

# Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

April 2013, Number 223

## Writing the Book on Natives

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On the Cover: Beautiful dry streambed

# Springtime garden visits with San Diego Floral . . .

## SPRING TOUR:

### Chinese and Japanese Gardens at the Huntington

Luxury coach from San Diego to San Marino, includes specially guided tour and lunch

**Date:** Saturday, April 6, 2013

**Cost:** \$115 per person

**Tickets:** Online at [www.sdfloal.org](http://www.sdfloal.org) or send a check to the SDFA office

## EASTERN PROSPECTS:

### Gardens of Burlingame & North Park & South Park

Enjoy eight gardens during our annual "garden tour with a difference"

**Date:** Saturday, May 18, 2013

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$20 (in advance) \$25 (day of tour)

**Shop:** Garden marketplace vendors

**Tickets:** Online at [www.sdfloal.org](http://www.sdfloal.org) and at:

Walter Andersen – Poway and San Diego

Kniffing Nursery – El Cajon

Green Gardens – Pacific Beach

Weidners Gardens – Encinitas

Mission Hills Nursery – San Diego



First availability of  
'Linda Anne'  
a new Geranium introduction  
by Jim Zemcik



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## SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**Our Mission** is to promote the enjoyment, art, knowledge and public awareness of horticulture in the San Diego area, while providing the opportunity for education and research.

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Details on membership are on page 20 and at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org)  
For questions contact [membership@sdhort.org](mailto:membership@sdhort.org) or Jim Bishop at (619) 296-9215.

### MEETING SCHEDULE

5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup  
6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, lending library, plant display  
6:45 – 9:00 Announcements, door prizes, speaker

### MEETINGS & EVENTS

(FW = Free Workshops; Register at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org))

- April 6** SDHS Spring Garden Tour in Poway (see page 10)
- April 9** Bromeliads in the garden: An easy-care tropical look for sun and shade (FW)
- April 21** Getting Your Organic Garden Ready for Spring/Summer Veggies (FW)
- April 25** New Varieties of Plants for Our Area (FW)
- May 5** Organic Pest Control (FW)
- May 6** Gardening for Birds, Hummingbirds & Butterflies & Planting on a Slope (FW)
- May 13** John Schoustra on Seriously Funny – The Business of Plants
- June 24** SDHS Night at the Fair and Horticulturist of the Year Award Ceremony
- July 8** Debra Lee Baldwin on her new book, Succulents Simplified



[www.SDHort.org](http://www.SDHort.org)



**COVER IMAGE:** Landscape with purpose: a bioswale retains water through the use of large gravel-filled sumps. From the book *The California Native Landscape* by our April speakers. Photo by Lucy Warren.

## Next Meeting: APRIL 8, 2013, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

### Topic: GREG RUBIN & LUCY WARREN ON “WRITING THE BOOK ON NATIVES”



**Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$15. Parking is free.  
Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (619) 296-9215**

We're delighted to have two long-time members speaking about their exciting new book at our April meeting. Greg Rubin and Lucy Warren co-authored the recently released comprehensive guide to landscaping with California natives, *The California Native Landscape: The Homeowner's Design Guide to Restoring its Beauty and Balance*.

In their first full presentation since the book's release, they will lead us behind the scenes of this groundbreaking new resource. You will learn a completely different approach to native plant landscaping that explodes the myth that home landscapes composed of native plants are scruffy and difficult to manage. By focusing on horticulture that's attuned to native plants and by emulating natural ecology, the authors will show you the whys and wherefores of creating easy-to-maintain native gardens that are beautiful year round.

Greg owns California's Own Native Landscape Design. His fascination with native plants started when he renovated his parents' home in 1985. This expanded into his successful landscape business and the design of over 600 native landscapes in San Diego County.

Lucy has an extensive background in marketing research and has long been fascinated with horticulture. She is a UCCE Master Gardener, former editor of *California Garden* magazine, and wrote a gardening column for the *San Diego Union Tribune*. She is assistant coordinator for the Flower and Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair; helps coordinate the annual Spring Home/Garden Show, and is a board member of San Diego Horticultural Society and Pacific Horticulture Society.

The book will be available for purchase at the meeting. To learn more, visit [www.calown.com](http://www.calown.com) and see page 3.

# SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Patty Berg** – Volunteer Coordinator

**Jeff Biletnikoff** – Meeting Room Coordinator

**Jim Bishop** – President, Membership Chair

**B.J. Boland** – Corresponding Secretary

**Mark Collins** – Finance/Budget Committee

**Bryan Diaz** – Member at Large

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**Dannie McLaughlin** – Tour Coordinator

**Susan Oddo** – Publicity Coordinator

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**Sam Seat** – Treasurer

**Susi Torre-Bueno** – Newsletter Editor,  
Past President

**Don Walker** – Past President

**Lucy Warren** – Secretary

**Let's Talk Plants!, the SDHS  
newsletter, is published the fourth  
Monday of every month.**

**Editor/Advertising:** Susi Torre-Bueno;  
(760) 295-2173; newsletter@sdhort.org

**Calendar:** Send details by the 10th of the month  
before event to calendar@sdhort.org.

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### ☛New Email? New Street Address?

Please send all changes (so you will continue to receive the newsletter and important notices) to membership@sdhort.org or SDHS, Attn: Membership, PO Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869. We **NEVER** share your email or address with anyone!

## BECOME A SPONSOR!

### Do you own a garden-related business?

SDHS sponsorships have high recognition and valuable benefits, including a link to your website, discounts on memberships for your employees, and free admission to SDHS events. This is a wonderful way to show your support for the SDHS. Sponsors help pay for our monthly meetings, annual college scholarships, and other important programs. Sponsorships start at just \$100/year; contact Jim Bishop at sponsor@sdhort.org. Sponsors are listed on page 10; those with ads in the newsletter have the words SDHS Sponsor above their ads. We thank them for their extra support!

## IMPORTANT MEMBER INFORMATION

**Join the fun and bring a plant or cutting to show off at the Plant Display table at our April 8 meeting. An expert will be on hand to answer your questions.**

### Plant Experts at Monthly Meeting

We are looking for members who are plant experts to answer questions at the Plant Display table at our meetings. We don't expect you to know everything about every plant – maybe you know a lot about roses, or sell perennials, or perhaps you can share your knowledge of low-water plants with other members? To volunteer please contact Susanna Pagan at 858-342-8667 or susannapagan@gmail.com.

### Free Workshops for Members

In February we began a program of free workshops for our members, and the response has been exceptional. To register for workshops (a list is on page 1), and to find out about which ones are still open, go to [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org) and click on EVENTS and then WORKSHOPS. Keep checking the website as we add more workshops. These free workshops are a valuable member benefit – if your friends would like to join you, they can become members online and register for a workshop immediately. If you have a family membership and another family member wants to register, first check your membership status on the website to be sure their name appears on your membership, along with an email address for them. It's easy to add a family member and/or update their information (see below).

### New Phone Number for Master Gardener “Hort-Line”

A Master Gardener will answer your questions on home gardening and pest control Monday through Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. The new phone number for their “Hort-Line” is (858) 822-6910. Call them to get help from these friendly and knowledgeable volunteers. The Master Gardener website is filled with useful information, too; visit [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org).  
✿

## UPDATING YOUR MEMBER PROFILE IS QUICK AND EASY

Members can register for all our events at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org). And since this is the *only* way to register for featured gardens or workshops, and to access your digital newsletter, please take a minute to check that your member profile is up to date with your *current* email address. Be sure that there is a *different* email address for *both* people in your family membership, too, so you can *both* register for things. (An email can only be used *once* in the database, so two members cannot have the same email.) Here's the quick way to do this:

Login using your email address and password. (If you have a *new* email address, login using your last email address and edit your profile.) In the left column, above the newsletter image, click on **View profile**. This brings up a page with **My profile** at the top. Just below that is the **Edit profile** button you click on to make changes. Click the Edit profile button and a new screen shows all the information we have for you. Just move your cursor to any item (for example, your email address) and update it. While editing your profile, you can also tell us your volunteer interests and availability. *When you have finished entering your change(s) click the **Save** button near the bottom of the page to save this information.*

Near the top of the edit page you'll see **Bundle Summary**. If you have a **family** membership, the **Bundle limit** will be 2. If you have previously given us information for the other member in your family, the **Used so far** will also be 2.\* Below that, **Your members** will show the name of the other person and a link to their profile.

To update that person's profile, you simply click on their link, then click on **Edit profile** on the top of *their* page to add an email for the other member of your household (this must be different from your email). When finished editing click the **Save** button near the bottom of the page.

\* If **Used so far** is 1 when it should be 2, just add information about the other member of your household so they can register for events. Do this by clicking the **Add Member** button below Used so far and fill in the requested information. Then click the **Save** button near the bottom of the page.✿



## TO LEARN MORE...

By Ava Torre-Bueno

### Why Native Plants Will be All you CAN Grow Very, Very Soon

Here's why it's time to pull out whatever you're growing and put in California natives: within ten years we will be living (permanently) through the worst drought in the last 1,000 years. For a pop-media article about this go here:

[www.care2.com/causes/were-on-the-brink-of-the-worst-drought-in-1000-years.html#comment-4751955](http://www.care2.com/causes/were-on-the-brink-of-the-worst-drought-in-1000-years.html#comment-4751955)

and for the scientific paper it's based on by researchers at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, go here:

[www.ldeo.columbia.edu/res/div/ocp/glodech/PDFs/Seager\\_etal\\_NCC2012.pdf](http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/res/div/ocp/glodech/PDFs/Seager_etal_NCC2012.pdf)

Natives are the only plants that have a chance of making it as the Southwest gets drier. To learn more about them, visit our own chapter of the California Native Plant Society at [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org).

To see how incredibly beautiful California natives are, put the words "California native plants" into the Google search bar and click on Images.

To quote myself from last year: "We will be drinking reclaimed water soon, or we'll be very, very thirsty. Reclaimed water is actually cleaner than the water coming out of our taps now. To see that this is true,

*Continued on page 18*



## LET'S GET GROWING! MASTER GARDENER SPRING SEMINAR

Save the Date! Registration will soon be open for this year's San Diego Master Gardener Spring Seminar! To be held on May 4th at the County of San Diego Operations Center in Kearny Mesa, this year's Spring Seminar theme is Let's Get Growing! Choose from a variety of seminar topics and workshops that are guaranteed to be both fun and educational. Also enjoy the Garden Marketplace, exhibits and demonstrations, live music, notable speakers, and book signings.

Interested in floral design, edible landscaping, or vertical gardening? Then check out our extensive list of class choices! There are sure to be several topics to spark your interest! Topic themes include: Edibles, Garden Design, Gardening Building Blocks, Wildlife, Birds and Livestock, Trees and Plants, plus Cooking and Crafts.

The Garden Marketplace will feature several outside vendors and Master Gardener booths. This year we're going all out with warm season vegetables, too! Look for 21 unusual and colorful varieties of tomatoes, as well as summer squash and cucumbers, which you can mix and match to create a beautiful and bountiful summer crop in your garden!

Between presentations and workshops, you can also enjoy music while perusing our exhibit tables. A selection of breakfast and lunch options will also be available for Spring Seminar attendees. Free parking is available on-site and the facility is handicap accessible.

For more information and to register, please visit [www.mastergardenersd.org/seminar/index.php](http://www.mastergardenersd.org/seminar/index.php).



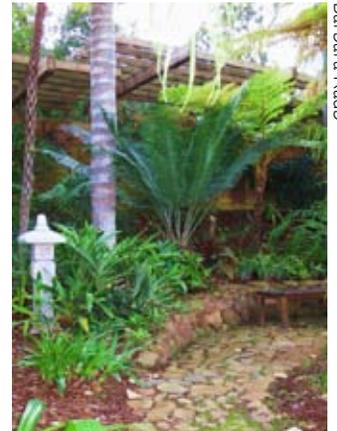
## FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

### Spring Garden Tour

If you haven't bought your ticket to this year's Spring Garden Tour in Poway on Saturday, April 6, there's still time to purchase at the members-only advance price of \$20 at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org). All tickets purchased the day of the tour are \$25. It's a great way to save and also avoid the ticket purchase check-in line at Lake Poway Park. We know this will be one of the best garden tours in the San Diego area this year and you don't want to miss it. See the center pages of this newsletter for more information.

The Spring Garden Tour replaces the Featured Garden for the month of April. There are also many other garden tours in San Diego during the months of April and May (see our gold calendar page for details). Be sure and participate in as many as possible to see firsthand the wonderfully diverse and creative gardens of San Diego. And don't forget to checkout and sign up for many of our free workshops at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org).



Barbara Rau

### San Diego County Fair Garden Exhibit

Planning has already started for this year's SDHS garden exhibit at the San Diego County Fair. This year's garden show theme is Arcades of Color. The show has a new coordinator whom many of you may know, SDHS member and landscape architect Cindy Benoit.

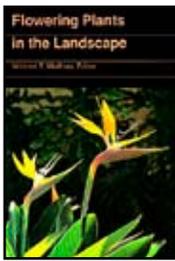
We are very fortunate this year to have landscape architect and SDHS member Marty Schmidt to design and install our garden exhibit. Marty is owner of ENVIRONS Landscape Architecture, Inc. ([www.environs.us](http://www.environs.us)). ENVIRONS has been providing professional landscape architecture and urban design services to public and private clients since 1989. We are looking forward to the colorful and waterwise garden Marty will create.

The San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) is sponsoring our garden exhibit this year. They also sponsored our garden in 2011. SDCWA's mission is to provide a safe and reliable supply of water to its member agencies serving the San Diego region. A big part of this effort is reducing the amount of water used for landscaping. However, they understand the importance beautiful gardens play in all of our lives and are dedicated to teaching homeowners that they can have a landscape that is both beautiful and waterwise. With a mission so close to ours, we are sure this will again be a great partnership. See page 21 for more information about upcoming SDCWA events and learn more at [www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org).

### Thank You!

Special thanks to program chair Mary James for arranging the donation (and potting) the Week's Roses for the February meeting silent auction.

Thanks to Paul Isley and Rainwater Flora for hosting our March Featured Garden growing ground tour and plant sale at their facility in Bonsall. Paul was also our March speaker. Read the review of his talk on page 19.



## THE REAL DIRT ON...

### Mildred E. Mathias

By Joan Herskowitz



Photo from Dr. Barry Prigge of the UCLA Herbarium.

Mildred Esther Mathias (1906-1995) was a botanist and horticulturalist who was actively involved in scientific and conservation efforts in California and around the world. She was born and raised in the rural Missouri Ozarks, but her family relocated to St. Louis in 1923 so she could attend Washington University. Although originally a math major, she got hooked on botany and earned her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. while conducting graduate research at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Her doctoral thesis was a taxonomic monograph on *Cymopterus* (Spring Parsleys) and relatives in the carrot family (Apiaceae, formerly Umbelliferae), which at that time was poorly defined.

After marrying Gerald Hassler, she worked independently on this plant family, but between 1940 and 1981 she worked with Dr. Lincoln Constance of Berkeley. They jointly published more than 60 scientific papers on Umbelliferae, including descriptions of 100 new species and several new genera. In 1954, an umbellifer from northeastern Mexico was named *Mathiasella bupleuroides* in her honor. It is an evergreen perennial (available in nurseries) with large showy umbels. In 1964, in recognition of her work, she was elected president of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists.

In 1944 the Hasslers, with four children, settled in southern California, and in 1947 Mathias accepted a position as herbarium botanist at UCLA, followed by promotions leading to assistant professor. In 1956 Mathias was appointed director of the UCLA Botanical Garden and served until her retirement in 1974. Mathias was involved in efforts to introduce botanically interesting plants into Southern California gardens through her articles, UC Press publications, talks to garden groups, and weekly appearance on a TV gardening show "The Wonderful World of Ornamentals." She was the editor for several popular books, including *Color for the Landscape* and *Flowering Plants in the Landscape*.

In the early 1960s, Mathias joined the UCLA Chief of Pharmacology on international trips to collect and screen tropical plants for new medicines. She also worked to establish the Organization of Tropical Studies, a consortium of U.S. universities formed to obtain protected sites for scientific research in the tropics, and she served as president from 1969 to 1970.

Mathias worked to establish the UC Natural Land and Water Reserves System (now UC Natural Reserve System) in the 1960s, which became a national model for conserving natural ecosystems, and she served on the advisory committee for 20 years. Her contributions at UC were honored in 1979 by naming the UCLA botanic garden the Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden ([www.botgard.ucla.edu](http://www.botgard.ucla.edu)). When she retired in 1974, the UCLA Extension persuaded her to lead a natural history trip to Costa Rica. This led to a new career as tour guide and she is credited with having led 53 groups with thousands of participants to 30 countries. Her enthusiasm and stamina were remarkable and her last tour at the age of 88 was to Chile, a year before her death in 1995.

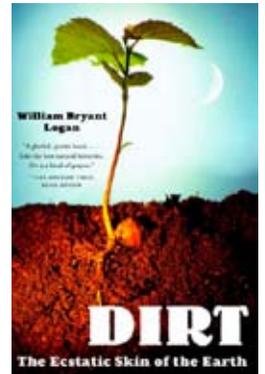
Member Joan Herskowitz worked as a Biologist for many years, including time spent on staff at the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use. Now retired, she is a docent at the San Elijo Lagoon and at San Diego Botanic Garden. 🌿



## BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

### *Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth* By William Bryant Logan



Book blurbs are normally full of superlatives. For example, the blurbs on the cover of *Dirt* include: gleeful, poetic, cult classic, thought provoking, literate, masterful. And guess what? In this case, at least, they are not exaggerating. This is some book!

On checking the author's website ([www.williambryantlogan.com](http://www.williambryantlogan.com)), I find that this is the second of a trilogy that also includes *Oak: The Frame of Civilization* and *Air: The Restless Shaper of the Earth*. What a treat I have ahead of me with these other two books. Logan also has an interesting blog on his website. Check it out.

*Dirt* is a series of essays. I think you could read them in any order and delight in the skill with which he describes something we see every day, but rarely think about. Oh, I know. We're gardeners. We think about dirt, but not like he does.

He starts with the lovely idea that we, and everything around us, are made of stardust. I've heard that before. I love that concept.

Logan tells us about St. Phocas, the patron saint of gardens, who so loved feeding the earth that he composted himself. Without identifying himself, he fed and housed the Roman soldiers who had been sent to kill him. In the morning, he dug his own grave in his garden before he woke them and told them who he was.

He tells us the story of the amazing life of the soil, which is much more complex than we ever suspected. And the details of the way people around the world manage the soil they plant in are also amazing. Before all those tiny bottles of chemicals were invented, farmers used to (and probably still do in some places) eat samples of their soil to find out if it was sweet or sour, live or dead.

In a chapter on the irresistibility of holes, Logan covers the techniques of digging to China and whether we will be right side up or upside down when we get there. You may be surprised at the answer.

He tells us that everything that comes out of the soil eventually goes back in, and everything that goes in comes out again.

Logan's essays are wide ranging, really from the creation of the earth to today and all over the world. I guarantee you'll never look at your garden again in the same way. And if you have a gardener you love, this book would make a wonderful gift.

All three books, *Dirt* (ISBN-13: 978-0-393-32947-6; \$14.95), *Oak*, and *Air*, are available in paperback. The most recent, *Air*, published in 2012, is also available hard-bound. I have my usual complaint – no index – but *Dirt* is so good, I'll forgive Mr. Logan that and just about anything else. 🌿



## TREES, PLEASE

### Pining for Trees

By Robin Rivet

Despite its status as the rarest pine species in North America, and one of the rarest in the world, how come the native Torrey Pine isn't more exalted in our county? For a culture that otherwise values rare objects, why don't more residents and local landscape architectural projects capitalize on this fact, and plant this unique conifer?

To be fair, due diligence turned up several local nurseries selling seedlings for less than \$10.99, so there may be more



*Pinus torreyana* at Southwestern College, El Cajon.

*Pinus torreyana* in our futures. This bodes well for the planet, too, since we urgently need to plant large-maturing, evergreen trees to mitigate the urban heat island effects brought on by sprawling brick-and-mortar development. Besides, where else can you invest in something so rare, for such a low price? Those of you who read my column often already know about the reasons to plant small seedlings, but this is especially crucial with native trees, since a six-inch sprout might already have a taproot two to three feet long; learn more at [www.torreypine.org/parks/torrey-pine.html](http://www.torreypine.org/parks/torrey-pine.html).

With its unusual five-needled bundle (or fascicle), and distinctly open canopy, identifying a Torrey pine (*Pinus torreyana*) is a snap, especially from a distance. Next time you visit Balboa Park's west mesa, look down to the north near the Laurel Street overpass to see their diagnostic "see-through" majestic form. For a more urban experience, drive along Rio San Diego Drive in Mission Valley just west of the Costco lot. Maturing Torreys dot the median and straddle the parkway, their grand beauty transforming a densely infilled urban space, into a compelling and beautiful streetscape.

Typically, most pines love loamy soil and moisture, so the Torrey's adaptation to lackluster soils and lack of rain is even more laudable. In fact, they are one of San Diego's few trees indigeous to the coastal sage ecoregion. What might surprise many gardeners is their tolerance to the warmer and drier inland valleys as well.

Do you like pesto? Although the Torrey pine cone produces hard pine nuts preferred by wildlife, those from western piñon pines are softer and more desirable for human consumption. And, if you're a serious nut, our very common, non-native Italian Stone Pine nuts have even more oil and flavor ([www.ediblecommunities.com/frontrange/pages/issues/summer08/harvestingPineNuts.pdf](http://www.ediblecommunities.com/frontrange/pages/issues/summer08/harvestingPineNuts.pdf)). Yes, they are all labor-intensive

to harvest, but given the price of pine nuts, why not consider a double-duty tree? There are many other hardy pines to choose from, too (<http://selectree.calpoly.edu>). Plus, pine needles make great mulch; so if you have too many – please share.

Hardiness, filtered shade, lots of birds, and piney fragrance... what's not to love? If you know of a large schoolyard bereft of tree canopy, offer to plant one. Pining for a plant? Be part of the solution to mitigate the looming ravages of climate change; plant a pine.

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, UCCE Master Gardener, Cal-Fire supported urban forestry educator and she welcomes public inquiries. [robin@sandiegotreemap.org](mailto:robin@sandiegotreemap.org). Top photo: *Pinus monophylla* cones and pine nuts CC-BY-3.0. ☞

Robin Rivet



## HEALTHY GARDEN – HEALTHY HOME PROGRAM FREE WORKSHOPS IN ENGLISH & SPANISH

The University of California Cooperative Extension and the Healthy Garden – Healthy Home Program invite you to attend a free workshop on April 13. The topic is: *Starting to grow your own food? Win the battle against pests!* Learn how to keep plants healthy and prevent pests from the start. The workshop will be held from 1:00 – 2:30PM at the Fallbrook Branch Library, 124 S. Mission Road, Fallbrook 92028. On April 20 a workshop will be given in Spanish about growing tomatoes in home gardens. The title is: *¡Aprenda a cultivar tomates saludables y sabrosos!* It will be held from 10:00 – 11:30AM at the Bonita-Sunnyside Branch Library, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita 91902. This workshop will be repeated in English on May 11 from 10:00 – 11:30AM at the San Marcos Community Center, 3 Civic Center Drive, San Marcos 92069. A free gift will be given to the first 50 participants at all workshops.

For more information about these or other community workshops, visit <http://cesandiego.ucan.edu/Horticulture>, or contact Scott Parker at the Healthy Garden/Healthy Home Program at (858) 822-6932. The Healthy Garden/Healthy Home Program is administered by the University of California Cooperative Extension, San Diego County and the Farm and Home Advisors Office of San Diego County and sponsored by the County of San Diego's Watershed Protection Program. ☞

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR OUR FAIR DISPLAY GARDEN

Yes, it's getting to be that time of year already! Once again, SDHS will have a display garden and we'll need volunteers to be ambassadors. You'll let folks know about SDHS and answer questions about our exhibit and plants in general. You don't need to be an expert of any kind – just friendly and outgoing. Please email Patty Berg at [pattyberg@gmail.com](mailto:pattyberg@gmail.com) if you want to join in the fun. Free admission to the Fair and free parking make this one of the year's best volunteer opportunities! ☞



## GOING WILD WITH THE NATIVES

By Greg Rubin

### Finding Native Madrones in San Diego County

A piece of exciting news has come our way from the world of native landscaping in San Diego. Recently, several populations of Madrones (*Arbutus menziesii*) have been discovered in the Pala area of North County. Most would argue that madrones are the most beautiful broad-leaved evergreen tree native to California. However, they have proved to be almost impossible to sustain in San Diego, as most of the mother stock comes from more northerly sections of the state. It is native all the way up to British Columbia, and it is quite common north of San Luis Obispo.

Because of their horticultural difficulty, I have had to settle for a similar effect by using a beautiful but completely non-native *Arbutus* called "Marina". This tree, introduced by the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation, is a hybrid of two European varieties that mimics the look and feel of our native tree while being much easier to use in cultivation. To me, actually finding a madrone indigenous to San Diego was the Holy Grail of native landscaping! We don't have that many evergreen trees to select from, so finding one adapted to our special climactic zing meant that I could finally expand this limited palette and expose people down here to its exquisite beauty.

I had heard legends over the years that there were mystical groves located within the county, but had never been able to get anywhere near the supposed sites. Furthermore, I was afraid that if they had existed, as noted in accounts from 75 years ago, the ravages of all too frequent fires might have destroyed any remaining stands.

So you can imagine what a delight it was to hear that Tom Oberbauer (chapter President of California Native Plant Society San Diego) and his team had discovered an extensive grove of them growing on Rodriguez Mountain in the Pala area in the shade of a huge, wet escarpment. The thrill was akin to hearing that a literal "lost world" had been found in our own back yard. And from Tom's description, it appears that was exactly what he encountered. A place so difficult to reach, and therefore protected from the ravages of humanity, that a pre-historic population had been able to persist, even thrive, in such a southerly latitude. And it was with considerable relief that Tom reported that, despite burning in the Poomacha fire, the population was rebounding with vigor. My hopes for the future are that we can propagate this southern version, and within a few years, introduce it to the trade. This is really a spectacular find, a rare event worth celebrating!"

For more information read Tom's article titled "Land of Perpetual Shade" in the March 2013 California Native Plant Society San Diego newsletter at [www.cnpsd.org/newsletters.html](http://www.cnpsd.org/newsletters.html) (not yet on their website as we go to press).

Member Greg Rubin is the founder and owner of California's Own Landscape Design, Inc. ([www.calown.com](http://www.calown.com)) and a very popular speaker. A specialist in the use of native plants in the landscape, he has designed over 600 native landscapes in San Diego County. His new book (coauthored with member Lucy Warren), *The California Native Landscape: The Homeowner's Design Guide to Restoring Its Beauty and Balance*, will be discussed at our April meeting (see page 1). ☞



Lucy Warren



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Patty Berg,  
Volunteer Coordinator

### Green Thumb? Must be in the Genes!

The knack for gardening can be an elusive thing and some of us might have no idea where we got it. Then there's Pat Venolia. As a child growing up in Pomona, Pat's chores included picking up spent camellia blossoms to help keep the garden plants healthy and free of flower blight.

Her dad was a nurseryman and their house sat adjacent to the 2-acre growing grounds; the nursery itself was just a bike-ride away. By 1960, the family packed up and moved to the new nursery near Murrieta, then just a little speck on the map in southwest Riverside County. As her father's daughter, Pat can't remember a time when plants were not important in her life.

That background made joining SDHS a sure thing and becoming a volunteer was just as natural for her.

"For such a great organization to be run by volunteers, how could I not contribute and participate?," she wonders. Lucky for us, Pat's always willing to lend a hand and you'll spot her friendly face at numerous meetings and events throughout the year.



Today, Pat gardens in Vista where she grows – what else? – fifteen varieties of camellias along with many other plants, shrubs and trees. She's passionate about these garden gems and built much of her collection from visits to Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena. Seems like a long way to go, but Pat has her reasons.

"It's a fun nursery to visit in winter when so many plants are in bloom (they specialize in camellias and azaleas)," she explains. According to Pat, Nuccio's plantsmen are nice... and so knowledgeable. And besides all that, "My father did business with their father."

One could imagine that those early years might have left Pat with a disdain for the non-stop chores that go along with gardening. How many of us, after all, hire some help to handle the repetitive tasks that we grow weary of over time? Surprisingly, that's not the case at all for Pat. Her greatest gardening pleasure comes from maintenance. Mornings spent pruning, picking fruit, weeding and dead-heading are some of the most satisfying for her. Which is proof, without a doubt, that it's all in the genes! ☞



## MY LIFE WITH PLANTS

By Jim Bishop

*This series of articles chronicles Jim's experiences with plants and the effect they have had on his life.*

### Do You Know the Way to San Jose? (Part Two)

Last month I told about the first part of my adventure of the drive accompanied by my mother of moving from Austin to San Jose.

I spent my first night in California at a college friend's apartment in Newport Beach. We were startled awake at sunrise by a horrible noise that sounded like an out of control lawn mower...but the apartment overlooked a large parking lot of the business next door, no grass there, still there was a huge dust cloud. This was my first encounter with the unusual practice of moving dust from one place to another with a leaf blower. Who invented this noisy smelly monstrosity and what purpose did it serve besides waking everyone up and coating my car with dust? (Today, a number of states and municipalities have either banned or considered banning gas powered leaf blowers. You can learn more at <http://www.drweil.com/drw/u/id/ART02059>.)

After my first encounter with a California mow 'n' blow, we packed up and headed north. I learned that the thick hazy air along the coast wasn't smog but was the "marine layer" and it would give way to sunshine by noon. We drove north under a very grey sky and saw little more than the freeway and lower part of steep hills where the 405 joins the 101. We knew nothing of Santa Barbara, and passed through without stopping (oops!).

By the time we got to Gaviota, the sun was out and we could see the large mountains rising out of the ocean. We stopped at the Gaviota Pass rest stop and were impressed by the large gnarled California sycamores with white trunks and big noisy leaves being blown by the fierce winds in the pass. The large oak trees looked a lot like the live oaks of Texas, but with odd bark. A sign on one said they had evolved thick bark to protect them from fire. Fire? Everything seemed so cool and green.

We headed on through the rugged and jumbled hills of Central California. We took a quick side trip through Solvang. How odd... California had "theme" towns. We couldn't decide if this was cool or just weird. It was explained away as the impact of Disneyland on California. This would be trumped a short time later by a quick visit to the truly quirky Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo. I just had to see the men's room urinal, where I confirmed that the facilities were as promised – a rock waterfall. Other than some of the odd architecture I found this part of the central coast, with its steep grass covered hills dotted with oaks, to be one of the most charming, beautiful and uniquely Californian areas of the state.

We continued north on Highway 1 and entered another of California's unique landscapes and stopped for a tour of Hearst Castle. It was more than just a little overwhelming. I kept thinking of the movie "Citizen Kane," the Patty Hearst kidnapping and the free food distributions that her father had done to meet the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) demands for her release. The SLA was wrong – they should have demanded Hearst Castle in exchange for the release of "Tania." Still, the architecture and grounds helped cement my view that everything in California should be Mediterranean.

We continued north through Big Sur and all the beauty of Highway 1. By the time we reached Monterey, where we planned to spend the

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night, it was dark. We did not understand California tourism and had no idea a reservation was a must for motel room on a Saturday night in August. We tried every motel in Salinas and along the 101, and finally near midnight ended up sleeping on a sofa bed in the conference room of the penthouse in the La Baron Hotel in San Jose.

Jim Bishop is President of San Diego Horticultural Society and a Garden Designer. 🌿



Madonna Inn.

# 2013 SPRING HOME/GARDEN SHOW AWARDS

**Best of Show: Second Place -  
Alee Landscape Design and  
Ornamental Gardens**

Congratulations to all the Garden Masters for the beautiful gardens they designed for the Show! We're proud that so many of them are SDHS members (members are shown in **BOLD**). To see photos of these gardens, go to [www.springhomegardenshow.com](http://www.springhomegardenshow.com).

Best of Show: First Place; Water Smart Award; Judges' Choice; Most Educational; Best Interpretive Signage; Perfection in Nomenclature  
The Ocean Friendly Garden, Ryan Prang,  
Falling Water Landscape

Best of Show: Second Place; Most Dramatic; Best Lighting; Perfection in Nomenclature

**Outdoor Dining: Where East Meets West,  
Kim Alexander and Lisa Bellora,  
Alee Landscape Design and Ornamental Gardens**

Best of Show: Third Place; Best San Diego Adapted Garden; Perfection in Nomenclature  
A Beautiful Reflection, Jeremiah Turner, Turner Landscapes

Award for Design Excellence; Best Combinations of Plant Materials; Best Intimate Garden; Perfection in Nomenclature  
Modern Reflection, Barry Thau, Eco Minded Solutions

Pacific Horticulture Award for Horticultural Excellence  
**Striking a Balance, Kristi Beach, Akana Design**

Most Appealing to Children  
**Yard to Table, Jesse Cryns, JCMS Landscaping**



**Best of Show: First Place -  
Falling Water Landscape**

Best Specialty Garden; Best Compatibility of Plant Material  
**Succulents Around the World,  
Jeff Moore, Solana Succulents**

Best Interpretation of Theme  
Hacienda Rustica; David Nuno, Dominic Ramirez,  
Memo Garcia; Epic Landscape

Best Home Landscape; Most Creative Use of Space  
Wine Country Garden, Shellene Mueller;  
Designs by Shellene

Best Topiary Feature  
**Child's Play, Paige Perkins, Garden Chat**

Best Use of Hardscape; Perfection in Nomenclature  
Alchemy, Juan Dorta-Duque, Stonebrook Landscapes

Most Sustainable Garden; Perfection in Nomenclature  
Modern Permaculture, Navid Mostatabi, Envision  
Landscape Studio

Perfection in Nomenclature  
Backcountry Exploring, Scott Ensign, Scotty's Plantscape  
**Back to Nature, Wally Kearns, Evergreen Nursery**



**Best of Show: Third Place -  
Turner Landscapes**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We encourage our 1300+ members to be active participants and share in the fun; to volunteer see page 2. A warm hello to these new members

**We welcome two new sponsors:**

**Mark Lauman, Agricultural Sales & Consulting**

**Waterwise Botanicals; visit them at [www.waterwisebotanicals.com](http://www.waterwisebotanicals.com).**

### NEW MEMBERS:

Linda Jones	Stacey Sturnot	Lois Vertullo	
Howard Appel	Robert Mance	Rhonda Thompson	Pamela Zuckerman
Kelly Afsahi	Jerry Markle		
Lynne Batchelor	Judi Miller		
Liling Chen	Rhet Mitch-Lynn		
Edward Dobbins	Jean O'Daniel		
Lisa Dumolt	Santiago Rosales II		
Julie Erickson	Nancy Ryan		

### NEW ADVERTISERS:

**ENCINITAS GARDEN FESTIVAL & TOUR  
(PAGE 13)**

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY  
(INSIDE BACK COVER)**

**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOC. GARDEN TOUR  
(INSIDE FRONT COVER)**

## HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2013; they earned Hort Bucks worth \$5 towards name badges, garden tours, dues and more! To get your Hort Bucks ask your friends to give your name when they join.

Jim Bishop (2)	Carla Gilbert (1)	Sue & Dick Streeper (1)
Barbara Bolton (1)	Heather Hazen (1)	Julia Swanson (1)
Gigi Dearmas-Lopatriello (1)	Su Kraus (1)	Pat Venolia (1)
Bryan Diaz (1)	Claudia Kuepper (1)	
Dave Ericson (1)	Mike Masterson (1)	

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<b>Coastal Sage Gardening</b>	Mariposa Landscape and Tree Service	Serra Gardens	Weidner's Gardens
Columbine Landscape	Mark Lauman, Agricultural Sales & Consulting	<b>Solana Succulents</b>	<b>Pat Welsh</b>
<b>Cuyamaca College</b>		<b>Southwest Boulder &amp; Stone</b>	Waterwise Botanicals
Davy Tree Expert Company			Westward Expos

## LIFE MEMBERS \*Horticulturist of the Year

*Chuck Ades (2008)	*Steve Brigham (2009)	*Jane Minshall (2006)	Gerald D. Stewart
*Walter Andersen (2002)	Laurie Connable	*Brad Monroe (2013)	*Susi Torre-Bueno (2013) & Jose Torre-Bueno
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper	Julian & Leslie Duval	*Bill Nelson (2007)	*Don Walker (2005) & Dorothy Walker
*Bruce & Sharon Asakawa (2010)	*Edgar Engert (2000)	Tina & Andy Rathbone	Lucy Warren
Gladys T. Baird	Jim Farley	*Jon Rebman (2011)	*Evelyn Weidner (2001)
Debra Lee Baldwin	Sue & Charles Fouquette	Peggy Ruzich	*Pat Welsh (2003)
	Penelope Hlavac	San Diego Home/Gardens Lifestyle	Betty Wheeler
	Debbie & Richard Johnson		
	*Vince Lazaneo (2004)		

## MEMBER DONATIONS IN 2013:

Donna & R. S. Ryan Renee's Garden ([www.reneesgarden.com](http://www.reneesgarden.com))

## DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. ([www.briggstree.com](http://www.briggstree.com)); tell them to look up the "San Diego Hort Society Member" account.

Get a 10% discount at San Diego Botanic Garden on Family/Dual or Individual memberships. Just state you are a current member of SDHS on your membership form. It cannot be done online, so mail it in or bring it to the Garden. Info: [pisley@SDBGarden.org](mailto:pisley@SDBGarden.org)

Join Grangetto's FREE Garden Club for coupons and tips delivered to your inbox. [www.grangettos.com/garden](http://www.grangettos.com/garden).

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### SEE THESE ADS FOR MORE DISCOUNTS:

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# What's Up at

## San Diego BOTANIC GARDEN

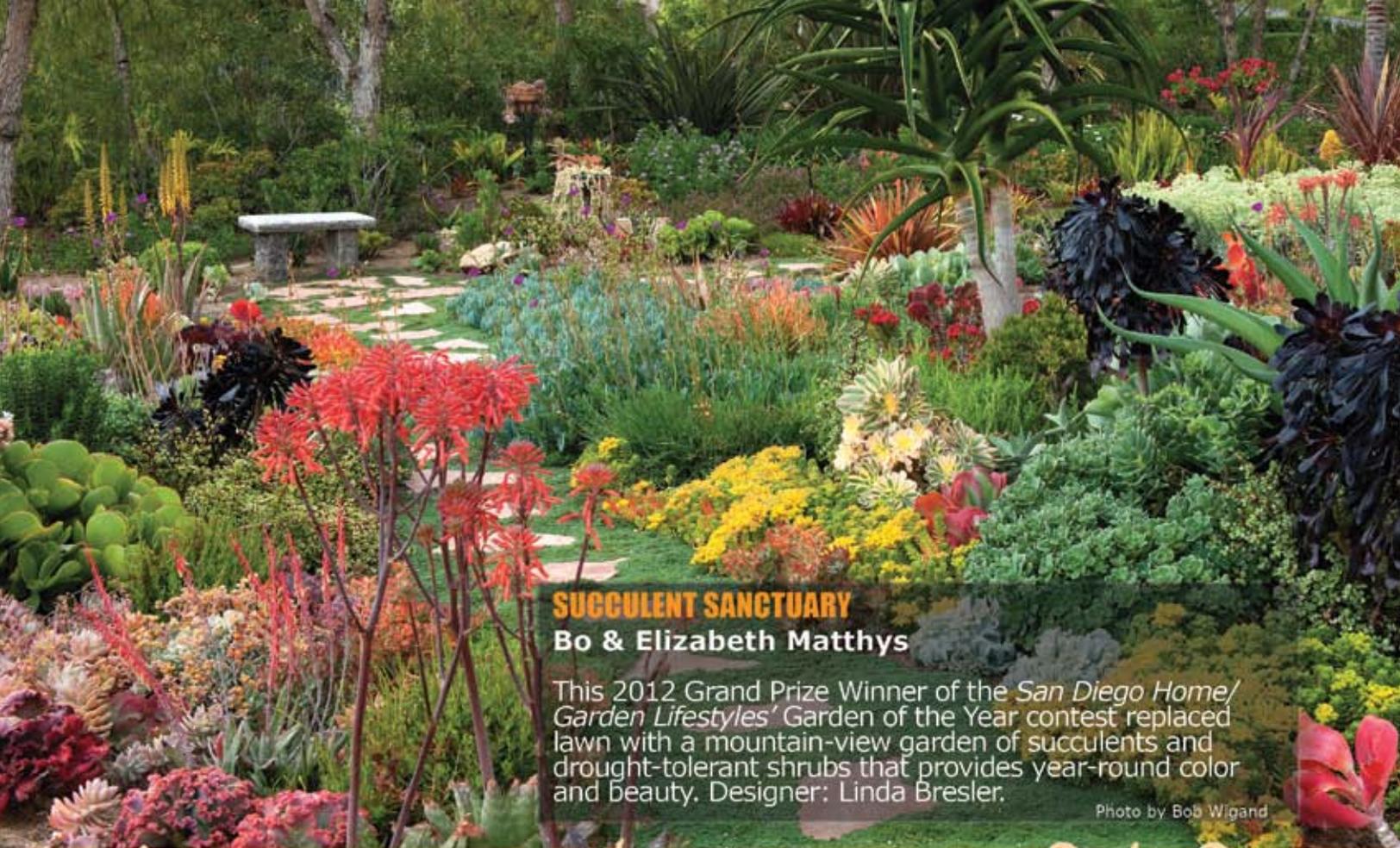
For many years, plant conservation has played an important role in our collections and gardens at San Diego Botanic Garden. From cycads and bamboos to palms and native plants, rare species have been cultivated and displayed here.

To highlight the importance of plant conservation, this May 17-19 the Garden will be celebrating Endangered Species Day along with hundreds of other public gardens across the country. Join us for special tours and activities to build awareness of our endangered species.

Although thousands of plant species are facing extinction, there are a number of plants that may be rare in the wild or even already extinct, which are preserved by being cultivated in gardens throughout the world. Here at the Garden, our logo plant, the dragon tree (*Dracaena draco*), is endangered in its native Canary Islands. Some of the relatively common palms in cultivated gardens are endangered in the wild, such as majesty palm, areca palm, and triangle palm, all from Madagascar.

California ranks as one of the world's regions with a relatively high number of species and a corresponding high number of rare and threatened species. Our local southern maritime chaparral is one of the nation's rarest habitat types, with many rare plant species. Southern maritime chaparral is found only within five miles of the coast from southern Orange County to Point Loma (and primarily from Carlsbad to Del Mar), where most of the plants are evergreen shrubs adapted to drought and fire. This habitat's rare species include the federally endangered Del Mar Manzanita, Orcutt's spineflower, and the federally threatened Encinitas baccharis. Here at the Garden, Del Mar Manzanita grows wild in our natural areas along with warty-stemmed ceanothus, coast dudleya, and bush rue. Other rare regional species grown here include Orcutt's goldenbush, Nevin's barberry, Shaw's agave, San Diego County sunflower, and cliff spurge.

We recently joined the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) to increase our commitment to native plant conservation. This network is currently involved in conserving over 700 species, many of which are federally or state listed species. CPC institutions work with imperiled plants both in cultivation and in the wild. ☘



### SUCCULENT SANCTUARY

**Bo & Elizabeth Matthys**

This 2012 Grand Prize Winner of the *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles'* Garden of the Year contest replaced lawn with a mountain-view garden of succulents and drought-tolerant shrubs that provides year-round color and beauty. Designer: Linda Bresler.

Photo by Bob Wigand

Variety is the spice of life...



### HILLTOP RETREAT

**Ann & Bill Dahnke**

Panoramic views beckon from this boulder-strewn hilltop garden (above) with artistic vignettes, drought-tolerant plantings and a small grove. The surrounding 15 acres of open space invite visits by birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

### NATIVE PLANT PARADISE

**Dennis & Pamela Mudd**

The 2011 Grand Prize Winner of *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles'* Garden of the Year contest (upper right) features an artful array of native plants stretching across the 2-acre home site to an adjacent 4 1/2 acres the couple purchased for a nature preserve.

### SUNSHINE CARE

Sunshine Care (lower right) is known for its cutting-edge horticultural therapy programs and food bank-garden partnerships. Its 32-acre campus features five organic fields, two fruit orchards, a greenhouse, flower gardens and a Children's Garden.



Photo by Bob Wigand



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# spring garden tour

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Join us for the first garden tour of the year! Among the featured gardens are the 2011 and 2012 *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles* Gardens of the Year. Check in for the tour at Lake Poway Park where a Marketplace will showcase jewelry, garden art, pottery, birdhouses and other garden-related merchandise offered by more than a dozen vendors. Watch artists at work in each tour garden. Ticket includes discounts for lunch at Hamburger Factory and for wine tasting at Bernardo Winery.

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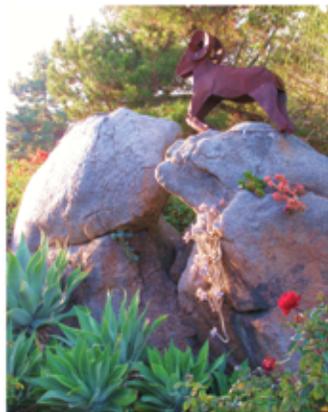
and of gardens, too.



### **PALM PARADISE**

Lyle (Chip) & Helen Arnold

Featured in *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles*, this combination botanical garden and nature preserve features an extensive collection of tropical and subtropical plants from around the world, including rare palms and cycads, on a 15-acre hilltop property.



### **ECLECTIC VARIETY**

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Garden rooms, lush flowerbeds, a meditation garden and orchard are home to diverse plants, including many California and Australian natives, in this garden that has been featured in *Sunset* and other national garden magazines.

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Members of SDHS and Lake Hodges Native Plant Club save \$5 on advance purchase tickets. Tickets are \$20 and can be ordered at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org).

Tickets are \$25 for non-members. Event day tickets are \$25 for all and will be sold starting at 9 a.m. at Lake Poway Park, 14644 Lake Poway Rd., Poway.

No tickets will be mailed. Maps will be provided at check-in at Lake Poway Park.

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SDHS is one of six West Coast societies providing support for the Pacific Horticulture Society. Producers of *Pacific Horticulture* magazine, PacHort also offers small group tours designed to educate and inspire plant enthusiasts everywhere. Under development for 2014 are trips to Santa Barbara, Morocco, Maine, and India. ☘

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# Encinitas Garden Festival & Tour

Saturday, April 20, 2013 • 10am–4:30pm

Spring brings flowers, and flowers bring the annual Encinitas Garden Festival & Tour. This year, we visit a little-known part of Olivenhain where a variety of gardens flourish. Shop in the Gardener’s Marketplace, learn gardening tips from experts, and enjoy fabulous food. **Join us!**

**Don’t delay! tickets are limited and usually sell out.**

**Adults** (ages 11 and up) \$23 advance purchase \$30 day of the festival

**Kids** (up to age 10) \$7 advance purchase \$10 day of the festival

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Or on our website

[www.EncinitasGardenFestival.org](http://www.EncinitasGardenFestival.org) • 760.753.8615

The Encinitas Garden Festival & Tour is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

encinitas garden festival & tour

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**GARDENS OF THE YEAR  
CONTEST  
DEADLINE IS MAY 6**

Members are invited to submit photos of their gardens to the 19<sup>th</sup> annual *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles* magazine Gardens of the Year Contest. It is free to enter, but don't delay because the deadline is May 6. The entry form is here: <http://sandiegohomegarden.com/images/Contests/goy%20entry%20form.pdf>.

You can tour the 2011 and 2012 winning gardens on our April 6 garden tour – be inspired! The magazine is a sponsor of our tour (see page 10 for tour details). ☞

**APRIL GARDEN TOURS**

By Mary James

**April 6 – San Diego Horticultural Society Tour**

See page 10

**April 13 – Fallbrook Garden Club Garden Tour**

Seven private gardens, including one featured in *Sunset* magazine. Time: 9 am to 3 pm. Tickets: \$20. Purchase in advance at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or on tour day at the museum. Info: [www.fallbrookgardenclub.org](http://www.fallbrookgardenclub.org)

**April 20 – Encinitas Garden Festival & Tour**

See page 13

**April 21 – Seaside Native Plant Garden Tour**

Walking tour features 18 front-yard gardens in the historic Seaside neighborhood of Oceanside. Tour-goers meet in the parking lot at St. Mary's School, 515 Wisconsin Ave. Time: 2 pm. Tickets: FREE; donation requested for map and plant list. Info: [www.bvaudubon.org](http://www.bvaudubon.org) or [www.ocna.info](http://www.ocna.info).

**April 20-21 – Coronado Flower Show**

Drive by winning front-yard gardens throughout the community and enjoy floral displays and entertainment under a tent in Spreckels Park. Time: 1 to 5 pm. April 20; 10 am to 4 pm. April 21. Tickets: \$5. Info: [www.coronadoflowershow.org](http://www.coronadoflowershow.org).

**April 27 – Friends of East County Arts Garden Tour**

Six gardens in East County are featured, including a historical homestead with Clydesdale horses to small gardens with an orchid hot house and koi ponds. Time: 9 am to 3 pm. Tickets: \$18 (\$15 in advance). Info: [www.friendsofart.org](http://www.friendsofart.org).

**April 27 – Ramona Garden Club Garden Tour & Sale**

Six varied tour gardens include one with a working winery, a succulent and rock garden and a flower-filled-landscape. Plants and etc. on sale at the Ramona Community Library. Time: 9 am to 3:30 pm. Tickets: \$20. Info: [www.ramonagardenclub.com](http://www.ramonagardenclub.com).

**April 27 – Point Loma Garden Walk**

Ten gardens in an oceanview area of Point Loma; plus garden boutique and plant sale. Time: 10 am to 4 pm. Tickets: \$25 (\$150 for a Diamond Tour, incl. transportation and lunch). Info: [www.pointlomagardenwalk.com](http://www.pointlomagardenwalk.com). ☞



## SHARING SECRETS

This column is written by you, our members! Each month we'll ask a question, and print your responses the following month. You can find copies of previous Sharing Secrets on our website at <https://sdhort.wildapricot.org/SharingSecrets?eid=1093874>.

**NEW ONLINE:** You can now continue the discussion by adding new replies to Sharing Secrets topics online. Here's your chance to comment on how the plants you mentioned two years ago are doing today, or to suggest another way to do something in the garden.

### The question for March was:

During the winter months with freezing temperatures, Tina Ivany says she put out bird food in various feeders for the finches and other small birds, including the hummingbirds. She was wondering what types of local plants and berries other members grow that naturally provide food or shelter for birds? Specifically, what varieties of plants have you grown successfully in the San Diego climate and what has been popular with the birds? (Thanks, Tina, for this suggestion!)

**Katrin Utt** told us: I have many Cotoneaster bushes: the birds love the red berries. I also use the branches at Christmas time to decorate our home. In the summer I have many wild sunflowers, some of them grow 6 feet tall. The birds get most of the seeds, but the sunflowers come back every year.

Sisters **Abby & Kathy Esty** wrote: We are still establishing a California native plant garden near our bird feeders, so we can't really comment yet on how successful it is as a natural alternative to store-bought bird seed. Since we live on Tecolote Canyon, we mostly chose plants that we have seen growing in the canyon, but we are also trying others that we hope will be comfortable in a coastal sage scrub environment and clay soil.

### For hummingbirds:

- Cleveland Sage – *Salvia clevelandii*
- California Fuchsia – *Zauschneria californica* 'Mexicana'
- Firecracker Island Bush Snapdragon – *Galvezia speciosa* 'Firecracker'
- Bush Monkey Flower – *Mimulus aurantiacus*
- Penstemon – *Penstemon heterophyllus*

### For berry-eating birds

- (hooded oriole, cedar waxwing, California towhee, etc.):
- Lemonadeberry – *Rhus intergrifolia*
- Toyon – *Heteromeles arbutifolia* 'Christmas Berry'
- Mexican Elderberry – *Sambucus mexicana*
- Beach Strawberry – *Fragaria chiloensis* 'Lipstick'

**For finches:** We are trying some native California sunflowers (*Encelia californica*) in hopes that we will be able to attract goldfinches without going broke on thistle seed.

### For shelter:

- Manzanita – not sure which kind we have
- Toyon and Lemonadeberry will also provide shelter when they get bigger

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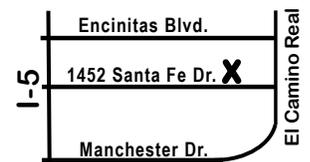
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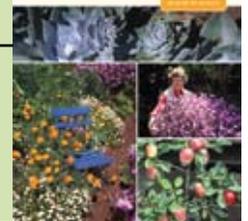
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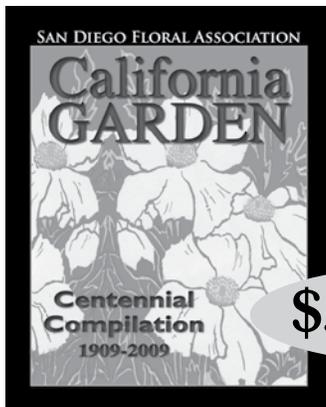
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**Sherry Bommer's** tip: Hummingbirds love *Aloe vera* when they are in bloom (and other aloes, too).

**Vivian Blackstone** shared this about her native birds: Hummingbirds made a nest on top of a hanging glass wind chime right outside my front door (facing southwest) and it's only 5' away from a whole row of fuchsia plants. It's also an area I'm always growing red cherry tomatoes. They have come back to the nest for 3 years. I also have a family of doves that have made several nests, but the one that has survived the longest is on an overhang to my pond under the eaves that's hidden (facing northeast). There is a bird feeder about 30' away on a Fuyu persimmon tree, that I refill during the cold winter months. The family has come back for about 5 years now. They have built many nests on my property, but the crows are so smart and have found most of them. Then there is a finch nest under the eaves on the south side that they remake each year, and they feed on seeds 100' away in the back. There must be four finches at a time on the Fuyu feeder, a regular songfest.

**Irina Gronborg** says: My overgrown cape honeysuckle is like a giant aviary, housing and feeding and sheltering many birds all at once, from hummingbirds to orioles. Beautiful.

**Connie Forest** reports from Fallbrook: My hummingbirds seem to be particularly fond of Grevilleas; they bloom in the winter when there are few blossoms to choose from and the blossoms are just right for hummingbirds to access their nectar. I have bird feeders hanging from a pepper tree (no, I did not plant it, but there it is, very large) over a thicket of rosemary probably 40 by 30 feet. It is a finch hangout. They like the rosemary seeds when the birdfeeders run dry, and it provides a place to hide when big birds like jays come by. The pepper tree provides insects for woodpeckers, as well as shade and perching spots. The sparrows and phoebes feel safe scrounging on the ground for food that the finches have let drop. And all this is five feet away from my kitchen window.

**Steve Brigham** told us: This is a great topic, and fortunately I've written quite a bit on it in past issues of the SDHS newsletter. In a nutshell: keep feeding those birds – the birds are becoming very active now, and seed, nectar, suet, and fresh water gives them a prosperous life as opposed to merely subsistence living, which no one should have to be content with. As for plant supplements, winter-blooming SALVIAS are a great place to start for the hummingbirds, who seldom like to live by sugar water alone. And almost any shrub makes good shelter for most birds (and also nesting sites for the many birds that breed in the San Diego area).

**Louise Anderson** has a good tip: I have several butterfly bushes (*Buddleja*) that not only attract humming birds but also bees, and various butterflies. There are numerous sizes and colors, so no excuse to not have at least one.

**Meredith French** shares her bird feeding techniques: For winter feeders – Out here in Mt. Helix, my spiny red berry and persimmon seem to be big hits. There is still fruit on the red berry come fall and then the persimmon hits big time. I (and neighbors) supply pyracantha and cotoneaster berries as well. The mobs of green parrots go mad. I put a squirrel mix in one feeder for the jays and doves. Other feeders contain black oil sunflower or nyjer seed. I also keep a peanut-based suet on hand. It is quite a party everyday. Two days ago, the Lawrence Finch arrived. I had never seen one but it is quite distinctive. I will post

pictures of this little darling on FaceBook soon. Hummers and House Finches are using my lint holders for early nest building. I also spot hummers going after California Fuchsia and other winter bloomers. Welcomed insects keep the phoebes and bluebirds busy. I am thinking there is no deprivation on this God's Green Acre.

### The question for May is:

What plants do you currently have in your garden that were once considered the hottest (coolest?) thing in horticulture, but today you rarely see used in new gardens? For example, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*. Thanks to Jim Bishop for suggesting this topic.

Send your reply by April 5 to [newsletter@sdhort.org](mailto:newsletter@sdhort.org).



## MARCH 2013 PLANT DISPLAY

By Susi Torre-Bueno

### What is the Plant Display?

Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and put them in blue bottles on our display tables. What a great way to see what plants grow well in our area. EVERYONE is invited to participate. Each month the display highlights one type of plant, and an expert talks informally about the plants and answers questions. All plants are welcome, but we hope you'll try to bring plants in the categories shown here. Write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with your plant(s).

**Join the fun and bring ANYTHING AT ALL to the April meeting.** We thank those people who brought in plants to show to other members.

#### **Allium fistulosum** BUNCHING ONION,

BUNCHING SCALLIONS (Amaryllidaceae) Asia

This tasty member of the onion clan doesn't form a real bulb in the garden, but can have a white-stalked part that ranges from a few inches to 20" long, depending on the variety and type of care. For longer white stalks the plant can be blanched by mounding earth up along the stem during active growth. Also, it has hollow tube-like inflated leaves. The flower head displayed was from a plant started from onion "sets," which are very small bulbs suitable for planting; these were planted in March 2012 and are blooming now, one year later. There are many different cultivars of the bunching onion available (one nursery catalog lists nine varieties!), and they differ in flavor and also the size of the white area (one variety has a red stalk). They can be eaten at any stage of growth, and one website notes that you can "leave a few plants in your garden to allow offshoots to develop for dividing the following year. Harvest Bunching Onions carefully by gently pulling older ones up allowing the young onions remain in the soil to grow." Grow in full sun to light shade with regular water; can be harvested all year. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/13) – S.T-B.

#### **Ixia rapunculoides** CORN LILY (Iridaceae) South Africa

Like many South African bulbs, this beautiful iris relative with is deciduous in summer. The plant grows from a corm, and gets about 18" tall. The specimen displayed had lightly-scented pale violet flowers, but the plant

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■ **Learn More** Continued from page 3

you can go on a tour of the City of San Diego Water Purification Demonstration Project.” And the City says, “In an effort to keep San Diegans informed about this important project, free public tours of the Advanced Water Purification Facility are available, as well as project presentations to all interested groups and opportunities to learn more about the project at community events throughout San Diego.” I strongly urge you to go on this interesting tour! Learn more at [www.sandiego.gov/water/waterreuse/demo](http://www.sandiego.gov/water/waterreuse/demo)

Member Ava Torre-Bueno is a psychotherapist in private practice and the organizer of Gardeners 4 Peace. This group of volunteers is helping to create a peaceful, organic, permaculture garden at the San Diego Friends Center. To learn more visit [www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm](http://www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm). ☞

■ **Plant Display** Continued from page 17

can also bear blooms in blue, white or pink. It flowers in fall to winter; and the book *Cape Bulbs* notes that it is, “the first *Ixia* species to bloom in my garden, starting in late fall. It has pale blue flowers on a branched stalk to about 18 inches high.” The approx. 50 *Ixia* species are all native to the Cape Province and do well here with winter rainfall and dry summers (when they are dormant). It will set seed and spread a little around the garden, and produce additional corms as well. (Sheldon Lisker, Temecula, 3/13) – S.T-B.

**In addition to the plants described above, those below were also displayed.**

What’s that in front of the plant name? Plants marked **3** are fully described in the *Plant Forum Compilation*. See [www.SDHort.org](http://www.SDHort.org) for details on how to order this valuable reference tool.

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the March newsletter was *Centaurea corrodium* RUSTY MILLER.

- 3 *Aeonium arboreum* ‘Zwartkop’ BLACK AEONIUM (Susanna Pagan, San Marcos, 3/13)
- 3 *Billbergia nutans* QUEEN’S-TEARS (Sue Nelson, Encinitas, 3/313)
- 3 *Bletilla striata* CHINESE GROUND ORCHID (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/13)
- Bulbinella cauda-felis* (Sheldon Lisker, Temecula, 3/13)
- 3 *Bulbinella latifolia* var. *dolertica* (Sheldon Lisker, Temecula, 3/13)
- Bulbinella nutans* (Sheldon Lisker, Temecula, 3/13)
- Cattleya intermedia* var. *aquini* (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/13)
- Cattleya intermedia* var. *orlata* (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/13)
- 3 *Ceanothus* ‘Concha’ CALIFORNIA LILAC (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 3/13)
- 3 *Ceanothus* ‘Coupe de Ville’ CALIFORNIA CADILLAC (Plant Lover, El Cajon, 3/13)
- 3 *Chasmanthe floribunda* (Darlene Villanueva, El Cajon, 3/13)
- 3 *Coleonema pulchellum* ‘Rosy Red’ BREATH-OF-HEAVEN (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/13)
- Dendrobium* sp. or cv. (Jim Wright, San Diego, 3/13)
- 3 *Freesia* cvs. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/13)
- Gladiolus splendens* (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/13)
- 3 *Lachenalia aloides* CAPE COWSLIP (Dora Jean Myrick, San Diego, 3/13)
- Laelia kautskyi* x *Laeliocattleya* Trick or Treat (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/13)
- Melaleuca* sp. (Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 3/13)
- Narcissus* cv. DAFFODIL, JONQUIL (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/13)
- Penstemon parryi* PARRY’S PENSTEMON (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 3/13)
- Prunus persica* ‘Saturn’ SATURN PEACH (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/13)
- Quesnelia marmorata* (Jim Wright, San Diego, 3/13)
- 3 *Sparaxis tricolor* HARLEQUIN FLOWER (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/13)
- Syringia vulgaris* ‘Excel’ LILAC (Sheldon Lisker, Temecula, 3/13)
- Tillandsia tectorum* (Joann Dosssett, San Diego, 2/13)
- Watsonia* sp. or cv. (dwarf) (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 3/12, 3/13) ☞



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Pat Crowl

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## MARCH MEETING REPORT

By Susi Torre-Bueno

There is something pretty special about a plant that grows in air and can go months between waterings, and the beautiful images that our March speaker, Paul Isley, shared with us were proof of that. Isley, a professional tillandsia grower and hybridizer, has been growing these unusual species for over 40 years, and today his company, Rainforest Flora, is now the world's largest tillandsia grower, hybridizer, and distributor, producing close to 100% of its inventory. For many years they grew all the plants they sold from seed (and plants can take from 6 to 25 years to mature), but with the recent significant increase in the popularity of tillandsias they have begun importing some species. They have also introduced many marvelous hybrids that exhibit tremendous hybrid vigor, growing much larger with correspondingly larger blooms than either parent.

Found growing naturally from Virginia through South America, tillandsias have become adapted to desert heat and temperatures down to freezing. Their adaptations "allowed them to escape competition for space" in both jungle and desert areas. You are likely familiar with Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), which grows wild from Virginia to Argentina. There is a huge variation in shape size, and color of the leaves and flowers. One adaptation is to their leaves: plants with whiter and stiffer leaves do better in drier, sunnier locations. Although individual plants die after flowering, they can take 2-3 generations to bloom, and by that time have produced "pups" to carry on their genes. Flower size varies as well; some species in Brazil, for example, are marble-sized plants with huge flowers. Hummingbirds are the main pollinator, but some fragrant species are pollinated by moths and butterflies.

Caring for these unique plants is pretty simple. If they get too dry (the leaf edges will curl up when this happens) rehydrate them by submerging the plant underwater overnight. They like good light, although some won't tolerate full sun. Isley recommended fertilizing them occasionally (his company sells a special mix to accomplish this). Rainwater or drinking water is best to water them with, and all you have to do is get them wet a couple of times a week, and a bit more often if it is hot and dry. If you want to grow them in large clumps, Isley suggested putting a wiffle ball or something like it in the center to improve air circulation.

Isley showed a great many close up photos, and it was easy to see why these species are so appealing. Some grow in living chains to 4' or longer, while others form dense clumps like oversized leafy Christmas ornaments. We saw many species, including *Tillandsia chiapensis* (from Mexico), which has bright violet flowers inside pink bracts, all beautifully displayed against white foliage. Brazil is home to *T. geminiflora*, which has green leaves and salmon-hued flowers; this is especially easy to grow and doesn't need much light. *T. tectorum* was the model for the floating plants in the popular movie *Avatar*; it has bright white leaves and purple flowers.

Rainforest Flora has also created some lovely cultivars, including *T. crocata* 'Copper Penny', which has "the best fragrance" emanating from bright orange flowers. *T. capitata* 'Silver Rose' has silvery foliage that turns pink when the violet flowers appear.

To learn more, visit [www.rainforestflora.com](http://www.rainforestflora.com). You can borrow the video of Isley's talk at the next meeting you attend. Thanks, Paul, for an in-depth look at an intriguing family of plants. ☺

## High Tea & Heavenly Horticulture



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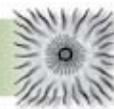
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Patricia Fuchs





**APRIL 27th**

**10:00AM - 12:00PM**

# **FREE** Container Gardening

## **OVERVIEW**

Join Grangetto's and Kellogg Garden Products, Organic Gardening Expert, Gisele Schoniger for an informative and fun workshop on container gardening. Gisele will be focusing on growing vegetables and herbs in containers & raised beds; proper soil, feeding and care so that you can enjoy an abundance of fresh fruit and veggies this spring. Container gardening is a great way to garden in small spaces, for a decorative approach and/or when your ground soil is just not that great.

**garden club**  
JOIN TODAY!!

[GrangettosGardenClub.com/join](http://GrangettosGardenClub.com/join)  
Gardening information delivered to your inbox! Best of all it's FREE

## **WORKSHOP**

### **TIME**

Saturday, 10:00am - 12:00pm

### **DATE & LOCATION**

**- APRIL 27, ESCONDIDO**  
1105 W. Mission Ave, 92025  
*PARK AT POST OFFICE*

### **SPEAKER**

Gisele Schoniger, Organic Expert  
Kellogg Garden Products

### **WHO CAN ATTEND**

Anyone! It's FREE, we just ask that you register for a head count. Thanks!



**REGISTER AT:**

[www.GrangettosGardenClub.com/register/container-gardening](http://www.GrangettosGardenClub.com/register/container-gardening)

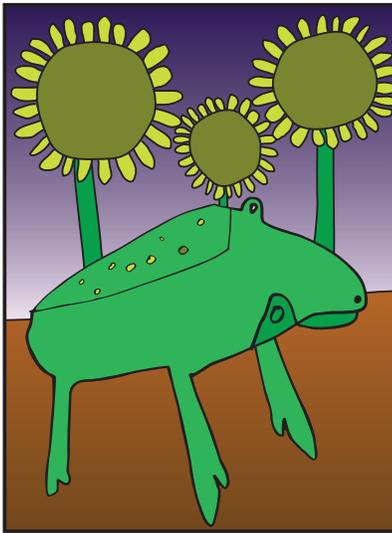
**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GRANGETTOS](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GRANGETTOS)

**VISIT US ON THE WEB**

[WWW.GRANGETTOS.COM](http://WWW.GRANGETTOS.COM)





Sun Frog (c) Angela Neal 2001

*15<sup>th</sup> Annual*  
**Morning Glory**  
**Brunch**  
*with a country flair*

Presented by

**Sycuan**  
CASINO

**Saturday, April 13, 2013**

10:00am to 2:00pm

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center Organic Garden  
2119 East Madison Avenue, El Cajon CA 92019

**Admission Prices:**

Early Bird through March 31, 2013: \$60

Beginning April 1, 2013: \$75

Couples package: \$200 (includes 2 regular admission and 2 frogs)

Children 0-6: Free

Children 7-12: \$25

\*This event is ADA accessible

There will be electric carts to transport guests with special mobility needs to and from the upper garden.



**Frog Prices:**

Each Frog is \$100 or two for \$150



To purchase tickets and for more information visit:

**MorningGloryBrunch.org**

Or call Kira Holt at 619-442-5129 ext 115 or Neil Fullerton at ext 333



**15th Annual Morning Glory Brunch includes:**  
 Over 20 food and beverage stations from local restaurants  
 Arts Alive- Floral Creations by Jasmine Creek Florist  
 Boutique shopping  
 Live music and entertainment on multiple stages  
 The 8th Annual Frog Race with \$10,000 in cash prizes

**Entertainment:**

Paul Cannon | The Fuzzy Rankin Trio | Jason Weber | And more!

**Participating Restaurants, Wineries & Breweries include:**

Anthony's Fish Grotto | Ballast Point | Coffee Ambassador | Downtown Café | Grove Pastry Shop  
 Hacienda Casa Blanca | Hilton San Diego Bayfront | Hooley's | Kip's Café | La Serenissima  
 Nicolosi's Italian Restaurant | O's American Kitchen | On The Border | Por Favor | PRP Wine International  
 Rock Canyon Vineyards | Rubio's Fresh Mexican Grill | San Pasqual Winery | Stone Brewing Company  
 Sycuan Casino | The Brigantine - La Mesa and many more!

**Garden demonstrations from:**

San Diego Co. Master Gardener Association, Member - Carol Stevens  
 SMSC Organic Garden, Manager - Marian Happ



**Cooking demonstration from:**

Chef Bernard, cooking a recipe from his award winning cookbook, *Flying Pans*

**New Features this year:**

Children activities!  
 Including arts & crafts, face painting and "Froggie Pond" with kid friendly prizes!

**Froggie Prices:**

Each Froggie is only \$5 or three for \$10



**Funds raised from Morning Glory Brunch support:**

*Organic Garden* - Our students utilize their skills from training received in our garden to improve their daily lives and branch out as important contributors to the greater community.

*Aquatics Program* - Our students learn that a weekly exercise program will help them to reduce stress, enhance self confidence and improve their physical health.

To find out more about our other programs visit: [www.stmsc.org/programs](http://www.stmsc.org/programs)



Celebrating Urban Farms & Gardens • 1993-2013

# 20th Annual SPRING Garden Festival

Saturday, April 27, 2013

9:00 am ~ 4:00 pm

At Cuyamaca College & The Water Conservation Garden



- Cuyamaca College's biggest plant sale of the year... with great prices!
- Experts on gardening and urban farming: Learn to raise chickens, keep bees, and make cheese!
- Rancho San Diego Farmer's Market
- Live entertainment by local artists throughout the day
- Animal encounters, face painting, arts & crafts, Ms. Smarty-Plants™ and the "Magic of Water"
- FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

[www.thegarden.org/springfest](http://www.thegarden.org/springfest)

Follow us on: 



PRESENTED BY

**SAN DIEGO**  
HOME/GARDEN  
LIFESTYLES



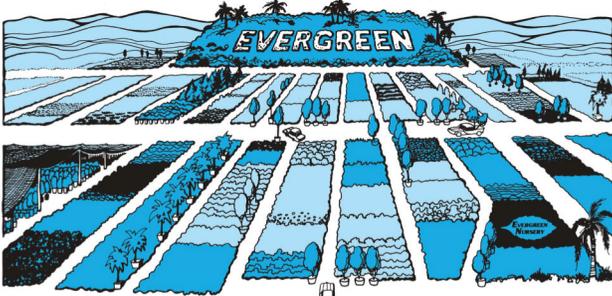
## What's Happening? for April 2013

The SDHS is happy to publicize items of horticultural interest. See other side for resources & ongoing events.

Send calendar listings by the 10th of the month before the event to Neal King at [calendar@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:calendar@sdhortsoc.org).

### ▼ SDHS Sponsor

## DISCOVER EVERGREEN NURSERY



Landscaping? Relandscaping?  
Just Sprucing Up Your Yard?

### WHY PAY MORE?

**BUY DIRECT FROM THE GROWER AND SAVE!**

### ONE STOP SHOPPING

Incredible selection. Over 500 varieties on 400 acres.  
From small color packs to huge specimen trees.

### DRIVE THRU SHOPPING

Use your car as a shopping cart!!!



### UNBEATABLE VALUE

The discount houses and depots can't compete  
with our grower direct prices.

### Come on out and see for yourself!

- 1 gallon plants starting at \$2.90
- 5 gallon plants starting at \$9.00
- 15 gallon plants starting at \$35.00

### PROMPT DELIVERY AVAILABLE

### Spring/Summer Hours

Mon.-Thurs. 7:30-5:00; Fri.-Sat. 7:30-6:00; Sun. 9:00-5:00

## Free Monthly Seminar

*First Saturday of every month*

*Starting at 10am at both locations*

## April 6

### Landscape Design Workshop

Do you have a new yard or one that needs to be rejuvenated? Are you a do-it-yourselfer? Learn about amending your soil, irrigation do's and don'ts, planning, choosing, and planting your landscape correctly.

## April 20

### Starting a Vegetable/Herb Garden

What it takes to grow your own vegetables and herbs. Learn the best techniques for growing in containers, or raised beds, or just planting directly into your garden.

For more details or to view our entire seminar schedule, visit us at

[www.evergreennursery.com](http://www.evergreennursery.com)

Send questions and comments to:  
[info@evergreennursery.com](mailto:info@evergreennursery.com)

### Two Convenient Locations:

**CARMEL VALLEY**  
13650 Carmel Valley Rd.  
(858) 481-0622

**OCEANSIDE**  
3231 Oceanside Blvd.  
(760) 754-0340

## Events at Public Gardens

❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** contact info on other side  
**April 13, 10-3, Earth Day Festival:** Plant sales, tours and more!  
See [www.avgardens.org](http://www.avgardens.org) for events & classes.

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** contact info on other side  
**April 13 (9-5) and 14 (9-4), Asian Arts in the Garden:** Ikebana exhibition, bonsai show, much more! Free with membership or garden admission.  
**April 9, 9am-2pm, Succulent Turtle Class:** Make and take home a charming succulent turtle. Members \$35, non-members \$45, Register by April 2.  
**April 23, 9am-2pm, Succulent Wreath Class:** Make and take home a beautiful succulent wreath. Members \$60, non-members \$72, Register by April 12.

❖ **The Water Conservation Garden**  
contact info on other side

**April 6, 10-noon, Marvelous Tomatoes:** Everything you need to know about growing wonderful tomatoes. Members Free, Non-Members \$10.

**April 13, 10-noon, Water Smart Edibles In Your Landscape:** A delicious exploration of fruit that can be grown in a water conserving landscape. Members Free, Non-Members \$10.

**April 27, 9-4, Spring Garden Festival.** See insert for details.

## Events Hosted by SDHS Sponsors:

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

### ✿ Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops

Info: [www.barrelsandbranches.com](http://www.barrelsandbranches.com), (760)753-2852 or [danica@barrelsandbranches.com](mailto:danica@barrelsandbranches.com)

### ✿ Cedros Gardens, Saturday and Sunday FREE classes.

Details at [www.cedrosgardens.com](http://www.cedrosgardens.com); address in ad on page 17.

### ✿ City Farmers Nursery Classes

April 6, 10:30am, Introduction to seed saving. FREE.

April 14, 8-11am, Cob building class - make and take home a cob oven. (\$50)

See [www.cityfarmersnursery.com](http://www.cityfarmersnursery.com) or call (619) 284-6358.

### ✿ Evergreen Nursery FREE Seminar Each Month

See column at left for details.

### ✿ Grangetto's FREE Workshops

April 3, 10-noon, GOTOMANIA (Tomatoes). 189 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd, Encinitas

April 6, 10am to noon, Planting spring veggies. 29219 Juba Road, Valley Center

April 27, 10-noon, Container gardening. 1105 W. Mission Ave., Escondido

See *insert for details*. Info: (760) 745-4671 or [www.grangettos.com](http://www.grangettos.com).

### ✿ Sunshine Care FREE Workshop

April 20, 10:30am, TBA.

Sunshine Care - ad on page 14. Info: (858) 752-8197 or [www.sunshinecare.com](http://www.sunshinecare.com).

### ✿ Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes

Details at [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com); addresses in ad on page 15

	<b>Point Loma, 9am</b>	<b>Poway, 9:30am</b>
April 6	What Hummingbirds Like	Fairy House painting
April 13	TBA	Citrus & Avocados
April 20	TBA	Barn Owls
April 27	TBA	Wearable gardens

### ✿ Waterwise Botanicals - save the date!

**June 7 & 8, 6am to 6pm, Succulent Celebration.** Speakers, demonstrations & workshops. Details at [www.waterwisebotanicals.com](http://www.waterwisebotanicals.com). FREE, but RSVP required by contacting [talkplants@waterwisebotanicals.com](mailto:talkplants@waterwisebotanicals.com) or (760) 728-2641.

### ✿ Weidners' Gardens classes & workshops

April 6, 10am, Tufa pot workshop. Learn to make the mix, how to form the pots, how to make the moss grow. Cost is \$10 plus cost of materials.

April 13 & 14, Behind the Scenes tours into our growing greenhouses at 11 and 2 pm both days. Details at [www.weidners.com](http://www.weidners.com).

## SDHS SPRING GARDEN TOUR

### April 6, 9am to 4pm

See page 10 for details

Order your tickets online ASAP

### Next SDHS Meeting:

## April 8 - 6:00 pm

### Writing the Book on Natives

See page 1 for details

More garden-related events  
on other side.

## Other Garden-Related Events:

### Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

◆ **April 5, noon, Vista Garden Club:** Royal Horticulture Society's 2012 Chelsea Flower Show. Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace Dr., Vista. Info: [www.VistaGardenClub.org](http://www.VistaGardenClub.org), (760) 724-6256.

◆ **April 6 (12-4) and 7 (10-4), Plumeria Society Cutting Sale:** Balboa Park Casa Del Prado, room 101. Info: [www.socialplumeriasociety.com](http://www.socialplumeriasociety.com).

◆ **April 7, 9am-noon, Calif. Native Plant Society:** Tecolote Canyon Plant Walk. Tecolote Nature Center. 5180 Tecolote Rd. Free. See [www.cnpsd.org](http://www.cnpsd.org).

◆ **April 9, 10:00 am, Dos Valles Garden Club:** The owners of Vesper Vineyards will enlighten us on "The Cultivation of Wine Grapes." 31020 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center. Info: [www.dosvallesgardenclub.org](http://www.dosvallesgardenclub.org).

◆ **April 10, Ramona Garden Club:** Bees in the Garden. 524 Main St., Ramona. Info: [www.RamonaGardenClub.com](http://www.RamonaGardenClub.com) or (760) 787-0087.

◆ **April 13, 9am-3pm, Poway Valley Garden Club:** Standard Flower Show and Giant Plant Sale. Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Rd., Poway. FREE. Info: [www.powayvalleygardenclub.org](http://www.powayvalleygardenclub.org) or (858) 673-8728.

◆ **April 20, 8am-1pm, Dos Valles Garden Club: Plant Sale & Garden Treasures Rummage Sale:** Martin Gang Ranch, 28933 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center. Info: [www.dosvallesgardenclub.org](http://www.dosvallesgardenclub.org).

◆ **April 20, 8:30am-12:15pm, Preserve Calavera: Native Plant Hike:** Sky Haven Lane & Azure Lado Dr., Oceanside. Free. RSVP required, email [info@preservecalavera.org](mailto:info@preservecalavera.org) or (760) 434-4312. Info: [www.preservecalavera.org](http://www.preservecalavera.org).

◆ **April 20, 9am-noon, Point Loma Garden Club Plant Sale:** 3598 Talbot St. Info: [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org) or call (619) 222-9304.

◆ **April 20 (1-5pm), & 21 (10am-4pm), Coronado Flower Show:** Plant sale Saturday 7:30am-noon, \$5. 635 Orange Ave., Coronado. Info: [www.coronadoflowershow.org](http://www.coronadoflowershow.org).

◆ **April 20 (noon-5pm), 21 (10am-4pm), San Diego Rose Society Rose Show:** \$5, under 12 free. McMillin Event Center, 2875 Dewey. Info: [www.sdrosesociety.org](http://www.sdrosesociety.org).

◆ **April 26, 10am - 4pm, Arbor Day in Balboa Park:** Info: [www.friendsofbalboapark.org](http://www.friendsofbalboapark.org).

◆ **April 27, 1-3:30 pm, Heritage Rose Society of San Diego:** View tables filled with fragrant, historical heritage roses. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Rd., San Diego. Free. Info: (858) 272-0357.

## GARDEN TOURS IN APRIL

See page 14 for details

April 6 – San Diego Horticultural Society Tour - See page 10

April 13 – Fallbrook Garden Club Garden Tour

April 20 – Encinitas Garden Festival & Tour - See page 13

April 21 – Seaside Native Plant Garden Tour

April 20-21 – Coronado Flower Show

April 27 – Friends of East County Arts Garden Tour

April 27 – Ramona Garden Club Garden Tour & Sale

April 27 – Point Loma Garden Walk

**Do you belong to a garden club or organization whose events aren't listed above? For a FREE listing (as space permits) send details by the 10th of the month before the event to Neal King, Calendar Editor, at [calendar@sdhort.org](mailto:calendar@sdhort.org).**

## San Diego County Farmers Markets

[www.sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farmers-Markets.php](http://www.sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farmers-Markets.php)

### MONDAY:

Escondido - Welk Village

### TUESDAY:

Coronado  
Escondido  
Mira Mesa  
Morena District  
Otay Ranch  
Pacific Beach  
UCSD/La Jolla

### WEDNESDAY:

Carlsbad  
Encinitas  
Mission Hills  
North San Diego  
Ocean Beach  
San Marcos  
Santee

### THURSDAY:

Chula Vista  
El Cajon ---NEW!!!  
Horton Square  
Linda Vista  
North Park  
Oceanside CFM  
Oceanside Sunset  
Pacific Highlands  
Poway-Alliant Univ.  
San Carlos  
UTC

### FRIDAY:

Borrego Springs  
Fallbrook  
Imperial Beach  
Kearny Mesa  
La Mesa  
Rancho Bernardo  
Southeast San Diego

### SATURDAY:

Carlsbad  
City Heights  
Del Mar  
Golden Hill  
Little Italy  
Pacific Beach  
Poway  
Ramona  
Rancho San Diego  
Scripps Ranch  
Vista

### SUNDAY:

North San Diego  
Gaslamp District  
Hillcrest  
Julian  
La Jolla  
Leucadia/Encinitas  
Point Loma  
Rancho Santa Fe  
San Marcos  
Solana Beach

**For an extensive list of garden club meetings and events, visit the San Diego Floral Association website: [www.sdflo.org/calendar.htm](http://www.sdflo.org/calendar.htm)**

## Resources & Ongoing Events

**ALTA VISTA BOTANIC GARDENS:** Open Monday-Friday 7:00-5:00 ; 10:00-5:00 on weekends. Fee: members/free; non-members/\$2. 1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. Info: [www.avgardens.org](http://www.avgardens.org) or (760) 945-3954.

**SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN** (formerly QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS): Open daily 9-5 (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day); 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Fee: \$12/adults, \$8/seniors, \$6/kids; parking \$2. Free to members and on the first Tuesday of every month. (760) 436-3036; [www.SDBGarden.org](http://www.SDBGarden.org).

**THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN:** Open 9-4 daily, FREE. Docent-led tours every Saturday at 10:00am. 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, (619) 660-0614 or [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org).

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK:** Guided hikes Wed., Sat. & Sun. Visitor Center open 9-5, off Mission Gorge Rd., San Carlos, (858) 668-3275.

**MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE:** Gardening questions answered by trained volunteers Mon.-Fri., 9-3, (858) 822-6910, [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org).

**SAN ELIJO LAGOON CONSERVANCY:** Free 90-minute public nature walk 2nd Saturday of each month start at 9:00 am. Call (760) 436-3944 for details.

**DESERT WILDFLOWER HOTLINE:** Anza-Borrego Desert State Park: (760) 767-4684. For information, events, road conditions, etc. call (760) 767-5311 or visit <http://desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html>.

**WILDFLOWER HOTLINE:** March to May call the Theodore Payne Foundation hotline: (818) 768-3533 for info. on blooms in Southern California and elsewhere; visit <http://theodorepayne.org>.

### BALBOA PARK:

**Offshoot Tours:** FREE 1-hr walking tour in Balboa Park every Sat., 10am. Meet at Visitors Center; canceled if rain or less than 4 people. (619) 235-1122.

**Botanical Building** is one of the world's largest lath structures, with 1200+ plants and lavish seasonal displays. FREE. Open Friday-Wednesday, 10am to 4pm.

**Botanical Library:** Room 105, Casa del Prado, Mon.-Fri. and first Sat., 10am-3pm, FREE. Info: (619) 232-5762.

**Japanese Friendship Garden:** Tues. to Sun., 10-4. Fees: free 3rd Tuesday; \$5/family; \$2/adult, \$1/seniors/students; (619) 232-2721, [www.niwa.org](http://www.niwa.org)

**Canyoneer Walks:** FREE guided nature walks Saturday & Sunday. (619) 232-3821 X203 or [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org)

**Balboa Park Ranger Tours:** FREE guided tours of architecture/horticulture, Tuesdays & Sundays, 1pm, from Visitors Center. Info: (619) 235-1122.

**San Diego Natural History Museum:** Exhibits, classes, lectures, etc. (619) 232-3821; [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org)

**S.D. Zoo:** Garden day 3rd Friday of every month from 10am. Pick up schedule at entry. Info: (619) 231-1515, ext 4306; [www.sandiegozoo.org](http://www.sandiegozoo.org).

### Garden TV and Radio Shows:

**Garden Compass Radio Show** (local). Saturday 9-10am. XEPE 1700AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: (619) 570-1360 or (800) 660-4769.

**GardenLife Radio Show** (national). Saturday 8-9am and Sunday 8-10am. KCEO 1000AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: 866-606-TALK. Hear it streaming live on [lifestyletalkradio.com](http://lifestyletalkradio.com). GardenLife shows are also archived at [lifestyletalkradio.com](http://lifestyletalkradio.com).