



OVF Newsletter

October – November 2022

GARDEN CALENDAR

- 10/1 Greenhouse Fundraiser 10 AM
- 10/15 Saturday Workday 9 AM
- 10/15 General Meeting 1 PM
- 10/16 Water Conservation Class 1 PM
- 10/30 Sunday Workday 1 PM
- 11/12 Saturday Workday 9 AM
- 11/19 Board Meeting 9:30 AM
- 11/27 Sunday Workday 1 PM
- 12/3 Greenhouse Fundraiser 10 AM

RECENT EVENTS

Forty-three members attended the BUILDING YOUR SOIL class on a very warm Saturday on September 3. The class was co-taught by long time upper phase 3 members Judith Morris and Nina Rumely. The composition of soil was defined and samples of Judith and Nina's plot soils were passed around along with a sample of plot dirt to illustrate the difference between nurtured soil and un-amended dirt. Mulching and cover crops, such as buckwheat, were discussed.

An easy to understand book GROW YOUR SOIL by Diane Miessler was recommended for those gardeners wanting to learn more about nurturing your soil.

Another recommended book is SOIL SCIENCE FOR GARDENERS by Robert Pavlis

UPCOMING EDUCATION CLASS

On October 16, at 1:00pm, OVF Education will present a class on water conservation in gardening. There will be three presenters: (1) Sierra's Club Charming Evelyn, (2) OVF member and Executive Director of the Southern California Watershed Alliance, Conner Everts, and (3) the City of Beverly Hills Water Conservation Administrator, Debbie Dunn. They will discuss current water issues, gardening in drought conditions and techniques for water conservation. There will be water related devices on display, informational handouts, and giveaways.

Come join us for a topical and educational presentation on water.

MEMBER ARTICLE

BEES PER GALLON by Sarah Harroff, phase 3 lower

When my husband and I joined OVF in 2021, I was already planning where the California native plants would go. Why natives in a vegetable garden? Two key reasons: one, many need little or no supplemental water after establishment. That's compelling in these times of severe drought. Two, they can be an excellent source of forage for the pollinators we hope will also buzz our edible crop flowers.

And speaking of buzz, entomologist Christine Casey, Ph.D, and the UC Davis Bee Haven recently completed a five-year study to evaluate the bee-attractiveness of common native and non-native landscape plants. In particular, they zeroed in on which of those plants *also* have the lowest water needs in this [guide](#). Dr. Casey calls this getting the most *Bees per Gallon*.

The SoCal site partners in the study called out some of my favorite low water natives as popular choices among honey bees: California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*) and Cleveland sage (*S. clevelandii*) are three smaller shrubs that can be tucked into an OVF plot. They also offer staggered bloom periods which is an important consideration for providing year-round pollen and nectar sources.

For "other bees", the study's label for any of the 1,600 *native* bee species found foraging the flower buffet, similarities and differences emerged in taste. While both honey bees and native bees favored California buckwheat, California bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*) was much more popular among native bees than honey bees.

Having once watched a digger bee and a striped sweat bee visit the same California sunflower in under a minute, I can confirm their popularity!

If you'd like to add a less thirsty bee magnet to your garden, now is an excellent time explore Dr. Casey's recommendations. And if you're thinking about making space for a California native plant or two, now is an excellent time to take advantage of annual fall plant sales hosted by specialty nurseries like Theodore Payne. Note that because these native plants require less water they should be planted at least a few feet away from and watered less frequently than food crops like tomatoes, squashes, and tender leafy greens.

Happy planting!

All the plants mentioned in Sarah's article can be found on the OVF website in public documents

https://www.oceanviewfarms.net/docs/native_plant_photos_and_care_info.pdf?cb=1663019480

PLOT PRIDE

It's the seasonal transition time at OVF, with lots of wall building and soil amending happening. Looking forward to seeing these and other plots filled with cool season crops!





NOTES FROM THE OVF GREENHOUSE

It's been a rough month for seedlings in the OVF Greenhouse. The heat wave killed off some seedlings, some seeds failed to germinate and some seedlings grew like gangbusters and are out-growing their containers. Little green worms munched ALL the mixed lettuce six packs, so there will be no lettuce for the sale. There are still many FABULOUS seedlings for members to buy on October 1. We have some colorful cauliflowers to try such as Flame Star or DePurple.



A descriptive list of all the Greenhouse seedlings can be found here:

https://www.oceanviewfarms.net/greenhouse_fundraiser.php

NOTICE re PARKING

NORTH VENICE LITTLE LEAGUE has started their Fall Ball schedule. There will be games every Saturday and Sunday from early morning to late afternoon and the shared parking lot will be crowded. Fall Ball continues thru Nov. 25.

FINAL THOUGHTS from Nina, Newsletter Editor

The OVF community shares a common passion for gardening. As gardeners, we never stop learning, so if you have skills and knowledge which could benefit the community, I encourage you to share your insights with the membership. OVF Education is planning future classes and workshops and always seeks your input for the newsletter. If you would like to participate, please contact Nina Rumely, Education Chair.

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