



Garden Notes

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December 2018

Welcome to the Claremont Garden Club newsletter!

🐞 Please send us questions and ideas about gardening



The annual conference of the **California Garden and Landscape History Society** was held this fall at the [Marin Art and Garden Center](#) where these photos were taken. The Center is well worth a visit if you are in the area (the basket garden is quite

fun). [CGLHS](#) conferences alternate between northern and southern California and there are usually [talks](#) scheduled at various times and places throughout the state during the year. The society publishes a quarterly magazine called "[Eden](#)" which showcases various aspects of the evolution of California landscapes.



Orange Jessamine (*Murraya paniculata*) is a slow-growing, evergreen shrub or small tree related to citrus. The small, white flowers appear in clusters mostly in fall but sporadically during the year and they have a lovely, orange-blossom scent. Over 20 years, this plant grew 7ft tall and wide from a 6" cutting.

Ornamental of the Month

Strobilanthes dyerianus



[Persian Shield](#) is a great foliage plant for pots or in the ground, or even as a houseplant with its thick, quilted, purple and metallic silver leaves. It likes part shade and prefers regular water in a frost-free spot but is heat-tolerant. Grows up to 3ft tall and wide and can be treated as an annual. If kept longer, it should be pruned to prevent it from getting leggy—the foliage is best on new shoots. It has spikes of funnel-shaped, lilac flowers if happy.

Edible of the Month

Crocus sativus



The bright orange stigmas seen hanging to the left and the bottom of the flower are what produce the spice called saffron. Unlike most, this [crocus](#) blooms in fall, followed by leaves 6-12" tall in winter and dies down in spring. Grow from corms (be sure they are saffron crocus) in sun in well-drained soil. [Some recipes here.](#)

Mystery Plant: If you know what this small tree is, seen in a Marin County garden, please let us know! The 2" wide fruit are soft with no large seeds.



Favorite Quote (courtesy of Sharron Neyer)

"A flower does not think of competing with the flower next to it-- it just blooms."

Source unknown



A 2" garden [earthball fungus](#) after the cap has split open and most of the spores have been lost. Similar to puffballs but those eject spores through a pore in the top rather than splitting open. Spores of either sort can be irritating if inhaled. An immature earthball is shown upper left—if cut open, it will have a tough rind enclosing a solid mass rather than having the beginnings of a stalk inside. Not edible!

Upcoming events and more

Dec 1: 10 am, tour of Corey Nursery in Claremont. Meet there.

Dec 12: Garden Club Winter Potluck – 6:30 pm, everyone is welcome! Let us know if you'd like to join in the fun and we will send you the address.

Smart Gardening Workshops: 9:30-11 am, free. For dates and locations, see http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/sg/wk_scheds.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: "dyerianus" refers to 19th century British botanist Sir William Turner Thisleton-Dyer; "crocus" derives from the Latin "crocatum" meaning "saffron yellow".

Plant miscellanea: [Phylloclades](#) and [cladodes](#) are flattened stems that replace leaves in performing photosynthesis. Found in cacti, epiphyllums, asparagus, etc

Things to do in December

General

- ✓ Water as needed; include Calif natives as this is their wet, growing season
- ✓ Tie up vines to prevent damage from rain and wind
- ✓ Create dish gardens as gifts for children, herb containers for adults.
- ✓ Continue cleaning up, cut back dead stems of perennials

Pest/disease management

- ✓ Spray peach and apricots for peach leaf curl if that has been a problem
- ✓ Watch out for snails and slugs—search at night or set out upside-down pots, boards, etc and check during day

Edibles

- ✓ Plant bare root fruit trees, berries
- ✓ Start pruning deciduous fruit trees and grape vines (use prunings to make wreaths)
- ✓ Plant winter veg: artichokes, asparagus, cole crops, peas, lettuce, radishes, potatoes
- ✓ Fertilize existing crops

Ornamentals

- ✓ Plant bare root roses, trees, vines
- ✓ Plant camellias, azaleas
- ✓ Prune wisteria, Calif natives (except for ceanothus—do this after bloom)
- ✓ Fertilize cymbidiums but not roses
- ✓ Finish planting spring bulbs

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

The Metropolitan Water District is not currently offering rebates for turf removal. <http://socalwatersmart.com/index.php/>

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