

PEW Garden Club Minutes April 3, 2023

NEXT MEETING

Monday May 1, 2023 2:00 P. M.

Business Meeting -postponed until next meeting because of the speaker.

Herb Field (forensic entomologist) spoke about pests and pesticides. An exceptionally knowledgeable and engaging speaker. In addition, he invited us to his annual plant sale at his home in the hills above Lake San Marcos. It opened at 9 a.m., we were there around 8:30 and were in line with more than 100 other gardeners! Limit of 10 plants per family. \$2 per plant. Tomatoes, squash, cukes, and herbs. About 8 members of the garden club showed up. Again, if you weren't there you missed out. It's disappointing that more of our members don't show up for some of these excellent opportunities!

One important piece of information we learned from our speaker was that 40% of our Calif. Bee population has been killed by toxic insecticides. Just because the label says EPA registered does not mean safe. When you purchase insecticide, be sure it is "bee friendly"!

Some tips from Herb Field:

- Put cayenne pepper in warm water and spray tomatoes to deter rodents
- Birds help control spiders, moths, tomato hornworms
- BT is safe in organic gardens as it only kills target pests and no beneficial insects
- "Dipel" can be purchased online. Mix in warm water
- For Aphids and scale insects use Dr Bronner's Sal Suds
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Future Speakers -

May – TBA – a master gardener to talk about raised beds – this is timely since progress is being made on the community garden at the end of Viewpoint.

June – Bamboo expert Gordon Coop (he conducts tours at the Botanical Gardens) will discuss the many kinds of bamboo and will provide a couple of small bamboo trees for door prizes!

Local garden tours – Robin Green offered her garden for a tour. She has done an excellent job of surrounding herself with a winning succulent garden.

Field Trips – TBD

Other –

Waterwise Botanical Garden will host its next **free** succulent to each person on Saturday, May 6

Mulch – You have two choices to get **free** mulch.

Mountain Meadows Mushroom Farm in Escondido. Open 6 days a week from around 8 until 2 p.m. All of their mulch is **free**.

San Pasqual Valley Soils – they have a "**free**" day once a month and you can get all the mulch you can shovel into your containers at no charge. Their next free day is Saturday May 13. 16111 Old Milky Way, Escondido, CA 92027