

### IN APRIL NEWSLETTER

- March Field Trip
- April Bouquet, Seed Library
- April Monthly Meeting
- New Member Welcome
- Community Project
- Upcoming Events
- Member Contributions
- April Garden Tasks

## March Field Trip to Local Farm with Greenhouse: by Yu Linda Song

We visited Farmer Roy, the Director of Horticulture at Poway Gardens, a memory care home with 86 residents. Farmer Roy grows 25,000 pounds of fresh vegetables with the help of volunteers to feed not only the residents, but also provides fresh produce to local neighbors facing food insecurity in Poway, Rancho Bernardo and Rancho Penasquitos. There is a weekly Food Bank Garden Farmers Market, an Annual Taste Test with local homeschool groups, and an Intergenerational Garden Club on site. Farmer Roy has a recipe for success that he cultivated through his years as a commercial herb grower and through experience out in Poway which is a bit warmer than our coastal climate.





Here is some of the wisdom he shared.

- September to March for brassicas.
- Start tomatoes now, volume will decrease later in the summer, but you can plant up to end of July. His favorite or most successful is the Bhn1021 and Aperol Variety. Roy recommended looking into tips from Chuck McClung on tomatoes.
- Roy plants a row of cucumbers every three weeks.
- Out in Poway, Roy waters for two hours three times a week. He uses irrigation drip tape. It sounds like a lot but amounts to a half gallon for 100 feet of tape.
- For seed starting, Roy keeps seedlings in a greenhouse. Use seed starter mix, Miracle Grow is okay. EB Stone is also used at Poway Gardens. Do not overwater.
- Roy releases lady bugs in the greenhouse.
- For pests use insecticidal soap, Sluggo Plus and BT
- If you have clay soil, add gypsum

We all left with inspiration and kale and squash seedlings, fresh bunches of kale, and handfuls of snow peas.



**April Bouquet:** Yu Linda and Saritha donated flowers and Shital Parikh made and delivered the colorful april bouquet. Please [SIGN UP](#) to donate homemade flower arrangements to the library each month. Locally grown flowers encouraged.

**SEED LIBRARY:** Seed library will be donated by the club to Carmel Valley Library at the May meeting. Please [email Claire Lee](#) if you are interested in helping her with this on



going project. Some design changes due to material availability have been approved by the Library manager. Two of these drawers ordered to incorporate into the original selected design. ....

## April Monthly Meeting Update

[April Business Mtg](#) brought together members. Member Mary Dredge shared her hydroponic lettuce growing tips in green thumb wisdom. Member Oliva Hansen is now writing our club blog on unique harvests and how to use them on our website monthly. Seed Bank will be ready for donation to the CV library for May meeting. Club sign will be delivered by May Meeting.



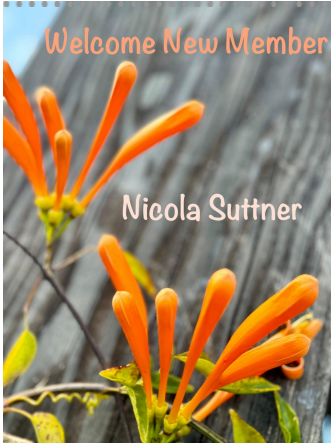
### Perfect Gift For Garden Enthusiasts: Customized GIFT CARD

It's not just a present, it's a promise of delightful moments throughout the year for and with your loved ones. Membership has never been so thoughtful and convenient.



**Free Gift with Membership:** A gift choice of root veg grow bag and garden club tote. As long as supplies last.





**WELCOME NEW MEMBER Nicole Suttner**  
[Membership \\$30/year](#)

We have 48 members so far.

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Photos from Belden Community Garden: Harvests of Peas, broccoli, radish, lettuce, arugula enjoyed by the residents



**Belden Harvest March 2024**



DMMGC started working with SD Housing Commission to provide gardening workshops during covid 2021. We have partnered with Master Gardeners and secured a grant from SD County \$9,000/- to get materials to build the community garden at Belden Low Income Senior Housing Facility.

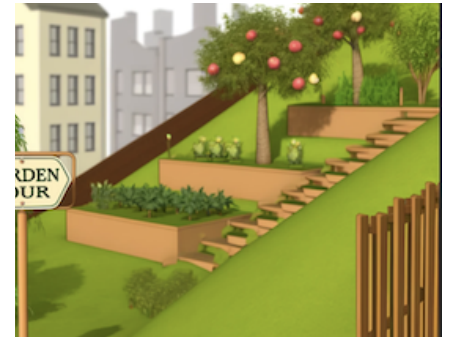
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## Upcoming Monthly Meetings & Events

Save the date: (Yulinda Song & Phillipa Farrer)

**Sunday, Apr 28th 2-4pm** Tour of Private Garden [SIGN UP](#)

Garden Tour of a newly landscaped and rebuilt sloped yard. This private home is off Genesee and as a result of downed trees during this year's storm had to rebuild. It has a lovely and lush entertainment level, newly built steps along the slope that reaches to a small fruit orchard. The landscape designer will be present to share information and heirloom seeds. Members only event. Address will be shared the weekend before the event.



**Wednesday May 1st 11am @ Carmel Valley Library**

**Topic:** Tips for Improving (or Starting) Your Rose Garden [SIGN UP](#)

**Guest Speaker:** Beth Van Boxtel from the San Diego Rose Society is San Diego native, a certified Consulting Rosarian, and a UCCE Master Gardener



**Wednesday June 5th 2024,** Talk on Seed collecting and Storage by Master Gardener Jodi Bay. Collecting your garden seeds is a fun way to start your own seed bank and use them year after year.

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## Member Recommendations: Spring Crafts



### Pressed flower cards.

Spring is a great time to [press flowers](#). These are made by Shital Parikh for Speaker Thank You cards.

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[Download Merlin App](#) to record bird sounds in your garden. [Ebird](#) is another great app.

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**Member Question: Why are Hummingbird feeders Red?** [Answer](#)

## April Garden To-Do List

April planning, planting and pruning pays off with glorious spring blooms.

[Feed Your Citrus Trees](#) 🍊🍊🍊🍊🍊🍊🍊

After Bulbs Bloom: **After Bulbs Bloom**

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Many popular spring bulbs finish blooming this month. Some, like tulips and hyacinths, are annuals in our climate and can be yanked from the ground when the flowers fade. Others, like daffodils and baboon flowers (Babiana), will return next year. To keep them vigorous and encourage them to naturalize or multiply, cut off spent flower stalks but leave the foliage to continue to provide nutrients to replenish the bulbs. A light feeding helps this process. Remove leaves only after they turn yellow or brown. If they become unsightly, they can be tucked out of sight.

### **Wildflowers Hotline for Southern California**

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From mid-March until May, the Theodore Payne Foundation wildflower hotline offers weekly updates on what is blooming where, starting with desert wildflowers and ending when wildflowers carpet mountain meadows. Verbal updates are augmented by longer written reports on the foundation's Web site. The hotline number is 818-768-3533; Web site is [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org).

Mar 22, 2024 [wildflower viewing](#)

### **Prune Frost Damage**

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When the freeze threat dwindles and trees and shrubs begin to bud, is the time to prune unsightly frost damage. Though it's tempting to trim limbs right after a killing chill, waiting is worthwhile. Damage may be only superficial and, come spring, affected branches may leaf out again in full or in part. If that doesn't happen, prune back any damage with an eye toward maintaining an attractive shape. Use sharp loppers to make clean cuts. Follow with water and fertilizer to spur new growth. And once frosty nights are history, don't forget to move plants you've sheltered back to spots where they can enjoy the warm spring sunshine.

### **Plant for Summer**

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While weather is warming, temperatures are still temperate enough to plant. This month it's easy to be tempted by seasonal color brightening nurseries, but experienced gardeners set their sights on summer and purchase plants accordingly. Avoid planting spring blooming annuals like ranunculus, stocks,

snapdragons, pansies and poppies now; they will soon fade. Instead choose six-packs and four-inch pots of summer flowering plants that, if planted now, will be ready for the hot, dry conditions ahead. Some to consider are petunias, zinnias, rudbeckia, coreopsis, asters, annual salvias, cosmos, yarrow, gazania, marigolds, sunflowers and nicotiana.

## **Win the Battle Against Slugs and Snails**

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Cloudy damp winter brings out slugs and snails. Physically remove the snails. Add Sluggo Plus to your garden. Do this treatment 3 times every 3 weeks. Introduce decollate snails into the garden, they eat the regular snails.

## **Prune Camellias**

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Prune camellias before new growth starts or while new growth is under an inch long. Cut the branch back to its origin or to an outward pointing growth bud or dormant bud eye and don't leave more than a 1/4-inch stub at the cut. Keep in mind the three universal pruning points:

1. Remove all dead or weak branches
2. remove all crossing branches
3. remove branches to open up the center of the plant in order to allow light to enter and air to circulate.

While cleaning up after pruning, be sure to remove fallen blooms that can harbor a fungus that causes petal blight.

## **Deadhead Roses**

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Enjoy the beauty of blooming roses now through October with a few easy steps, starting this month when spring's first bloom peaks and ebbs. Start by cutting roses either while they are in full bloom to perfume your home or when they are spent and no longer adding beauty to the garden. Both steps are a kind of pruning that will stimulate new blooms. As a rule of thumb, make the cut above a growth node at a five-leaflet leaf pointing outward at a mid-way point on the cane. Cut too high on the cane and the new roses will have weak stems; too low a cut will slow rebloom and may result in an unsightly plant. Feed lightly with an organic or all purpose fertilizer and water deeply. Repeat after each bloom cycle to keep roses flourishing - and flowering in the months ahead.

## **Warm season Vegetables**

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Start from seed or plant outside under tunnels. Tomatoes, beans, eggplant, cilantro, sunflowers, marigold, peppers, zucchini, summer squash, melons, cucumber. Carrots, beets, radish, lettuce, kale should grow year round in zone 10. Succession plant and remember to rotate crops and companion plant.

## National Volunteer Month

In honor of National Volunteer Month, our club thanks to the selfless dedication of our volunteers. Our time, talent, energy, and support brings the club's magical experiences to life. We extend heartfelt gratitude to all who contribute. We have no paid employees, proud to be a volunteer run organization.

