

PEW Garden Club Minutes

May 2, 2022

NEXT MEETING

Monday June 6, 2022

2:00 P. M.

Merlin Chancellor called the meeting to order.

July Meeting – It was brought to our attention that the first Monday in July is the 4th of July holiday so the July meeting will be the following Monday, July 11th.

Home garden tours – After the meeting today we are going to visit the gardens of Debbie Stevenson, #55; Pati Stein & Sally Jeans, #70 and Lynn Thomas, #67 where we will be having refreshments. About 15 people attended.

Field Trips – A small group went to Balboa Park on Tuesday April 19 which is a free day at the Japanese Garden. Because it was free parking was at a minimum but eventually the group found street parking. The garden has expanded into the canyon area and is twice the size it was and there is a beautiful new waterfall. Everyone is encouraged to visit at their convenience.

Guest Speakers – Today we have **Cathie Byrd who discussed vermicomposting (growing and supporting earthworms)** some pretty wonderful creatures to have in your garden.

Monthly To Do's – Marilyn Chambers and SallyJeans distributed the **May To Do list** including removing spent blossoms to keep plants blooming longer, trim ratty-looking palm fronds and feeding your camellias now and coinciding with St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day and 4th of July just to name a few. The featured plant for May is Bearded Iris (Iris germanica) Be sure to contact Marilyn or Sally if you would like a copy of the list.

Garden Projects – The plan developed by the steering committee to renovate the area in front of the clubhouse has been approved! The committee will start coordinating with the maintenance staff for installation soon.

Garden Projects (continued) - The area at the end of Viewpoint is being looked at as the location for our Community Garden project. Stay tuned for further developments.

Garden Club Historian - We are still looking for a **historian**. Both the pay and working conditions are excellent...

Merlin Chancellor introduced resident Cathie Byrd to speak on Vermicomposting:

Cathie has done vermicomposting for a number of years although she is not currently. She worked for the Farm Bureau in Northern California in the Sacramento area and worked with local schools to create their own worm bins utilizing their food scraps for vermicomposting. She shared a link on paper and encouraged members to pick one up on the plant exchange table and do some research for themselves. There were a limited number of copies on the tables and members can Go to https://homegrown.extension.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Worms-can-recycle-your-garbage_NC-State-Extension-vermicomposting-fact-sheet.pdf for all the information.

Cathie inquired how many people present have done vermicomposting and just a few members raised their hands. She shared that you can buy the species best suited for vermicomposting at the Vista Farmers Market or online at www.unclejimswormfarm.com where you can purchase about 1,000 worms for just \$60. A large dark colored Rubbermaid tub is a good container to use and you just need to create a good base for the worms with non-glossy paper, dampened and wrung out so the worms don't drown. Good drainage is necessary and you can get more information on how to do that in the PDF noted above. Create several good layers add some kitchen scraps (no bread, no meat, no bones... lots of vegetables, a bit of fruit, no citrus, used coffee and tea (please remove the staples) and a bit of soil then add the worms and let them do their work! There is no need to mix as the worms will come to the top as you add kitchen scraps and then will retreat back down to the bottom. Keep your scraps moderate as the worms won't eat too fast. The bin is best kept in the shade at a temperature between 60-70 degrees.

The worms will lay eggs that are tubelike and the size of a matchhead. In 3-4 weeks you can harvest the worm castings by laying down a tarp and emptying the Rubbermaid tub onto it. Select a somewhat sunny spot which will encourage the worms to go to the bottom of the pile so that you can harvest the rich worm castings on the top. Place the remaining pile and worms back in the Rubbermaid tub and start again. You can also make a compost tea

with the castings but dilute with water. Vermicomposting is self sustainable and a way to help the environment. There are many species of worms but just 7 that are good for vermicomposting. Download and print the PDF listed above to get started! THANK YOU CATHIE!

Raffle Prize – Gerry McClelland was the happy recipient of this month’s garden raffle prize. Thank you Susie Butler for putting that together each month!

Merlin Chancellor adjourned the meeting and members walked and carpoled to the three homes on the garden tour this month.

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