



Regular Meeting – September 14, 2017

We will be meeting at the **Lucerne Valley 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: Penny Pines Program by Pat Hart

Morning Refreshments: Provided by Club Officers

Drawing: Membership

Plant of the Month

“Blue Mist” Spirea



The deciduous “Blue Mist” spirea (*Caryopteris x clandonensis* “Blue Mist”) provides garden color from midsummer through fall. Also called blue beard and blue spirea, the plant earns its names from the fragrant, purple-blue flower spikes that adorn it for most of the summer season and that attract bees and butterflies. The low maintenance shrub grows to only 2 or 3 feet tall and is a suitable addition to borders and flowerbeds.

1. Grow “Blue Mist” spirea in well-drained soil where water doesn't collect after rainfall or irrigation. Provide the plant with a full six to eight hours of sunlight daily. If you grow multiple plants, space them 2 to 3 feet apart in all directions.
2. Water the shrub only during prolonged dry periods when the soil dries almost completely. “Blue Mist” rarely requires irrigation, and too much soil moisture can kill the plant.
3. Trim off the plant's old flower stalks after each flush of blooming, or when they begin to wilt. Cut them back to the top of the shrub. Doing so improves the plant's appearance and encourages further flowering.
4. Cut back the shrub in late winter or early spring when its new growth begins. Remove all old, dead stem tips back to the healthy growth, and shape the shrub as desired. Prune the plant to the ground if it dies back completely during winter or to encourage denser new growth.
5. “Blue Mist” spirea doesn't require fertilization or soil amendments such as compost. Overly rich soil can damage the shrub.

Youth Program



August 16 the club had its yearly Sculpture Contest at the first Elementary School after-school program. The kids had some great ideas again as they put all those nick-knack recyclables, members have been bringing in, to good use. September 20 will be the next after school projects so be sure to let Linda know if you can come and help. There is always work in the school gardens to do and an indoor craft to help kids with.

Contact Linda Riddle at the next meeting or call her at 760-248-6397 if you need more information.

Roadrunner District Meeting

Cactus Wren Garden Club will be hosting the next Roadrunner District, Inc. membership meeting on October 4, 2017 at the Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce Office at the N/W corner of Hwy 18 and Apple Valley Rd in Apple Valley.

More information will be available at the meeting on Thursday or contact Sue Nolan at 909-831-5266 for details.

Coming Events

Sept 14	Desert Crossroads Garden Club Meeting
Oct 4	Roadrunner District Meeting
Oct 7-8	Orchid festival Gubler Orchids, Landers
Oct 12	Desert Crossroads Garden Club Meeting
Oct 21	Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden Fall Planting Festival

Your Club Officers

Presidents	Sherry Hardin	760-912-8310
	Sharon Ravenstein	760-248-6466
V. President	Pat Hart	760-248-6389
Secretary	Sara Delperdang	760-248-7614
Treasurer	Darla King	760-947-7925
Parliamentarian	Shirley Clemmons	
Newsletter	Sara Delperdang	760-248-7614

Find us on the Roadrunner District website at:
roadrunnergardenclubs.com

Affiliates

Roadrunner District, Inc. of California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANICAL GARDEN FALL PLANTING FESTIVAL

October 21, 2017, 10 am - 4:30 pm
RSABG Members only: 8 - 10 am



It's planting time for California native plants and we're celebrating! The seasonal opening of Grow Native Nursery includes several free lectures, including "Ethnobotanical uses of the Native Plants of California" with Nicholas Hummingbird at 11:00 am to 12:30pm and "How to Water Your Plants for Drought-Tolerant Establishment" with Carlos Ruiz at 1:00pm to 2:30pm. Lectures will be held in the Lenz Classroom.

This is a great time to visit the Garden, located in Claremont just off interstate 210. For more information contact Sara at 760-248-7614.

What's In My Garden?

Red Spotted Toad (*Bufo punctatus*)



Order: Salientia

Family: Bufonidae (true toads)

Spanish name: sapo

Description

This small, up to 3 inch (76 mm) long toad has round parotoid glands, a characteristic which distinguishes it from other toad species in the region. It tends to be whitish when found in association with limestone, light tan to red around volcanic rocks, to brown above, with scattered reddish tubercles (raised bumps); the underside is creamy white. Males have dark throats and single vocal sacs. The body and head are dorsoventrally compressed, giving this toad a flattened appearance.

Range

This toad is found from southern Mojave Desert Regions to southwestern Kansas, south to Hidalgo, Mexico, and throughout Baja California. It occurs from below sea level up to 7000 feet.

Habitat

A riparian inhabitant, this species is commonly encountered in and around rocky streams and arroyos. Its flattened body allows it to wedge into narrow rock crevices.

Life

The red spotted toad is insectivorous, feeding on insects. It breeds mainly after summer rains in quiet pools. The call of the male is a high-pitched musical trill, which may be confused with the sound of a cricket. This is the only toad species native to our region that lays its eggs singly. Tadpoles metamorphose in 6 to 8 weeks. This species is nocturnal through the hot summer months, but may be active in the morning or late afternoon when temperatures are cool enough.

7 Steps to Enjoying a Beautiful Desert-Smart Landscape

The following steps serve as a basic guide to creating a successful landscape – one that holds up to our challenging weather extremes while delivering a rewarding yard experience with minimum water and maximum beauty.

- Step 1 Select Drought-Tolerant Plants
- Step 2 Plant in Fall if Possible, or Early Spring
- Step 3 Group Plants According to Similar Water Needs
- Step 4 Train Plants to Grow Deep Roots with Infrequent, Deep Soakings
- Step 5 Let Nature Help You Save Water with Mulch and Rainwater Harvesting
- Step 6 Install a Drip Irrigation System
- Step 7 Install an Automatic Irrigation Timer or a Smart Controller

This information comes from the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation of MWA