

GROWING PAINS



Newsletter for the MiraCosta Horticulture Club of Oceanside

June 2019

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Announcements

The June meeting will be held on the 8th and NOT on the 1st. At our usual place.

We will have our annual end of the year potluck at noon. This is the day we get together and survey ourselves to make our dreams and wishes known for programs and workshops for our next year. We also honor the club member selected as Member of the Year and install the new Board.

Annual memberships for the 2019-2020 season are due to be paid by the June 8 potluck meeting. If payments are not received BEFORE June 30, you will not be listed in the new yearbook. More IMPORTANTLY the club will not have a good idea of potential members for the new season. Why, do you ask is this important? Because 1) we want to know if we have enough renewals to sustain the club and hence plan programs, 2) speakers want to know the size of group to which they will be speaking, 3) the club needs to know the potential renewal revenue to expect that will help fulfill the mission to fund programs for the college.

Single renewals are \$20. For a family, subsequent members pay \$16. If mailing a check, send it to your new Treasurer, Cindi Toszak. Cindy will also be maintaining the master roster. Her address is 1515 providence Drive, Vista, CA 92081. If you are not planning to renew, please DO let her know

PROACTIVELY, so no one has to spend time making calls and emails to annoy you. Up until the

June 8 meeting, please let both of us know your status. No IOUs are accepted.

President's Message for June 2019 Newsletter

By Tandy Pfof

June 8 will be my last meeting as President, as we welcome the new Board. Our season end potluck is also when we think about the new season and what we would like the club to achieve. I am so happy about the new Board. Such a wonderful group of long-time, committed and seasoned members as well as quite capable and enthusiastic new members! It is time for new ideas.

I have been with the club for seven years and served on the Board for six. Other responsibilities are requiring more time now. Thanks to Ed Fitzgerald for the programs with speakers from which I have learned much. Carol Fehner has been managing publications and leading the plant sale so well. We are fortunate that they both will be staying on. Thank you, Sue Getyina for six years as Treasurer. We never worried that the IRS, Pennies for Pines and garden club societies weren't being taken care of.

Thank you, Cindi Tosczak, Ed Lopez and Susan Duey for picking up the reins from those of us who are retiring. Your enthusiasm and fresh approach are so welcome.

Why You Shouldn't Try to Grow a Fruit Tree From a Sucker or Seed

Kim Cyr

People don't always understand that you can't grow a tree that will produce fruit true to its type by letting a sucker from the rootstock grow into a tree or by planting a seed from the fruit of a tree.

A sucker is not a tree, it is a branch from the root stock. A root stock is the bottom half of a tree, with the roots. Generally, trees are grafted onto root stocks for disease resistance, cold hardiness, and dwarfing.

A sucker usually grows faster than the top part of the tree. Suckers should be cut off promptly so they do not draw off energy that should be going to the upper part of the tree. If left to siphon away the life from the upper portion, the tree will die and the rootstock will take over.

The root stock and scion are from different plants. A scion is a branch that is taken from a tree. The scion is then grafted onto the root stock to make the tree more resistant.

Tree fruits are almost always grafted onto roots that are chosen for their qualities as a root rather than their fruit. They are usually rejected as a producing crop because they aren't good to eat.

Planting a fruit seed also does not usually yield a good fruit tree. The seed inside each fruit should be considered a whole new variety that is yet unknown. Each seed will contain an unpredictable collection of genetic traits gleaned from a much larger gene pool. These characteristics may include wickedly barbed branches, bitter citron-like flesh and marble-sized fruit.

Preparing Before Wildfire Threatens

cityvista.com/fire

With the concerns over the year around the potential for wildfire, fire safety and preparedness are a year-round practice in Southern California. High winds and low humidity can transform a small, easily controlled fire into a catastrophic event. Long

before fire threatens, be prepared, be ready and plan your evacuation.

Maintain defensible space around your home. (readyforwildfire.org)

Remove or isolate plants that are highly flammable.

Make a list of items to take during an evacuation.

Learn alternate ways out of your neighborhood in case your usual way is blocked.

Plan how to transport your pet(s) if evacuated.

Listen to local TV/radio news. Check the city's website at cityofvista.com or the city's social media sites for updates.

Sign up for text or e-mail alerts at readysandiego.org/alertsandiego.

If officials instruct you to leave, do so immediately.

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, and it is important to plan in advance how you will contact one another; how you will get back together, and what to do in certain emergencies. Learn how to prepare, plan and stay informed by visiting readysandiego.org.

Recycling

Most people want to help the environment by recycling but sometimes it's confusing to know what can and can't be recycled.

EDCO's Recycling Guidelines

Glass Bottles & Jars
Recycle all food and beverage containers

Cardboard & Styrofoam Packaging
No styrofoam packing peanuts.

Newspapers
Recycle your newspaper and everything that is delivered with it—including inserts, coupons, etc.

Cans
Recycle aluminum cans and steel cans—including clean & dry paint cans, and empty aerosol cans. Also, recycle aluminum foil.

Plastic Containers
Recycle all rigid plastics, such as bottles, jugs, and

jars, marked  to , and all beverage containers labeled "CA Redemption Value" or "CA Cash Refund" including:

- Food & Beverage Containers — Milk, soda, water, salad dressings, cooking oil, yogurt containers, cottage cheese containers, etc.
- Jars & Canisters — Peanut butter jars, mayonnaise jars, aspirin bottles and 35mm film canisters.
- Cleaning Products & Detergents — Bleach, detergent, soap, shampoo, drain cleaners, etc. (Containers must be empty.)
- Automotive & Yard Care Products — EMPTY motor oil, antifreeze, plant food and herbicide containers.
- Miscellaneous Rigid Plastics — Including, but not limited to, plastic buckets with metal handles, plastic drums, totes & empty garbage cans, plastic milk crates, kitty litter buckets, laundry baskets, lawn furniture, and pet carriers, plastic toys, plastic agricultural trays/pots, plastic pallets, and other mixed plastic containers.

Look on the bottom of a plastic item and you should find the "chasing arrow" symbol with a number in the center like the two shown ( to .

Mixed Paper

Recycle virtually all clean and dry paper including: writing paper (all colors), computer paper, Xerox paper, catalogs, brochures, magazines, junk mail, phone books, post-it type notes, and shredded paper. Place shredded paper inside paper bags to contain shreds. Items that have staples, window envelopes or metal clasps can be recycled.

You can also recycle cereal boxes and other clean food packaging, including cake boxes, flour bags, frozen dinner boxes, paper egg cartons, and soda/beer 12-pack carrying boxes. Also recycle paper grocery bags, gift boxes, shoe boxes, paper gift wrap, calendars, and core tubes from paper towels, etc.

Cartons

To recycle cartons, place empty cartons in recycling cart along with all paper, metal, plastic, and glass recyclables accepted through the program.

Materials not accepted for curbside recycling

- Ceramics

- Plastic bags (return to stores)
- Plastic utensils
- Glassware
- Batteries
- Toxic product containers

Where Recycling Ends Up

The City of San Diego contracts two companies to process and market the materials collected in the curbside program: IMS Recycling Services and Allan Company, both of which operate materials-recovery facilities that sort the co-mingled materials for recycling through a series of manual and mechanical sorting.

The processors market the materials to end users who turn them into new products: paper into new paper products, packaging and furniture; plastic into containers, clothing, carpet, plastic lumber, flower pots, car parts and more; aluminum into drink cans, airplanes, car parts, etc.; food cans into anything that steel is made from, including car parts, machinery, building materials, etc.; glass into new glass containers, decorative tiles, road reflectors, jewelry, tableware, and more.

The City currently operates recycling stations at 44 Park and Recreation Centers throughout San Diego.

Eastern Monarch Butterfly Population Rebounds

biologicaldiversity.org January 30, 2019

WASHINGTON— The yearly count of monarch butterflies overwintering in Mexico, released today, shows an increase of 144 percent from last year's count and is the highest count since 2006. That's good news for a species whose numbers had fallen in recent years, but conservationists say the monarch continues to need Endangered Species Act protection.

Today's count of 6.05 hectares of occupied forest is up from 2.48 hectares last winter. The increase is attributable to favorable weather during the spring and summer breeding seasons and during the fall migration. Monarchs have lost an estimated 165 million acres of breeding habitat in the United States to herbicide spraying and development.

"This reprieve from bad news on monarchs is a thank-you from the butterflies to all the people who planted native milkweeds and switched to organic

corn and soy products,” said Tierra Curry, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity. “But one good weather year won’t save the monarch in the long run, and more protections are needed for this migratory wonder and its summer and winter habitats.”

In 2014 conservationists led by the Center for Biological Diversity and the Center for Food Safety petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the butterfly under the Endangered Species Act. The Fish and Wildlife Service’s initial decision was that endangered species protection may be warranted, and a final decision will be issued by June.

“The question is whether the Trump administration wants to do Monsanto’s bidding or protect monarchs for future generations,” said George Kimbrell, legal director at the Center for Food Safety. “This year’s count is a temporary reprieve that doesn’t change what the law and science demands, which is that we protect monarchs under the Endangered Species Act before it’s too late.”

As recently as the mid-1990s, monarchs covered nearly 21 hectares of forest in their wintering ground, falling to less than 1 hectare in 2014. Scientists estimate that 6 hectares is the threshold to be out of the immediate danger zone of migratory collapse.

About 99 percent of all North American monarchs migrate each winter to oyamel fir forests on 12 mountaintops in central Mexico. Scientists from World Wildlife Fund Mexico estimate the population size by measuring the area of trees turned orange by the clustering butterflies.

Monarch butterflies west of the Rocky Mountains overwinter on the coast of California. Their numbers dropped to fewer than 30,000 this year, down from 1.2 million two decades ago.

A recent study found that if current trends continue, the western population has a 63 percent chance of extinction in 20 years and more than an 80 percent chance of extinction within 50 years. The western population is now at the threshold of extinction.

The caterpillars only eat milkweed, but the plant has been devastated by increased herbicide spraying in conjunction with corn and soybean crops that have been genetically engineered to tolerate direct spraying with herbicides. In addition to glyphosate, monarchs are threatened by other

herbicides and by neonicotinoid insecticides that are toxic to young caterpillars.

Climate change also threatens to disrupt the monarch’s migration and render its overwintering habitats unsuitable by the end of the century.

Decollate Snail or the Mediterranean Snail

Grangetto’s

Decollate snails are commonly referred to as Mediterranean snails. When you hear folks complain about snails turning their garden into a salad bar, they are referring to helix snails. The Helix snails will invade your garden and pick your plants clean. In the past there have been 2 solutions. The most common was a cycle of applying snail bait, watching the population dwindle, and then eventually returning and the homeowner spreading yet another layer of snail bait. The other more time-consuming method is the “hunt and crunch” method of hand-picking snails from your garden. Like clowns climbing out of a Volkswagen. they just keep on coming.

This is where decollate snails come in. They are a natural hunter of helix snails, and helix snail eggs. The decollate snails will actually clean your garden for you. When you get your first batch it will seem like they are not up to the job. They are small, usually dormant and once in your garden they disappear. They burrow in the day to stay cool and damp, but at night they feast on the bad guys.

The decollate population will rise and fall seasonally. They will meet the demand of the Helix snail population. When your garden is clear of helix snails the decollates will dine on decomposing organic material, becoming little compost machines. Surely the helix will return and in time the Decollate population will become robust again.

I am not as patient as I should be so I add new decollates each spring to give them a head start. I expect many of my neighbors’ gardens have become homes for decollates. There is comfort in knowing I am not adding chemicals.

PENNIES FOR PINES

