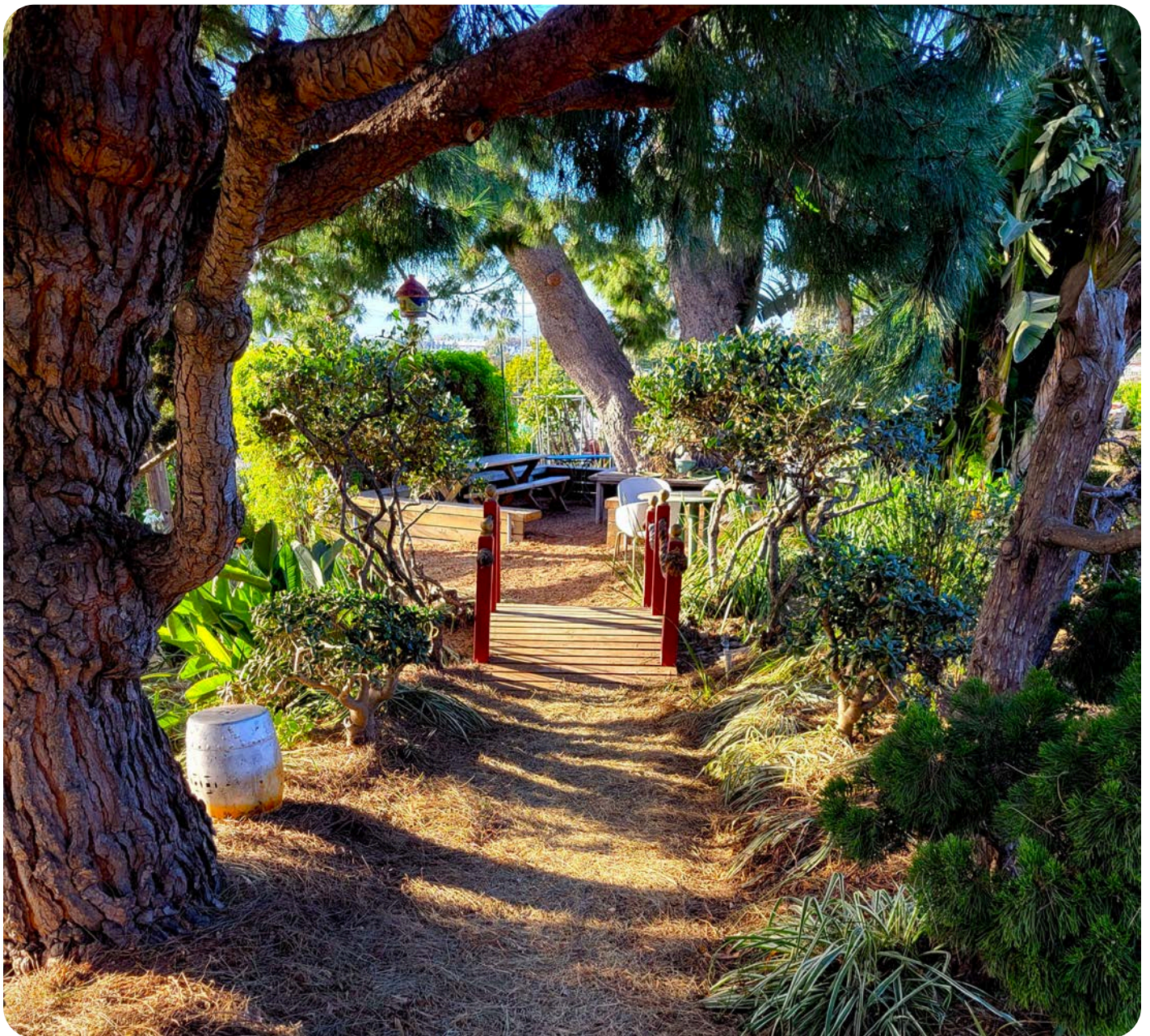


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# OVF NEWS



## March 2025





# President's Message

Did you know that rain comes down in spirals? Did you know that the more organic matter in the soil, the more water it holds to feed your plants? Come on down, rain! Thinking of all the seeds and flowers just waiting for the sunny days now that they have been washed and quenched. Spring is an exciting time for all of us gardeners.

Our community is such an amazing group of people and meeting other members is such a gift. I recently met a member who introduced me to a plant called yacon root, and I shared with her the herb sculpit that I'm growing. How lucky we are to have each other and this amazing piece of land to nurture and cultivate. Stay involved and keep on saying hello to new faces.

Here comes April! To me, it always feels like the new year! So if I may wish you a happy new year and may this year bring less weeds, more rain, less gophers and bunnies, or may they start to love the weeds more than our crops.

April is also the time for OVF elections - please remember to vote. The OVF election coordinator explains the election process below, and has posted bulletins on the gate boards.

Judith Morris was confirmed as OVF Vice President at the last Board meeting, filling the vacant position. I want to thank Judith for stepping up to fill the position and look forward to her help and wisdom as an OVF Board member.

Peaceful and thankful we are to everyone helping to make our beautiful organic garden and our community stronger everyday. Email me anytime with your interests or questions about how to be involved or take on special projects. Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events announced in this newsletter! Take care of your soil and yourself. Happy gardening and happy springtime!

Sincerely,  
Shirley Vernale  
OVF President



# OVF Calendar

## **Upcoming Work Days**

Saturdays, 9am-12pm:

April 12; May 10

Sundays, 1-4pm:

March 30, April 27

## **Next General Meeting**

April 12

1:00 pm

In person voting!  
(Pot Luck at 12:00)

## **Next Board Meeting**

May 17

9:30 am



**Full Calendar**



## Upcoming Events at OVF

*(All events are held at the main OVF meeting area unless otherwise stated.)*

### **Classes:**

**March 29** - OVF Tomato Growing Class

**April 19, 26, May 3, 10** - OVF's Master Gardener Grow LA Class

### **OVF Member Business:**

**March 28** - *OVF Election*: deadline for nominations to be included on online ballot; also deadline for submission of optional candidate statements

**March 30 through April 11** - *OVF Election*: Online Voting Period

**April 5** - OVF Greenhouse Seedling Sale

**April 12** - *OVF Election*: In-Person Voting at member meeting



## **Message from the OVF Election Coordinator**

It's time for our annual OVF elections for Board & Phase Rep positions. Members can run for any of the following positions in 2025 (for a two-year

term): Vice Chair, Garden Master, Membership Secretary, Independent Project Manager and Phase Representatives for Phases 1U, 2U, 3U and 4U.

Candidates may submit their names to the Election Coordinator ([elections@oceanviewfarms.net](mailto:elections@oceanviewfarms.net)).

The election culminates with in-person voting at the April General Meeting, April 12, at 1pm.

In-person voting is preceded by Online and Email voting, which runs from Sunday, March 30 through Friday, April 11 (closing at midnight).

Candidates who file for office by sending an email to the Election Coordinator ([elections@oceanviewfarms.net](mailto:elections@oceanviewfarms.net)) by Friday, March 28 will have their names included on the Online email slate, which is accessed via your member page. Candidates may also file a candidate statement to be included on the website and to be posted on OVF Bulletin Boards; deadline for candidate statements is also Friday, March 28.

Members who attend the April 12 meeting may also be nominated for an office at the meeting, but they will not have the advantage of being included on the website or bulletin board notices preceding the April 12 meeting.

Please contact Mary Harrison, OVF Election Coordinator, with any questions at [elections@oceanviewfarms.net](mailto:elections@oceanviewfarms.net).



## Message from the OVF Gate Closing Monitor

HAPPY SPRING!! Now that the days are longer and warmer, we're all eager to spend more time in the garden. While it's understandable that some might wish to linger in the evenings to finish up during the twilight hour, I must remind you that the garden officially closes at sunset.



We need to keep in mind that OUR GATE CLOSERS ARE VOLUNTEERS who work to keep our garden safe and secure by locking the sheds and all the gates each night. Most gate closers have children or parents to tend to, are tired after work, or simply have things to do in the evening. If a particular gate closer allows you to linger a few minutes longer, it is their prerogative, not your right.

Any member who is rude to the gate closer or fails to leave in a prompt manner when asked to, could be reported and receive a citation. So please BE RESPECTFUL, FOLLOW THE RULES, AND BE READY TO LEAVE THE GARDEN AT SUNSET. Let's keep our garden a peaceful and enriching space for all to enjoy!

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A REMINDER TO ALL GATE CLOSERS: It's important to follow OVF's procedures for gate closers when Little League or film crew members are on the property. Click [here](#) to review the procedures. Tell the person in charge that you have locked the garden, get their name, and remind them to lock the front gates on their way out. Th-th-th-that's all folks!



## Master Gardener Post-Fire Information & Research

The Master Gardener program has begun to release research-based information on the impact of fires. Click [here](#) for a list of resources to date.

And a reminder; OVF's Master Gardener Grow LA Class is currently filling up and class size is limited. To register, click [here](#).


## Greenhouse Seedling Sale

**April 5, 10:00-11:30 am**

They're almost ready! Over fifty different varieties of vegetables, herbs and flowers will be available at the April 5 seedling sale. For a complete list of the varieties, click [here](#). All sales are cash only.

Seedlings in 4" containers are \$2, six packs are \$3. These outstanding prices are exclusively for OVF members.

The greenhouse recycles the seedling containers, so once you've planted your new seedling, please rinse the container and then put it in the wooden box outside the greenhouse.



Ocean View Farms

# TOMATO GROWING CLASS

Saturday  
March 29, 10:00am

At the Main OVF Meeting Area

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 29, at 10 AM when OVF members Dean Cleverdon, Nancy Nyberg and Christy Wilhelmi will teach a class on growing tomatoes.

Growing tomatoes? According to the numerous gardening magazines, Al and your Aunt Betty, growing tomatoes is as easy as sticking seeds into a pot and adding sunshine and water. Not so fast, say Christy, Dean and Nancy.

“Tomatoes are challenging to grow at OVF because we have the coastal influence, sandy alkaline soil, and a fair amount of disease persistence at the garden, exacerbated by coastal air,” says Christy. Dean concurs. “To Christy’s list, I would also add colder weather due to climate change and the abundance of critters now present in the garden create other challenges to growing (and harvesting) tomatoes,” he says.



In the past couple of years, many OVF gardeners have had trouble growing tomatoes, prompting education chair Les Hairrell to tap these experts to teach a class. Nancy, who has coordinated over 10 years of OVF tomato tastings, notes that “as long-time OVF gardeners, we have each developed strategies to supplement our soil, optimize plant and fruit growth, while reducing pests and disease in our organic (and often-foggy) setting.”

“We have adjusted our growing methods and planting space to optimize the track of the sun for tomatoes which might ripen for up to 100 days,” she adds.

Even if you’ve never had a problem growing tomatoes, the class could be useful, says Dean. “It depends on your knowledge base,” he says. “Maybe you will learn something you did not already know – or you can share with others what you already do know.”

Nancy and Christy give a preview of what to expect at the class. “From choosing from hundreds of tomato varieties to watering strategies, we hope to encourage OVF gardeners to experiment in their space and grow successfully,” says Nancy. Dean notes that OVF offers OVF-specific challenges. “Someone who has a plot halfway up the slope in Phase IV and somebody else is at the top of Upper I have entirely different micro-climates.

The bottom line, says Christy is that “if you come to class you’ll learn from those who have dealt with these difficult growing conditions first hand. It’s better than reading a garden book written by someone from outside the region.”

Hope to see you there!



## Recent Events at OVF.



## OVF Welcomes New Members At Saturday Get Together

On March 22, OVF gardeners gave a warm welcome to some of OVF's newest members. Kip and Sam, a father-son team of gardeners, just got their plot a week before the Saturday event. After being on the wait list for three years, both expressed their happiness at finally getting a spot to "do a bit of gardening." The two, who have home gardening experience, already planted blueberries and plan to grow tomatoes, carrots and a variety of other vegetables.

Of the approximately 30 people at the event, there was also a healthy mix of veteran members, including Susan, a member for 45 years, Mike and Carrie members for 30+ years, and Reza, who has been a member for eight years. "I'm here to meet the new people," said Reza.

A handful of OVF members made food: Keith and Futo cooked up a tasty dish of fried rice and fish curry for attendees; Mateo cooked homemade waffles, which he served with fruit, Nutella and maple syrup; Mitusko made a wonderful flan; and Shirley organized a give-away display of lemons grown in different OVF independent projects and peoples' yards.



Other new members include Dre and Seti, who had been on the wait list for four years; both have experience in regenerative gardening in northern California and Watts. They plan to plant kale, lettuce, watercress, summer squash and attract the pollinator population. Precious, who has been a member since June of last year, grows cabbage, fava beans and native plants –she also attended the first meeting of the Native Plants Club. And André, who was an associate for 3-1/2 years and got his own plot in November, has been growing cabbages, broccoli mustard greens, beets and potatoes. “I have a view of the ocean and the snow-capped mountains,” he said. “I’ve always wanted to grow my own food and share the bounty, and now I have the perfect plot.”

Please welcome these and the many other new members!



## **Calling Native Plant Enthusiasts! Twenty Plus OVF Members Attended the First Native Club Meeting on March 9**

As you drive up the OVF driveway to the parking lot, you may have noticed

some activity by the fences. What you are seeing is the nascent work of the OVF Native Plant Club.

First, some back story: in OVF's earlier years, the driveway was lined with roses which, largely untended, grew into a muddle of weeds and thorns. Since then, long-time OVF gardener Judith Morris, with her associate Juan Becera, transformed the driveway into a low-water Mediterranean garden which has thrived for years.

Judith recently approached OVF President Shirley Vernale to suggest that the existing garden be renovated with the addition of more California native plants. Arthur Elzy and Sarah Harroff, two OVF members with expertise and interest in native plants, were consulted, and a small working group was formed. Soon, other OVF gardeners saw (or heard about) the native plant initiative and expressed interest in learning and helping.

Meanwhile, OVF Education was developing a class on California native plants, but it became obvious that a single class could only teach so much – and that creating an actual California native garden would be an ideal OVF project. Thus was launched the Native Plant Club, aimed at bringing together OVF members interested in this area of gardening.

The Club is intended as an ongoing opportunity for members interested in native plants to engage with one another and learn through presentations at club meetings as well as by – most importantly -- getting their hands dirty in the new native garden.

Over twenty OVF gardeners attended the first California Native Plant Club on March 9, where they introduced themselves and discussed the driveway project. Club members will earn hours for the time they spend working in the driveway project but not for social events, meetings or presentations.

The next meeting of the native plant club will be May 4 at 1:00 in the main meeting area. If you're interested in getting involved with OVF's native garden and/or joining the club, please contact the OVF President or the OVF Education Chair.





## Class Visits OVF

UCLA Geography class students recently visited OVF to examine the different soils in the garden and analyze the impact on plant yields. OVF members gave the students a tour of the garden.



## IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### **North Venice Little League Opens Its Fields To Palisades Little League; Increased Parking Congestion**

In response to the Palisades fire, our neighbor North Venice Little League has offered its fields to be used by Palisades Little League teams. Softball has also begun. This means that the parking lots will be even more congested on weekends and weekday evenings during the baseball season.

OVF members can access the garden from gates on Centinela, so it would help everyone for members to park on Centinela instead of trying to park in the congested parking lots.

### **Large Machines have landed in Phase 4?**

Why is there large machinery sitting at the top of Phase 4? OVF members

(and surrounding neighbors) have been asking that question. The answer is that North Venice Little League brought in the machines as part of a landscape maintenance project. They say they will be removed in the near future.



## Member Submissions

*"You wanna know something? I always wanted my name in the paper."  
Roxie Hart, Chicago.*

While newsprint may be gone, the OVF newsletter lives on, so if you'd like to write an article or provide material for the newsletter, please contact the OVF Education Chair.

## Member Feedback

If you have any suggestions, ideas, feedback, or any other comments regarding the newsletter, please send them to the OVF Education Chair.

## Land Acknowledgement

Ocean View Farms recognizes that we garden on land originally and currently inhabited by the Chumash, Kizh, Tongva, and Serrano peoples.

We respect them as the first caretakers of this land, with gratitude for their wisdom and skills.





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