



Garden Notes

www.sustainableclaremont.org

gardenclub@sustainableclaremont.org

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Welcome to the SC Garden Club newsletter!

- Let us know what you'd like to see in the newsletter, and consider sharing interesting information you come across!
- If you have ideas for topics for the meetings, field trips or other activities, or would like to arrange any, we can use the help!

March field trip to the Bernard Field Station (www.bfs.claremont.edu)



A small but enthusiastic group explored trails around the BFS, enjoying the spring bloom of our native coastal sage scrub and seeing garden-worthy shrubs like the laural sumac in the photo at left (courtesy of Ross Focke). The trip was a follow up to a talk by Antonio Sanchez, nursery production manager of RSABG. He distributed a list of 25 easy to grow native plants which will be posted on the SC website soon.

April Field trip to the Maloof Gardens (www.malooffoundation.org)



We had a great guided tour of the property. It is maintained by volunteers so if you have a yearning to weed or lead, give them a call! The garden is full of good ideas and wonderful garden sculpture, with a small exhibition hall currently filled with an outstanding array of interesting musical instruments made of wood.

UCC Garden Tour: Six beautiful Claremont gardens were on this year's tour.! Next year the Garden Club is planning to co-sponsor this. If you know of a garden we might visit, suggest it!

Our Earth Day booth with Dorcia Bradley and Patty Lindberg

If you'd like to help on the 4th of July, let us know!



Ornamental of the Month: *Iris douglasii*

Pacific Coast Iris is one of our best native perennials. The 2 ft long leaves are evergreen. Spring blooms can be white, like these growing in the Maloof garden, or many shades of purple.



Edible of the Month:

Cynara cardunculus var. scolymus

With silvery, lobed leaves up to 2 ½ ft long and huge purple thistle flowers, 6 ft tall globe artichokes can be great additions to flower beds as well as to vegetable beds. The fleshy part of the bracts enclosing the purple flowers are delicious dipped in butter. These are growing in Anne Moreau's garden.



Favorite quote (courtesy of Sharron Neyer):

"They know, they just know where to grow, how to dupe you, and how to camouflage themselves among the perfectly respectable plants, they just know, and therefore, I've concluded weeds must have brains."

Dianne Benson, *Dirt*, 1994

Make your garden a wildlife habitat!

The downside of gardens is the destruction of natural habitat. We can mitigate the damage by providing food (plants that provide nectar, fruit, foliage), water (ponds, fountains, birdbaths, puddling areas for butterflies), nesting sites (trees, brush, bare ground for some native bees) and shelter (shrubs, brush piles, birdhouses) for native wildlife in our gardens.

The National Wildlife Federation

has a well-established program (see photo above at Maloof garden) to certify gardens.



"Garden Inspiration"—our first fundraiser!

We are having a silent auction of garden-inspired art May 15 through Jun 1. You can stop by the Grow Native Nursery at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden to see the items then and leave a bid (the nursery is closed Mondays and Tuesdays). On Saturday, June 1, everyone is invited to come to the nursery from 3-5pm to make final bids, socialize (food, music, good conversation), and maybe pick up some discounted native plants. Please do come and support the Club, and if you have art to donate, let us know!

Thanks to Zoe Tebeau for a donation of books!

One of the projects we have underway is creating a lending library of gardening books. This is being organized by Patty Lindberg and the books will join the Claremont Heritage library in the Garner House. Donations of books in good condition about any aspect of gardening are welcome! We hope to have this up and running by the end of summer. If you'd like to help, email us.

Sign up for June tour of Golden State Water demonstration garden!

GSW gives visitors free items related to waterwise gardening so the size of tour groups is limited. If you would like to join in on the morning of Saturday, June 22, email Richard Haskell, Richard.Haskell@HMC.edu and reserve a spot soon.

Upcoming events and more: *(The garden club is free and open to all)*

May 8: Garden Club meeting (7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Pilgrim Place)

"Creative Container Gardening" –Steve Gerischer

May field trip: TBA

May 11: Cal Poly tractor and car show and strawberry festival 10am-4pm

www.csupomona.edu/~farmstore/tractor-car-show.shtml

Ongoing: "Gateways to the Communities" exhibit has opened at RSABG

<http://rsabg.org/garden-news1/912-gateways>

Though June 10: RSABG members can visit the Wildflower painting exhibit at the Huntington for free

Garden tours: go to www.latimes.com and type in 'spring garden tours'

Did you know?

Botanical Latin: "*douglasii*" refers to Donald Douglas, a Scottish botanist. "Cardunculus" means 'thistle-like'.

Plant Anatomy: If a leaf has a smooth edge it is called 'entire'; if it has pointed indentations, it has 'teeth'. Teeth can be large or small, pointed or rounded, all the same or some large and some small.

Things to do in May

General

- ✓ Plant summer annuals
- ✓ Weed!
- ✓ Visit (www.sunset.com) for good ideas (some of them are here!)
- ✓ Great time to visit nurseries and gardens

Pest management

- ✓ Check your tomato plants for big, green hornworms. Hard to see so sprinkle leaves lightly with water first; they will shake off the water making it easier to find them
- ✓ For general pest help visit www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/menu.homegarden.html

Edibles

- ✓ Plant bananas, cherimoya, avocado
- ✓ Support tomatoes
- ✓ Time to put in eggplant, cucumber, melon, peppers
- ✓ When onions and garlic start to go brown, stop watering and let them dry out for storage

Ornamentals

- ✓ Plant roses
- ✓ Contain fast-spreading ornamental grasses like silver-leaved native *Leymus condensatus* 'Canyon Prince' or Japanese blood grass by planting them in their pots with the bottom third of the plastic cut off and the top edge a few inches above ground. The leaves will cover the edge quickly.
- ✓ Cut back leggy hibiscus and other subtropicals by as much as half

🌱Volunteers needed for nominating committee—email us if willing to help!

Election is in June and members can suggest nominees at the May meeting.