



November 2016

News Bulletin

Regular Meeting – November 10, 2016

We will be meeting at the **Community Center** this month.

33187 Hwy 247 East, Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

Refreshments start at 9:00 am Meeting starts at 9:30 am

Program: Sheri Bush will be giving a program about succulents.

There will be lots of succulents for sale at the meeting!

PLANTS OF THE MONTH



Vera Higgins
Graptosedum



Flower



California Sunset
Graptosedum



Francesco Baldi
Graptosedum

A very hardy species for the high desert, can tolerate very cold temperatures, and drought conditions. Although it thrives with moderate water in sandy soil with little to no fertilization, it loves the sun, but likes partial shade in hottest climates. Blooms modestly in spring or early summer with small yellow blooms. These plants are ideal choice for low, wide succulent color bowls to contrast with brighter leaf plants. It's perfect for rock gardens where the climate and exposure are just right. Water scanty in winter but often in the summer for fast growth.

YOUTH PROGRAM

The next School Youth Garden program will be November 16th at the Elementary School @ 2:00 pm. Linda and Sue will be working in the youth gardens, preparing them for winter. They can **always** use extra help and the weather should be perfect to work outdoors. We will also have a craft project to do with the students, so indoors or outdoors, come help if you can.

WHY TOPPING HURTS TREES

Topping is often used to reduce the size of a tree. A homeowner may feel that a tree has become too large for they're property, or that tall trees may pose an unacceptable risk. Topping, however, is not a viable method of height reduction and certainly does not reduce future risk. In fact, topping will increase risk in the long term.

Topping Stresses Trees

Topping can remove 50 to 100 percent of a tree's leaf-bearing crown. Leaves are the food factories of a tree. Removing them can temporarily starve a tree and trigger various survival mechanisms. Dormant buds are activated, forcing the rapid growth of multiple shoots below each cut. The tree needs to put out a new crop of leaves as soon as possible. If a tree does not have the stored energy reserves to do so, it will be seriously weakened and may die.

A stressed tree with large, open pruning wounds is more vulnerable to insect and disease infestations. The tree may lack sufficient energy to chemically defend the wounds against invasion, and some insects are actually attracted to the chemical signals trees release.

Topping Leads to Decay

Cuts made along a limb between lateral branches create stubs with wounds the tree may not be able to close. The exposed wood tissues begin to decay. Few trees can defend the multiple severe wounds caused by topping.

Continued....

COMING EVENTS

Nov 10 DCGC Meeting
Nov 16 Elementary School Youth Program
Nov 29 Wreath Workshops begin, 9-noon daily
Dec 8 DCGC Meeting & Brunch
Dec 10 Wreath Placement & Memorial Ceremony
Jan 12 DCGC Meeting
Jan 18 Elementary School Youth Program
Jan 26 Living Desert Field Trip

YOUR CLUB OFFICERS

President	Linda Riddle	760-248-6397
V. President	Ana Warriner	760-285-3004
Secretary	Martha Rader	760-248-7871
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Find us on the Roadrunner District website at:
roadrunnergardenclubs.com

Affiliates

Roadrunner District, Inc. of California Garden Clubs, Inc.
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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It's hard to believe it's almost time to start on the **wreaths** again! Seems like we just finished them a few months ago. We will be meeting at Sara Delperdang's house on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 9:00am. Bring gloves and pruners, everything else will be provided. We will meet every week-day from 9 to noon until we get the wreaths done. If you can't make it every day, any days you can come will be welcome. We will be laying the wreaths this year on Saturday, December 10th in the Lucerne Valley Memorial Cemetery starting at 8 am. The Memorial Ceremony will begin at 9 am.

Patty Riddle will be helping us with a Christmas floral design for our **December meeting program**. Bring your wooden box. I still have extras for those of you that didn't get one yet. The cost will be \$5. for the flowers and foam. We will be having our Christmas brunch before we start our arrangements.

January 26, 2017 is the **field trip** to the Living Desert Gardens & Zoo. The lunch is \$14. and you need to sign up in advance. Feel free to bring guests. We will be carpooling from the Library parking lot in Lucene Valley, more information will be available at the next couple of meetings. For more information contact Linda Riddle at 760-248-6397.

TOPPING TREES (continued)

Topping Can Lead to Unacceptable Risk

The survival mechanism that causes a tree to produce multiple shoots below each topping cut comes at great expense to the tree. These shoots develop from buds near the surface of the old branches. Unlike normal branches that develop in a socket of overlapping wood tissues, these new shoots are anchored only in the outermost layers of the parent branches and are weakly attached. The new shoots grow quickly, as much as 20 feet in one year in some species. Unfortunately, the shoots are prone to breaking, especially during windy or icy conditions. While the original goal was to reduce risk by reducing height, risk of limb failure has now increased.

Topping Makes Trees Ugly

The natural branching structure of a tree is a biological wonder. Trees form a variety of shapes and growth habits, all with the same goal of presenting their leaves to the sun. Topping removes the ends of the branches, often leaving ugly stubs.

Alternatives to Topping

Sometimes a tree must be reduced in height or spread, such as for providing utility line clearance. There are recommended techniques for doing so. Small branches should be removed back to their point of origin. If a larger limb must be shortened, it should be pruned back to a lateral branch that is large enough to assume the terminal role. This method of branch reduction helps to preserve the natural form of the tree. However, if large cuts are involved, the tree may not be able to close over the wounds. Sometimes the best solution is to remove the tree and replace it with a species that is more appropriate for the site.

WHATS IN MY GARDEN

Bobcat

Lynx rufus



Known by several names including wildcat, desert lynx and bobcat, this 20 pound desert dweller is seldom seen by even the most keen-eyed observer.

The animal lives at night, avoids humans and prefers bushy areas. Their small numbers are a result of its position on top of the food chain.

Unlike foxes and coyotes, the bobcat is essentially carnivorous. Rabbits, ground squirrels, mice, gophers, wood rats, and quail are favored prey with an occasional snake or lizard added when available. The bobcat ambushes prey, their musculature is structured for quickness and power rather than endurance.

Young are most often born in April or May, 2 kittens comprise a normal-size litter. Females normally produce one litter per year.