

Oceana Garden Club Newsletter July 2019

Open-Garden Social

Nearly 20 gardeners and guests enjoyed a beautiful afternoon in the garden at our first Garden Social of 2019 on Saturday, June 1st. We snacked on potluck hors d'oeuvres, got better acquainted, and toured each other's gardens. Winner of a \$25 Cheesecake Factory Gift card was Marie Immel, daughter of Kevin and Susan. A great time was had by all! If you missed it, please look for notices about another gathering in July. <https://oceanaseniors.org/activities/garden-club/>

Speaking of the BIRDS and the BEES.

Hummingbirds, honey and bumblebees, that is. Pollinators are essential for the reproduction of vegetables and flowers. There is much an Oceana resident and especially an Oceana Garden Club member can do to attract hummingbirds and bees. Hummingbirds are important pollinators, but 80% of agricultural pollination is done by honeybees. Placing plants that produce yellow, violet, red and blue flowers in containers around your patio or in your garden plot will attract bees. The use of chemical pesticides is increasingly placing bees in jeopardy of extinction. They need protection that you can provide. Use of systemic pesticides is a big **NO!** Cultivating plants that attract bees in containers around your dwelling or in your garden plot will provide nourishment for them. Lavender and African Blue Basil are two excellent choices. Bees also need water. Placing a small shallow pan of water that is easily accessible to them will be very helpful. It is easy to identify bees from wasps. Bees have hair on their bodies and legs; wasps are smooth. **Hilary Kearney** Author of "Queenspotting" is a San Diego resident and a good resource of bee information. <https://girlnextdoorhoney.com/>. Another excellent resource on bees is the smartphone app. BeeSmart, <https://pollinator.org/bee-smart-app>.

Edible Flowers.

Now that you are considering planting flowers to attract pollinators why not plant flowers you can eat? Rosalind Creasy's book "Edible Landscaping" or her website <https://www.rosalindcreasy.com/> offers ideas to start your experimentation with eating flowers. The list of edible plants is extensive, including Nasturtium, Lavender, African Blue Basil, Pineapple Guava, Fennel, Rosemary, Chamomile and Lemon Geranium to name a few of the more common ones.

Information for this article is adapted from the May,2019, El Corazon "Home Grown Gardening Class" hosted by Mary Matava, agronomist and owner of Agri Service, and Diane Hollister, one of North County's premier gardening instructors.

July Planting Guide for San Diego County.

Oceana residents are privileged to plant year-round. These vegetables can be successfully planted in July: Beans, beets, cantaloupe, carrots, celery, corn, cucumber, lettuce, lima beans, N.Z. spinach, okra, peas, squashes, strawberries, swiss chard.