



Garden Notes

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Welcome to the Claremont Garden Club newsletter!

🐝 Please send us questions and ideas about gardening



Prep for a Pie? No!

Take a look at some of the amazing exhibits, including these papier mache apples, shown in a video shot at the Adelaide Museum of Economic Botany. Our thanks to Beth Benjamin for sending along [the link](#).

Mason Bee Nests

Here are two ideas I'm trying out for providing nesting sites for our native bees. Top: Dead bamboo canes cut to fit in an old coffee can which is slanted downwards and away from any rain or irrigation. Bottom: Tubes made out of rolled up pages from a damaged book and taped under the cover for protection. Now we'll see if any bees use them!



Two Ideas from the Greywater Tour

Below left is a 4 x 8 bed made out of [fabric with a plastic frame](#). Below right shows the top of a [root guard gopher basket](#) in which a guava has been planted. It will break down in 3-5 years so it won't damage growing roots.



Ornamental of the Month

Gazania rigens



[African Daisy](#) or Treasure Flower is very easy to grow. Not fussy about soil and doesn't need much water, but it does need lots of sun to flower. Blooms most of the year here but flowers close at night and in cloudy weather. Does fine without dead-heading but will naturalize if you let it go to seed. Forms evergreen clumps about a foot tall and wide. Easily divided.

Edible of the Month

Morus macroura



There are many [species of mulberry](#), including this one, the long mulberry and the fruit really is long, up to 4 inches! It's dark and sweet and matures May through June, the product of green catkins. The juice stains clothes, hands, and concrete. This species is weeping, fast-growing when young and slower to about 30ft but can be kept shorter. Deciduous, with large leaves.



Photos from John Andersen

(all California natives)

Top: Shooting star ([Dodecatheon](#) spp)

Second: [Sphinx moth](#) caterpillar on California fuschia

Third: Stream orchid ([Epipactus gigantea](#))

Bottom: Cliff aster ([Malacothrix saxatilis](#))



Favorite Quote

"A garden is a complex of aesthetic and plastic intentions; and the plant is, to a landscape artist, not only a plant - rare, unusual, ordinary or doomed to disappearance - but it is also a color, a shape, a volume or an arabesque in itself."

Roberto Burle Marx



Campanula poscharskyana

[Serbian bellflower](#): evergreen, 6" tall by 2 ft wide, part shade, moderate water, good drainage, any soil



Upcoming events and more

Jun 8/9: Fern Show and Sale, 9am-5pm, [LA Arboretum](#)

Jun 12: Garden Club - 6:30-8:30 pm, talk at 7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont. "A Kaleidoscope of California Butterflies"

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/

LA Arboretum: Plant shows and sales <https://www.arboretum.org>

Did you know?

Botanical Latin: "Campanula" is derived from "campana" which means "bell" (referring to the flower shape); "poscharskyana" refers to 19th century German botanist, Gustav Poscharsky

Plant miscellanea: In [mulberries](#), a cluster of densely-packed flowers (from a female catkin) forms fruits so close together that they look like one fruit. This is an example of a "multiple" fruit

Things to do in June

General

- ✓ Keep up with weeding, deadheading, watering, cutting back
- ✓ Renew mulch where needed
- ✓ Take note of what is doing well and what isn't

Pest/disease management

- ✓ Check plants several times a week for pests
- ✓ Interplant vegetables with herbs and annuals to confuse pests
- ✓ Warm nights cause bud drop in gardenias; move where nights are colder
- ✓ Buy or make yellow sticky traps to reduce whitefly population

Edibles

- ✓ Hand-pollinate corn if in a small plot
- ✓ Thin fruit of deciduous fruit trees
- ✓ Plant melons
- ✓ Rotate crops
- ✓ Don't fertilize beans—prevents fruiting

Ornamentals

- ✓ Let bearded iris grow until October before dividing
- ✓ Prune euryops daisies
- ✓ Prune once-flowering climbing roses after flowers fade
- ✓ Prune epiphyllums; purchase new ones

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://socialwatersmart.com/index.php/>

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