

PEW Garden Club Minutes

September 14, 2021

NEXT MEETING –

May be on Monday October 4 at 1:30

Update: Monday, October 4 at 2:00 pm

If we meet before the deadline for the Hilltopper (which is the 10th of the month for the following month), meeting minutes and news can be included. Otherwise, we miss out on that opportunity.

The meeting was called to order. **Alice Eads** recorded the minutes.

New Member – **Georgie Dennis** joined the group for the first time. Welcome Georgie!!

Thanks to **Marilynn Chambers** for an excellent presentation on xeriscape and water conservation in general. Among the highlights was the importance of amending your unhealthy soil with healthy mulch such as the stuff from Mountain Meadows Mushrooms!! A very timely bit of information.

Lynn Thomas, the PEW website coordinator and computer guru, will print out reusable name tags; they will be distributed, used and returned at each meeting.

Debbie Stevenson indicated that the deadline for submitting articles to the Hilltopper is the 10th of each month for articles to be printed in the following month's edition. Since our general meetings are held after that deadline, she will instead submit results of steering committee meetings, which are held prior to that date, for publication.

Field Trips – **Robin** has arranged for a field trip to **Finch Frolic Gardens** on **Saturday Oct. 2 at 10 a.m.** Either 5 or 6 people signed up to go on that date; minimum for the tour is 5 guests maximum is 10. Cost is \$15 each. Since parking is sparse, car pools will be arranged as the date approaches. The tour takes 2 hours. Plan on a 4 hour trip – about 45 minutes to get there, 2 hours on site, and the return trip of 45 minutes. Probably be a good idea to bring a snack pack and water.

If you didn't sign up and want to do that, please contact Robin to get on the list.

November tour – **Weidner's Gardens**, 695 Normandy Road, Encinitas. Apparently their Poinsettias are spectacular. Details to be arranged.

Thanks Robin!!!

Garden tours of PEW homes – **Robin** space 386 and **Merlin** space 412, have offered their gardens for tours on two separate dates; please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Monday October 4 from 10 to 11 a.m.

Tuesday October 12 – after the club meeting on that day

Other details from **Marilyn's** thorough presentation

1. Design and Plan – group plants according to water needs
2. Amend the soil – sandy and clay soil have different needs, but both need to be amended with organic material.
3. Limit turf areas – there are much better and less thirsty ground covers.
4. Water efficiently – drip and hand watering are better than sprinklers
5. Mulch – plastic, cardboard and newspaper can be used to limit weeds. But, organic mulch is the only way to create and maintain healthy soil.
6. Use appropriate plants – We are in a Mediterranean climate. Native plants are best. Some need shade, others sun, others a bit of both. Read the labels and plant accordingly.
7. Maintain the landscape – after planting, prune, water, move things about, and give them all plenty of TLC!!!

A final note – Ann and I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the mushroom mulch we've obtained from **Mountain Meadows Mushrooms** on numerous occasions. After removing rocks and plastic around the house and blending the mulch with our clay soil, the results have been impressive. It does take a bit of work to get the stuff. But, IT'S FREE and exceptionally healthy stuff.

Another soil amendment to consider is COIR – a coconut fiber that works very well. This item was offered by Merlin.

Thanks to the refreshment committee for the excellent cookies and water.

Thanks to **Robert** for checking people in. After thinking about it, we no longer find it necessary to obtain the names of those who attend.

Thanks to **Allan** for helping set up and put away the speaker and tables and chairs.

Respectfully submitted

Roger and Ann