chino Basin Water District: classes on waterwise landscaping, irrigation; mulch giveaways: <http://www.cbwcd.org/150/Workshop-Descriptions>

Armstrong classes: <http://www.armstronggarden.com/pages/classes>

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden: www.rsabg.org/upcoming-events

Huntington Library: Free talks, plant sales www.huntington.org/

Did you know?

Botanical Latin: "Succulent" comes from the Greek "sucus" referring to juice or sap; "leptospermum" is derived from "leptos" for "slender" and "sperma" for "seed".

Plant miscellanea: "Succulent" generally refers to plants that have some parts adapted for water storage; cacti are one subcategory, aloes are another, but there are many others-- some bromeliads and orchids are also classed as succulents.

Things to do in June

General

- ✓ Enjoy all that's blooming before the heat of summer descends
- ✓ Keep up with weeding and mulching
- ✓ Water, fertilize, deadhead

Pest/disease management

- ✓ Control whitefly with spiders (use a damp tissue to gently pick up a spider and move it to the infested plant)
- ✓ Rotate crops to cut down on pests
- ✓ Pick beans in afternoon when vines are dry to prevent rust and mildew

Edibles

- ✓ Thin fruit on deciduous fruit trees after June drop
- ✓ Clip off runners from strawberries; place plastic or straw underneath to keep fruit clean; keep watered
- ✓ Hand-pollinate corn in small plots
- ✓ Harvest regularly

Ornamentals

- ✓ Consider lemon bottlebrush for a drought-tolerant small tree
- ✓ Consider planting a bower vine, mandevilla, or one of the trumpet vines for summer flowers
- ✓ Wait until October to divide iris
- ✓ Feed and prune epiphyllums
- ✓ Prune Euryops daisies

Please send photos and info about plants you've grown, gardens to visit, gardening lore, questions. Sue Schenk, editor

The Metropolitan Water District is offering rebates for turf removal starting in July. <http://socalwatersmart.com/index.php/>

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