



April 2009

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# Better Environments



**WE HAVE A WINNER!**  
**THE WINNER OF OUR LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE QUARTERLY REPORT DRAWING IS:**  
**MARCIA MILLS**  
**CONGRATULATIONS,**  
**SHE WILL RECEIVE.....**  
**\$25 OFF HER NEXT MONTHLY BILL**

## APRIL FOOLS' DAY

The origin of April Fools' day is obscure. Some say it was first celebrated soon after the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar and referred to someone still adhering to the Julian Calendar, which it replaced. In many pre-Christian cultures, May Day (May 1) was celebrated as the first day of summer, and signaled the start of the spring planting season. An April Fool was someone who did this prematurely. Still others be-

lieve the idea dates back to Noah. In an English newspaper article published on April 13, 1789, it was said that the idea was started in Genesis by Noah, who sent his dove off too early before the waters had receded. He did this on the first day of the Hebrew month that corresponds with April. A reference to April Fools' day can be seen in the Canterbury Tales in the Nun's Priest's tale, a tale of two fools:

Chanticleer and the fox, which took place on March 31.

Although not a holiday in its own right, April Fools' Day is a notable day celebrated in many countries on April 1. The day is marked by the commission of hoaxes and other practical jokes of varying sophistication on friends, family members, enemies and neighbors. Traditionally, in some countries, the jokes

only last until noon. If you play a trick on someone after this time, you are the April Fool. Elsewhere, for example in Ireland or France, the jokes may last all day.

(<http://en.wikipedia.org>)



HAPPY SPRING!

## ROBYN PIERCEY

If you have not had the pleasure of speaking with Robyn Piercey, you are truly missing out. She really is the sunshine of our office. Although her job keeps her extremely busy and she has two small children, she always has a smile on her face.

Robyn started working for Bennett Landscape on December 22, 2003. She started off doing typing and follow-up calls. She is now Executive Assistant to the President.

Her primary job is to help the President with all of his daily clerical tasks. Some of her responsibilities are to help answer and filter all calls to

Sean, schedule all of his appointments, put together all necessary files for daily appointments, type estimates, fill in as Customer Service Representative as needed, assist the Project Manager/Estimator with special tasks as assigned, help with any office duties as they come up, administer Employer Pull Notice Program, which keeps the company apprised of any traffic citations our drivers may have, ensure all drivers are approved through insurance before hire and added to the insurance upon hire, verify that all paperwork is thoroughly completed by new employees upon hire,

check company e-mail, as well as Sean's, post job openings at local colleges, and prepare all paperwork, request necessary bonds, and has paperwork notarized and/or stamped with the corporate seal for Sean's upcoming bids.

In addition to all of the above, Robyn is our Safety Program Coordinator. Her focus is to ensure that all necessary safety measures are taken to promote the health and well-being of all people employed by Bennett Landscape. She prepares weekly safety meetings for the crews.

Robyn loves her job. She

knows almost every client by first or last name. She has an amazing memory. People always want to talk to her because they know she will get the job done.

Robyn likes the diversity of her job, but mostly likes typing proposals, as it is relaxing for her. She likes interacting with the clients and the casual atmosphere our office provides. Robyn enjoys working with the other employees as well. She is always here to help, so if you need anything, please call her!

Her hard work is appreciated. Thanks, Robyn, for your years of loyalty!

**From the Kitchen of Debbie K.**

Here is an amazing recipe for Pumpkin Bread, and pumpkins don't have to be in season!

- |                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 3 cups sugar                | 2 tsp. cinnamon   |
| 1 cup cooking oil           | 1 tsp. nutmeg     |
| 4 eggs                      | 1 tsp. cloves     |
| 3 cups flour                | 1 tsp. allspice   |
| 2 tsp. baking soda          | 1 tsp. salt       |
| 1/2 tsp. baking powder      | 1/2 cup walnuts   |
| 2/3 cup orange juice        | 1 cup cranraisins |
| 1 large can pumpkin (29 oz) |                   |



Beat eggs, oil and sugar together. In separate bowl, sift flour and all dry ingredients together; add cranraisins and nuts to flour mixture. Add flour mixture to egg mixture, then add orange juice and pumpkin, and mix well. Grease 3 bread pans or 9 mini loaf pans. Bake large pans at 350° for 50-60 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Bake mini loaves for about the same time.

**IMPORTANT REBATE INFORMATION!!!!**

Homeowners can take advantage of generous rebates from So. Cal Watersmart by installing water-saving devices in their landscape. A switch to a controller, like the Smartline LS1600 by Weathermatic, could get you, the homeowner, between \$80 to \$600 depending on the size of your property. There are also rebates for installing water-saving nozzles and synthetic sod. The bottom line is you'll save both money and water.

Smartline was a "Best Buy" in Consumer's Digest and also "Product of the Year" by the Irrigation Association. Please call our Customer Service Department for details.

**IT'S GARDEN TIME!**

- Most gardeners have been out in the garden for several weeks already, but anytime this month is a great time to start incorporating soil amendments, sowing seeds, and putting in transplants. The soil is dry enough to be worked without compacting it, the air is warm enough to enjoy working outside, and the soil temperature is ideal for germinating all kinds of seeds and getting transplants growing well.
- The weather from now through June is ideal for planting citrus, avocados, and other tender trees. For the best choice in citrus, look for trees with many strong branches and deep green leaves.
- Prune dead wood once the plant or tree has completely leafed out and you can easily see just what wood is dead. If you are in doubt, wait another month to avoid pruning wood which was just late in leafing out.
- Feed all trees heavily for strong growth and good fruit production. Top dress them with compost and fertilizers high in nitrogen and phosphorus. Keep composts, manures and fertilizers away from tree trunks.
- Sow or transplant all summer annual and perennial flowers.
- Plant summer-blooming bulbs, agapanthus, begonias, caladiums, calla lilies, dahlias and gladiolus.
- Plant or prune ground covers to clear dead portions and stimulate new growth.
- Water-conserving blooming shrubs for dry spots include crape myrtle, oleander, rosemary and wild or California lilac.
- Sheer formal hedges and prune evergreens to control their size and improve their shape.
- Sow or lay sod for dichondra or grass lawns. Reseed worn patches of lawn. Cultivate the top four inches of soil well first with organic matter and slow-release fertilizers, so your lawn will thrive. **Please call our office to schedule any of these items.**

(www.celosangeles.ucdavis.edu)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION**

- April 5: Orchid Society Lecture, 2-4 p.m. Learn to care for your orchids. It's not as difficult as you think.
- April 17: Members Only Preview Night, 5-7 p.m. Back by popular demand, our Member's Only Preview Night affords you the opportunity to choose the best of the selection of plants offered. Enjoy wine and light hors d'oeuvres while visiting with your fellow gardening enthusiasts.

- April 18: Spring Plant Sale, 9 a.m.—4 p.m.
- April 24: Celebrate Arbor Day, the annual observance dedicated to the planting and conservation of trees.
- April 26: Fuchsia Society, 2-4 p.m. Come and learn about proper pruning, propagation, care and feeding.

For more information on the Spring 2009 Education Schedule, please call their office at 310-544-1948, 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

**Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy Nature Walk:**  
**April 11: 9 a.m.—11 a.m.**  
 Bring your camera. We will search for the best wildflower displays while enjoying our famous ocean views. Moderate. RPV. Park in the lot at Ladera Linda Community Center, 32201 Forrestal Drive in RPV or along Forrestal Drive. Meet at trail head near gate. For more information, please call 310-541-7613.