

# PEW Garden Club Minutes

October 4, 2021

## MEETING

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2021 AT 2:00**

Meeting called to order at 2 p.m. 25 members attended.

**New members – Mary Wallace, Gerry McClland, Ann Hacker, Trish Blalock**

**Guest – Rob Wood** who will talk about **Monarch butterflies** and their habitat at the next meeting.

Thanks to **Lynn Thomas**, **permanent name tags** have been prepared. Members pick them up at the door upon arrival and return them to Lynn at the end of the meeting. They will also be used for door prize drawings.

### Committee Reports

**Debbie Stevenson** – she has taken **photos of some homeowners gardens in the complex** and will be asking those who belong to the gardens if it's okay to put some of the photos in the Hilltopper.

**Lynn Thomas** - encouraged everyone to **visit the PEW website** to review minutes, list of nurseries in the local area, and other PEW news.

Future agendas will include a time for a **Q and A session**. If answers are not immediately available, they can be found on the internet and that information can be shared at the next meeting.

**Trips and Tours – Robin Green will schedule Weidner's Gardens** in Encinitas for the next tour. Date TBD, but will probably be on a Monday or a Tuesday. **San Clemente** will be scheduled for either December or January.

**Ann** encouraged everyone to take time to **read some of the books in the garden section** of the library in the community center.

**Alice** outlined the results of our trip to **Finch Frolic gardens in Fallbrook**. Those who missed it, missed out on an outstanding tour and presentation. We will try to arrange another tour next spring; well worth the expense and the time. See below for more information about the tour.

**Merlin** discussed the **use of kitchen scraps** for both soil enrichment and for growing such things as sweet potatoes, carrots, mangos, citrus trees, pineapple, and onions from parts of those items you would ordinarily throw away. An enlightening presentation.

You may also want to let some of your vegetables go to seed. Let them flower (which will attract bees to assist with pollination) and then when the flowers dry up, save the seeds.

**When planting in pots** – use bagged soil mixed with compost and line the pot with cardboard. Pots tend to generate too much heat when in the sun and the cardboard helps keep the soil cooler.

## FINCH FROLIC NOTES

The **main thing we learned** from the trip to Finch Frolic - Gardeners will reap the most benefits if they **concentrate on feeding and nourishing the soil, not on feeding and nourishing the plants.**

**Feed the soil and your plants will prosper.** Feeding just the plant provides short term benefits, but not long term growth of the plant.

Diane suggested using **Dr. Earth fertilizer** – purchase on line. But, also said that we can create our own by using various compost methods.

Is Dr. Earth a good fertilizer? Comments from the internet follow

Use Dr. Earth as a **starter fertilizer** during initial planting and transplanting, and regularly as a top dressing or in compost tea. ... Earth fertilizer contains no synthetic chemicals, chicken manure, or toxic ingredients, so it's safe for pets and people.

**Baker Creek Nursery** – online. They specialize in organic seeds

**Add bark mulch and twigs to potted plants – they help retain moisture**

**Add organic material to EVERYTHING!!!**

If plants are on a slope, add water above plants so the water will run downhill into the plant

Use a **kitchen blender** to grind up greens, egg shells, and so on. Then, add water and pour directly onto the soil where you will be planting stuff. Almost like a fertilizer tea.

**Roses** can be trimmed all year long. Just deadhead them and they will continue to grow in this climate.

What is the best fertilizer in the world? Information from the internet.

### **Best all-purpose fertilizers**

- FoxFarm Happy Frog All Purpose Fertilizer. ...
- Jack's Classic 20-20-20 All Purpose Fertilizer. ...
- Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow Plant Food 7-9-5. ...
- Maxsea Plant Food 16-16-16. ...
- Dr. Earth
- Jack's Classic Blossom Booster Fertilizer 10-30-20. ...
- Espoma Flower-Tone Blossom Booster Organic Granules Plant Food.

Finally, **thanks to Katie for the excellent refreshments!!!** Special October cookies and spiced apple cider from Trader Joe's, where Katie works 3 days a week. Delicious!!

**AGAIN, NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, NOV. 1, AT 2 P.M.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**