

What's happening in Wild Suburbia

Today I started a new way to report on what's going on in Wild Suburbia. Up until now there was merely a [list of gardening tasks](#) that I wrote up way back in 2009 when I was preparing for my [son's backyard wedding](#). I am planning (and hoping) to upload a handful of garden pictures to a [slideshow](#) every couple of months. The slideshow will be posted under the [tab](#), "[In the Garden](#)."

This year March and April were a bit unusual. The extended drought, extremely scarce rainfall, and warm winter weather resulted in an early and diminished garden bloom period. Even the flannel bushes in the back bloomed a few weeks early and with less pizzazz, though still beautiful. I had fewer poppies and even the tansy phacelias and globe gillias were somewhat subdued.

As far as garden chores, I did not participate in the [Theodore Payne Garden Tour](#) this year, and so my garden did not get the attention it usually gets in spring. Last week, however, a class from the [LA Arboretum's](#) popular [Thursday Garden Talks with Lili Singer](#) visited. Of course I tidied up a bit. Most of the time went to mowing and edging the little bits of lawn that remain. I also swept and put things away, but I did not do any major projects. The people who attended were so sweet and supportive.

Once that was over, I decided it was time to unlawn a bit of the front yard. I removed an old Mexican marigold that has seen better days and rolled the rocks and logs a few feet in from the edge of the lawn. Thought maybe it would go unnoticed but my husband quickly informed me that I wasn't pulling anything over on him!

Finally, the other gardening task I engaged in was [starting tomatoes from seed](#). It is with a bit of chagrin, actually a whole lot of embarrassment, that I have to report that I had a bit of a mishap. I sowed the seeds, oh so carefully. Unfortunately, the weather took a turn and it was quite chilly both inside our house and out. The seeds didn't germinate so I decided to put them in the oven. Even though ovens no longer have pilot lights I thought I could turn it on briefly and then let the seed tray sit in the warm oven. Can you see this one coming? Yup, I cooked the seeds, the seed tray, and the soil. I nearly burnt down the house and it has smelled like a campfire ever since. Not good.

What's happening in your Wild Suburbias?