



Desert Crossroads Garden Club

of
Lucerne Valley



February 2017

News Bulletin

Regular Meeting—February 9, 2017

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: *Kathleen Brown will be speaking about Herbal Teas.*

Refreshments: Natasha Riddle & Valerie Holliday

Drawing: Linda Boruff & Natasha

PLANT OF THE MONTH



Summer



Winter

Flattop Buckwheat

Polygonaceae

Flattop buckwheat is a low-growing evergreen, perennial shrub commonly found in arid habitats from Utah south to Baja California, and from the California coast east to Arizona. It reaches a mere one and a half feet in height, but spreads to two feet wide and more. It has small dark green leaves with whitish undersides and gray stems. Flowers can be produced anytime of the year, but the predominant flower season is spring through summer. The white flowers are formed in ball-like clusters up to two inches wide. The easily recognized flower clusters turn a brown color and remain on the plant long after flowering has ended.

Flattop buckwheat has many good qualities that make it an excellent plant for use in rock gardens, butterfly gardens, desert gardens, and native plant gardens. It is drought tolerant and survives on little water. It has a deep green color that is often difficult to provide in native plant landscapes. Its relatively attractive flowers provide nectar for wildlife, especially butterflies and bees. It can be used to stabilize soil on slopes or embankments because of its ability to spread or clump. Flattop buckwheat performs best when planted in full sun and well draining soil.

YOUTH PROGRAM

The next School Youth Garden program will be February 15th at the Elementary School @ 2:00 pm. Linda and Sue will be working in the youth gardens if the weather permits. They can **always** use extra help. We will also have a craft project to do with the students, so indoors or outdoors, come help if you can.

Items Linda needs for future youth projects;

Water bottles

Lunch size plastic fruit cups

Ribbon & Yarn any size, any color

Round Oatmeal containers

Egg Cartons

Clear cd cases

Paper grocery bags

Toilet Paper Rolls—stripped clean

[Old keys—new item](#)

Tidd Bits

Linda will have a book about Herbal Teas published by Storey for sale at the meeting, regularly 16.95 for 12.00.

Hesperia Garden Club has planned a field trip by bus to Casa Romantica Gardens in San Clemente on April 23rd for \$35. Let Linda know if you are interested at the February meeting.

Lilac Tea & Garden Walk on Saturday April 29 at Alpenglow Gardens in Idyllwild. See Linda for more information about this event.

Ag Day at Mariana Elementary School is on March 17 this year, we can always use extra help for this event.



**Happy
Valentine Day**

COMING EVENTS

Feb 9 Desert Crossroads Garden Club Meeting
Mar 9 Desert Crossroads Garden Club Meeting
Mar 17 Ag Day at Marianna Elementary School
Mar 31-Apr 2 Home Garden Show, Victorville
April 6 Desert Crossroads Garden Club Meeting
April 28 Memorial Tree Planting & Garden Tour
May 6 Desert Crossroads Club Annual Plant Sale

YOUR CLUB OFFICERS

President	Linda Riddle	760-248-6397
V. President	Ana Warriner	760-285-3004
Secretary	Martha Rader	760-248-7871
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.

WHATS IN MY GARDEN

The Little Brown Bat *Myotis lucifugus*



This is a northern species of wide distribution and may be the most abundant bat in the United States. In the summer the little brown bat inhabits trees, bat houses, and buildings, usually choosing a hot attic. Groups of males occasionally occur in caves.

Little browns breed in the fall. They establish maternity colonies in the attics of buildings and in similar warm, dark retreats. Births occur from May to July, depending on the state. A single young is born each year. Bats nurse their pups just like other mammals do.

Bats are often thought of as flying mice, but they are more closely related to primates, including humans, than they are to mice. Bats are unique in the animal kingdom because they are the only mammals to have evolved true flight.

Although bats have the same basic arm and hand bones found in humans and most other mammals, the bats hand and finger bones are very long and slender and there are only four digits. The delicate looking skin between the arms, fingers, legs and feet looks delicate, but is extremely tough.

Populations are stable in the United States at this point, but these bats are highly susceptible to pesticide poisoning and habitat destruction. Bat houses may be one important way to insure the bats survival.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE – February

Prune! Prune! Prune!

Ok we've been waiting all winter to trim off all that messy dry wood on our shrubs and trees, now is the time.

Remove old canes on blackberries and raspberries, as they will not bear fruit. Prune dormant deciduous trees, fruit trees, shrubs, roses and grapes this month.

Might want to wait until next month to trim up all those native plants such as all the sages and salvias. The overgrowth protects them from late frost.

Dress Up Your Garden Paths

With all the rain we've been getting, now is a great time to get out and rake up an existing garden path or make a new one. Just take your leaf rake and rake from the center of the path to the side creating a ridge line. Do the same on the other side making a ridge line on the opposite side of the first one. This is a great way to neat-en up your garden, make it safer to walk through and more visually appealing.

What to Plant

Vegetable Seeds—Sow cool-season onions and peas in the garden. Sow bok choy, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and leaf lettuce indoors for transplanting outside in 6 to 8 weeks.

Bare-root and container shade trees, shrubs, roses and fruit trees. Water weekly if precipitation is minimal. Water should soak through the root zone.

Sow Tomato seeds indoors 8 to 12 weeks prior to transplanting after the anticipation of the last frost. Sow tomato and pepper seeds in soilless sterile potting mix to inhibit disease which can kill seedlings. If reusing containers, sterilize with a 90/10 solution of water and bleach.

Tip—Before transplanting, "harden off" seedlings by setting containers outside for a few hours daily in a sheltered spot. Gradually increase the time outdoors over 7 to 10 days to reduce transplant shock.

Hummingbird Habitat

Design, plan and shop for your hummingbird garden now to get your yard ready for the onset of migrating hummers this spring. They will be here before we know it, many have not left for the winter, they just move up to the foothills in the coldest of weather. I have listed many of the plants they love best and grow well in our area. No need to put out messy feeders if you have plenty of these plants in your yard. I keep Russian Sage and Rosemary away from hummingbird plants. Bees and hummers don't play nice together. Don't forget to include water!

Ocotillo
Penstemon
Aloe
Red emu
Trumpet Vine

Salvia greggii
Desert Willow
Red Yucca
Baja fairy duster
Orange Bells