

OGC December 2019 Hilltop Highlights Newsletter Submission

Time to Deadhead Milkweed Plants

It's the season to cut those flowering tropical milkweeds level with the ground to prevent overwintering of a parasite called *Ophryocytis elektroscirra* (OE). Wing deformities in adult butterflies are caused when monarch caterpillars eat this parasite. Infected butterflies then go on to infect others. Native milkweeds do not have this problem, because they will go dormant over winter. The milkweed to cut back are the tropical ones with the orange/yellow blossoms, not the native white ones.

However, don't deadhead your herbs seed heads. Let those stay for as long as you can stand them. Birds will be eating the seeds, and native insects will be setting up house in them, particularly any hollow stems.

From October at Finch Frolic Garden submitted by Christine Gorman & Nancy McAdams

How to set your default home page to the Oceana web page.

In the Google browser CHROME

Open the CHROME browser.

Navigate to "https://oceanaseniors.org/"

Click on the three dots in the upper right corner of the browser screen.

In the drop-down menu select "Settings."

On the left-hand side of the Settings page click "On startup."

Select the button in front of "Open a specific page or set of pages."

Click on "Add a new page" type in "https: oceanaseniors.org" and select Add.

In Microsoft Edge browser the process is very similar. Please set your Edge default page to <https://oceanaseniors.org>.

December tips from Pat Welsh's "Southern California Gardening a Month by Month Guide"

"Fresh culinary herbs from your garden are not only tastier than the dried herbs you can buy but safer. (Dried herbs purchased in markets are often imported and have frequently been sprayed with chemicals not allowed in the United States.)"

December is a good time to plant culinary herbs on your patio or in your sunny kitchen windowsill. Start with the 2-inch nursery size plants then transfer to 4-inch containers. Repot them to 6-inch containers as soon their roots fill this smaller size. Because potting soil is low in nutrients you will need to lightly fertilize periodically. Be careful not to over fertilize because the herbs will lose their flavor. As the herbs grow prune them to size and use the leaves for cooking. In the spring transplant them to your garden plot. Herbs: basil, chives, cilantro, dill, oregano; parsley, rosemary, sage, and thyme

Election of Officers January 2020

New officers for 2020 will be elected at the Oceana Garden Club meeting this coming January. All four of the current officers will turn their duties over to the newly elected members. Nancy McAdams has expressed a desire to continue as Co-chair. Beth Mushovic has volunteered to serve as Treasurer for 2020. She has been working with Frank Danczyk, the current Treasurer, to ensure a smooth transition in that position. If you or any member you know would like to serve as Chairperson or Secretary, please contact Nancy McAdams as soon as possible.

December Planting Guide for San Diego County

Beets, blackberries, boysenberries, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, collards, endive, favas, garlic, grapes, kale, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, mustard, onions, parsley, parsnip, peas, potatoes, radish, rutabaga, spinach, swiss chard, turnips