

# Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

March 2016, Number 258

## Botany at the Zoo

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**See the Huntington Chinese Garden – page 2**

**Our Spring Garden Tour – pages 3, 7 & 10**

**SDHS Plans for the Future – page 4**

**Local Garden Tours - page 9**

On the Cover: San Diego Zoo's main entrance



# California-Friendly Landscape Contest



## Basic Judging Criteria:

- Design for beauty & water conservation
- Creative use of colorful, water-wise plants

**Deadline:**  
**April 8, 2016**

**Win a \$250 gift certificate**

For more info, including eligibility requirements and application procedures, visit the contest website: [www.landscapecontest.com](http://www.landscapecontest.com)



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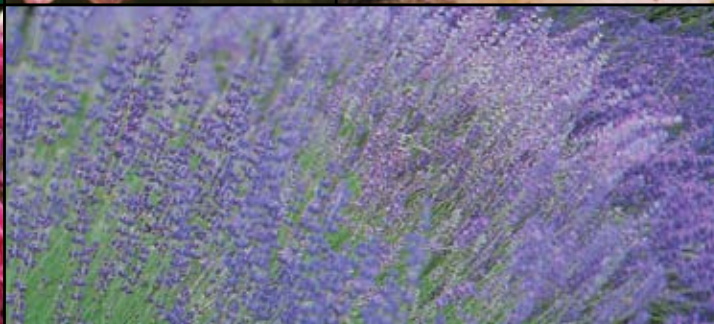
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- Coupon expires 3/31/2016 at 6 p.m.

sdhs





THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN PRESENTS...



March 26, 9am - 3pm

**The Water Conservation Garden** invites the public to its first annual Water-Wise Home Garden Tour. The tour will highlight five beautiful gardens featuring a wide variety of colorful and low water usage plants. The gardens emphasize plants from semi-arid regions of the world including Australia, New Zealand, Southwestern U.S. and South Africa.

**Attendees will have the opportunity to:**

- Meet the homeowners and get inspiration from their designs
- Purchase succulent cuttings, bird houses, plant pots and garden jewelry
- Talk with The Garden's Director of Horticulture, Clayton Tschudy, for advice on how to redesign your landscape using drought-tolerant plants

All proceeds will benefit The Garden's botanical collection care, exhibit upkeep, and education programs, including the award-winning "Ms. Smarty-Plants™" water conservation education program that reaches more than 63,000 children and adults annually.

Thanks to our generous sponsors:



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**SPACE IS LIMITED. REGISTER TODAY!**

**\$20 per person; \$25 at-the-door**

**Visit [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org) or call 619-660-0614**

Check in and pick up tour materials at The Water Conservation Garden  
12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West El Cajon, CA 92019  
Friday, March 25, 9am - 4pm or Saturday, March 26, 9am - 12pm

*(See back for additional information)*



# Featured Docent Gardens



## Vince and Kay McGrath

Take your time strolling through this lovely garden, which combines the owners' love of gardening and unique artistic vision. Having lived in their home for over 35 years, Vince and Kay decided early on to create a colorful and water-wise oasis featuring design focal points. Over the years, the original water-guzzling lawn was replaced with a low-water design featuring updated conservation methods.



## Mary Ann Stepnowsky and Tom Clark

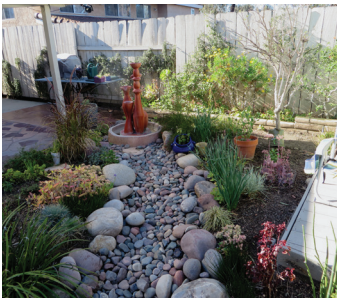
**Featured in San Diego Home & Garden Magazine!**

After battling the 2003 Cedar Fires in San Diego County, Tom, a fire battalion chief, used his understanding of poor plant choice and landscape design to revamp the backyard. He and Mary Ann replaced their thirsty lawn with a creative mix of drought-tolerant and fire-resistive plants. The highlight? An artificial turf putting green.



## Peggy Matarese

The transformation of this "Certified Earth-Friendly Garden" took place just three years ago when the home was built in the foothills of Mt. Helix. As Peggy got more involved with The Water Conservation Garden, she developed her love for drought-tolerant and native plants. With an array of colors and textures splashed along the slopes, this garden demonstrates how beautiful a water-wise, native garden can be!



## Carol Wells and Diego Parish

This drought-tolerant back garden illustrates just how much drama can be packed into less than 800 sq.ft. California natives, succulents and Mediterranean perennials hug a fountain and a dry rock bed that frame an art studio with a viewing veranda and a "tree house" deck.



## Don and Joy Walsh

The garden surrounding this adobe home, built by Don and Joy over 50 years ago, has evolved over time to reflect the family's taste and needs. Recently, the swimming pool was replaced with a variety of water-saving trees and shrubs, creating a low-maintenance habitat that attracts a variety of birds and other wildlife.

**Attendees who visit all five gardens will be entered to win one of five garden treasure packages!**

Tour is self-guided at your own pace, and gardens can be visited in any order. Gardens are not handicapped accessible and no pets or strollers are allowed. All ticket sales are final and tour will be held rain or shine!






**MAD ABOUT THE FAIR**  
 2016 SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR  
 presented by Albertsons VONS  
 June 3 - July 4  
 Paul Ecke Jr.  
**Garden Show**  
 Get ready for outlandish landscapes, fabulous festivals, wonderful wine tastings, enthralling entertainment and tantalizing tea parties!  
**"WONDERLAND"**  
 is the Paul Ecke, Jr.  
 Flower and Garden Show's Theme!  
**Entries now being accepted**  
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[www.sdfair.com/entry](http://www.sdfair.com/entry)

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**Severe Drought**

**WHEN IN DROUGHT**  
 Save every day, every way.

**This is Serious**  
**Water Conservation is Mandatory**

Mandatory conservation measures include:

- Limiting outdoor watering days and times
- Watering only during the late evening or early morning hours
- Eliminating runoff from irrigation systems
- Repairing all leaks within 72 hours
- Using hoses with shut-off valves for washing cars (or use commercial car washes that re-circulate water)

Local rules vary. Find restrictions in effect in your community at [whenindrought.org](http://whenindrought.org).

  
 San Diego County  
 Water Authority



# Spring Planting Jubilee & Tomato Sale

Coastal Roots Farm – Spring Plants – Bromeliads – Palms and  
Cycads – Garden Emporium – Orchid Sale and Display

March 19 and 20 • 9 AM – 5 PM



It's March planting madness at our Spring Planting Jubilee & Tomato Sale! This event is a plant lover's dream with a wide variety of herbs, spring plants, bromeliads, garden art and implements available as well as all new locally-sourced and grown Summer Garden vegetable extravaganza, offered by Coastal Roots Farm.

Enjoy...

- On-going speakers
  - Herb Festival Marketplace
  - Spring Plant Sale
  - Orchid Sale and Displays
  - Crafts and activities for Kids
  - Yummy Food
  - One Stop Shopping for all of your Spring Garden Needs
- ...and so much more!

For a \$2 off Admission Coupon  
visit [SDBGarden.org](http://SDBGarden.org)

Free with paid admission or membership.



**KIDZONE**

10am – 3pm

Pony Rides • Petting Zoo  
Education Booth  
Crafts





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Water Conservation Garden  
Calendar/Resources/Ongoing Events

## SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**OUR MISSION** is to inspire and educate the people of San Diego County to grow and enjoy plants, and to create beautiful, environmentally responsible gardens and landscapes.



### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Renewal information is at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org).

For questions contact [membership@sdhort.org](mailto:membership@sdhort.org) or call Cindy Benoit at 760-473-4244.

### MEETING SCHEDULE

6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, lending library, plant display

6:45 – 8:30 Announcements, door prizes, speaker

### MEETINGS & EVENTS

(FW = Free workshop; FG = Featured Garden; register at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org))

March 4-6 Spring Home/Garden Show, Del Mar Fairgrounds – see page 3

March 13-18 SDHS Tour: Gardens of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – see [sterlingtoursltd.com](http://sterlingtoursltd.com)

April 2 SDHS SPRING GARDEN TOUR – see pages 3, 7 & 10

April 11 David Fross on Perspective, Forty Years Among the Natives

April 20 SDHS Day at The Huntington Bus Tour – see page 2

May 9 Dennis Cathart on Bromeliads

June 13 SDHS Night at the Fair



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

COVER IMAGE: The main entrance to the San Diego Zoo hints at the botanical treasures within. Learn more from our exciting speakers at the March meeting.

## NEXT MEETING: MARCH 14, 2016, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

**Speakers: Stephanie Shigematsu, Danny Simpson, Christy Powell & Michael Letzring on 100 Years of Zoo Horticulture**

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 welcome the San Diego Zoo Horticulture team, who will present the many landscape changes and developments in the last century that have helped to shape the San Diego Zoo into the #1 zoo in the world. The presentation will showcase the significant horticulture events, starting in 1916 and up to today's accredited horticulture collections and far-reaching conservation efforts. They will explore the early history, significant horticulture events, showcase the extensive plant collections, the critical browse program (growing plants for animal health and welfare), and review their involvement in international plant collaborations and conservation efforts, illustrating how the San Diego Zoo still flourishes after 100 years.

Stephanie Shigematsu is Curator of Horticulture and has worked in horticulture for over 35 years. She came to the Zoo from SeaWorld, where she was Director of Horticulture. Stephanie has a passion for learning about plants and native habitats, designing natural settings, and implementing conservation plans.

Danny Simpson is Horticulture Manager and has been at the Zoo in various capacities since 1971. His team produces tons of dietary

*Continued on page 12*





# SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

## BOARD MEMBERS

Lisa Bellora - Member-at-Large  
Cindy Benoit – Membership Chair  
Patty Berg – Volunteer Coordinator  
Jeff Biletnikoff – Meeting Room Coordinator  
Jim Bishop – President  
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Bruce Cobbledick – Workshop Coordinator  
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Sam Seat – Treasurer  
Susan Starr – Garden Tour Chair  
Donna Tierney – Member at Large  
Susi Torre-Bueno – Newsletter Editor, Past President  
Roy Wilburn – Outreach Coordinator

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

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

**Advertising:** Ellie Knight;  
advertising@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; look for "SDHS Sponsor" above their ads. We thank them for their support.

## FREE WORKSHOP IN MARCH

As we went to press this month's Free Workshop was still being planned. All members will get an email about the workshop once details are confirmed. If you'd like to volunteer for the workshop committee contact Bruce Cobbledick at workshop@sdhort.org. 🌿

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Spring Home/Garden Show

Help us grow at the Spring Home/Garden Show. We will have an information table at this exciting show (see page 3). Held at the Del Mar fairgrounds, the show runs Friday, March 4 through Sunday, March 6. Volunteer for a 4-hour shift and spend time before or after enjoying 17 award-winning indoor landscapes, a garden marketplace, and everything imaginable for your home and garden. Free admission; and parking will be reimbursed. Go to the SDHS website ([sdhort.org](http://sdhort.org)) to sign up. Have fun and introduce new members to all the benefits of SDHS.

### Spring Garden Tour

Help wanted! Our Spring Garden Tour is just around the corner, and we'll present the best of Del Mar and Carmel Valley. Have fun as a volunteer and enjoy the Tour before or after your shift as our guest. No special plant knowledge required. The ideal candidate is outgoing, dependable, and able to handle steps and hills. Sign up on the website ([sdhort.org](http://sdhort.org)). Questions? Contact Patty Berg, Volunteer Chair, at [pattyjberg@gmail.com](mailto:pattyjberg@gmail.com).

### Tech Support Help at Meetings:

Do you have video and tech support skills, and also love to garden? We need a tech-savvy volunteer to help load speaker presentations onto a laptop prior to our monthly meeting, and to assist the speaker. Also, we are looking for an individual who can load past presentations onto the internet. Contact Jim Bishop: [president@sdhort.org](mailto:president@sdhort.org). 🌿

## SDHS DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON

### Tour the Chinese Garden and More!

### April 20th Bus Tour

Hop aboard our private motorcoach on Wednesday, April 20, for a full-day excursion to the Huntington Botanical Gardens ([huntington.org](http://huntington.org)). We'll start with private small group docent-led tours of the Chinese Garden, among the largest Chinese-style gardens outside China. If you've never seen a Chinese garden before, be prepared to be wowed at the extraordinary craftsmanship of the rock work and wood carvings, and enjoy uncommon plants in an exceptional setting. Lunch is on your own at either the Cafe or the legendary Rose Garden Tea Room. Afterwards you have the afternoon to explore the rest of the Huntington Botanical Gardens or Museums on your own, including the new California Garden (shown here). We'll head back to San Diego in late afternoon. This tour is \$89 for SDHS members and \$99 for non-members. Details and registration are on our website: [sdhort.org](http://sdhort.org). 🌿







## FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

### 2016 Horticulturist of the Year

The San Diego Horticultural Society is pleased to name the *San Diego Zoo Horticulture Department* – past and present as our 2016 honoree. Over the past 100 years many individuals, hard work, passion, and trial and error have created the successful zoo botanical garden. Though the Zoo is most well known for its animals, the plants and landscaping also make it one of the top botanic gardens in the country. The outstanding collections, habitats, and displays have evolved from the foresight and contributions of many dedicated horticulture staff members. To honor all who have made contributions and who have inspired others to love horticulture through these immersive, diverse and educational displays bolsters the importance of horticulture to the public and showcases the rich history and people who continue to make successful landscapes for Zoo visitors and for our rare and endangered animal collections. The Zoo turns 100 year this year, and we are pleased to honor both the San Diego Zoo and the San Diego Zoo Safari Park Horticulture Departments for their horticulture contributions.



Several of the current horticulturists at the Zoo will be our March speakers. We also are planning several future events for members at both the San Diego Zoo and the Safari Park, as well as our Horticulturist of the Year presentation in June. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters, on our website, and in email messages. We hope you can attend all of these events.

### Our New Mission and Vision Statements

Board Member at Large, Donna Tierney, has been organizing the update of the SDHS Strategic Plan (see page 4). The board has had several meetings regarding the Strategic Plan and more recently started meeting in smaller groups to develop different parts of the plan. Board Secretary, Princess Norman, has also helped organize and moderate the meetings. So far, we have updated our Mission Statement and created our first-ever Vision Statement. We'll publish more updates as progress on the plan continues.

Our Mission is: *To inspire and educate the people of San Diego County to grow and enjoy plants, and to create beautiful, environmentally responsible gardens and landscapes.*

Our Vision is: *To champion regionally appropriate horticulture in San Diego County.*

### 2016 Garden Tour

Don't forget to pre-purchase your ticket online to our annual Garden Tour on April 2. Ticket sales are capped this year and limited to pre-purchased tickets only. There are fewer garden tours this year in the county (see page 9) and you don't want to miss what we consider to be the very best. So purchase your ticket right now at [sdhort.org/tickets](http://sdhort.org/tickets). We look forward to seeing you on the tour! 🌿

## APRIL 2 SPRING GARDEN TOUR

### Buy Your Tickets Now!

By Karen Dorney and Susan Starr, Chair,  
Spring Garden Tour

If you have not already done so, now is the time to buy your tickets for this year's Spring Garden Tour. Join us on April 2 to visit nine lovely gardens in Del Mar and Carmel Valley (see page 10). Tickets must be purchased in advance; buy them at the next SDHS meeting or online at [sdhs.org/tickets](http://sdhs.org/tickets). Here are three of the gardens you can visit on the tour:

### Entertainer's Delight

Visitors approach this East Del Mar home, nestled in a wood of eucalyptus and pines, up a winding drive that was once bordered by lawn. The lawn is no more; faced with the challenge of reducing water usage by 35%, the owner is transitioning to a drought-tolerant landscape.

*Continued on page 7*

## GARDENS, PLANTS, FUN – FOR FREE!

### Spring Home/Garden Show: March 4 to 6

By Lucy Warren

How does your garden grow? Do you want to push it to the next level? Come to the Spring Home/Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Discover exciting plants, see great designs, and listen to leading landscaping and gardening experts for great tips for dabblers and expert diggers alike.

**SDHS members get a free VIP pass for two: visit [springhomegardenshow.com](http://springhomegardenshow.com) and on the Discount ticket page use the code SDHS. You'll definitely want to bring your significant other or your best gardening buddy.**

SDHS sponsors the judging for the dramatically lit display gardens designed and created specifically for this show. Garden Masters put their best efforts into creative new ideas for wonderful gardens for our climate. See the creativity and style of top designers and horticulturists. These are people you want to know about. You will be able to talk with many of them at the show.

Learn from the experts at the free informative seminar series, with topics including succulents, selecting a landscape professional, low water use plants, new plants to look for, and designing a beautiful climate-appropriate landscape. Learn how much water your plants really need... and more!

Sign up for the "30 for 30" private consultations hosted by professionals from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD). For just \$30, you receive a 30-minute private professional consultation, which can be reserved in advance at [springhomegardenshow.com](http://springhomegardenshow.com).

You'll find interesting and unusual plants to tempt your wallet. Top growers and specialty nurseries come together at the show with their best plants, so you don't have to drive all over San Diego to find what you want. Talk to these people; their advice can help you make these plants thrive in your garden. 🌿

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF SDHS MADE BY BOARD MEMBERS

By Donna Tierney

Since last July, your Board members have been working through a strategic planning process in order to improve the organization, to ensure that it retains and grows members, and is influential in San Diego horticulture in the coming years. The first step was to review the current mission statement, the activity list, our membership base, and how we do business. After a lot of discussion, reviewing mission statements from other horticultural organizations, and writing and rewriting drafts, the following is the revised SDHS Mission Statement:

***Our mission is to inspire and educate the people of San Diego County to grow and enjoy plants, and to create beautiful, environmentally responsible gardens and landscapes.***

We then tried to envision what we wanted the organization to become within the next 3-5 years. Again, there was lots of discussion about organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, environmental treats, and what performance data we needed to better manage. Everyone agreed that the recent, multi-year drought was dramatically changing horticulture in our area, and we needed to change our focus to help lead the transformation. We were finally able to craft a Vision Statement, which is: ***To champion regionally appropriate horticulture in San Diego County***

Since "vision without action is only a dream," the board members set about defining key goals that would allow us to meet our current mission while making progress toward achieving our vision. The four key goals and focus areas are:

1. Strengthen the effective functioning of the Board to ensure the organization's sustainability. (Internal Operations)
2. Create an environment that engages membership participation within the organization. (Membership)
3. Ensure that programs are meaningful and exciting to the membership while promoting our mission and vision. (Programs/Events/Activities)
4. Examine opportunities for partnerships in order to extend outreach to college horticulture programs and other horticulture groups in San Diego. (Partnerships/Outreach)

In order to turn our vision into reality, Goal Tenders and teams were assigned to each goal. The purpose of the Goal Tender is to ensure that objectives toward achieving the goals are defined and accomplished within an appropriate time frame. The Goal Teams will be meeting between Board Meetings to work on planning and implementing objectives. Status on the strategic goals will be an agenda item for Board meetings. Look for status reports in upcoming newsletters.

If any of these goals excites you, and you would like to participate on one of the goal teams, please contact the SDHS Board Secretary, Princess Norman, at [mtnpeak2@cox.net](mailto:mtnpeak2@cox.net).

## BOOK REVIEW

### *The Year I Ate My Yard: Essays for the Vegetable Gardener*

By Tony Kienitz

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

"This is the best book on gardening I've ever read, and I'm not kidding." STEVE MARTIN, novelist, playwright, screenwriter, actor & banjo player

Did that catch your attention? It sure did mine. Why is Steve Martin blurbing a garden book, and why does he think it's the best? I found out. In fourteen years of writing these reviews, I've read a lot of good books. This might not be the best (I'd have to check all the past reviews), but it's sure high up in the top ten. Wow! What a book.

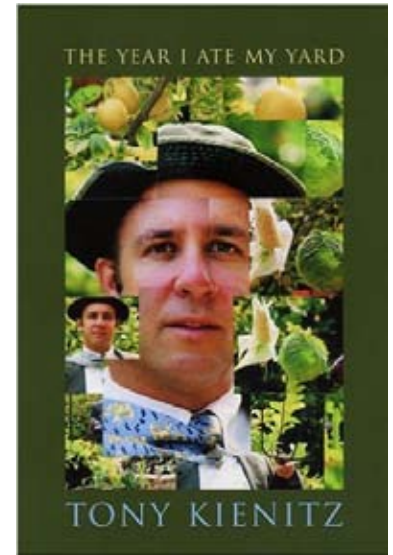
It's hard to describe. I'll start by saying that it's a series of 23 short essays, most of them six to eight pages. There's one – Abes, Rags, Nudes and Electrical Zippers – that's longer and includes a lot of the kinds of gardening hints and tips we often read garden books for. But that's where a resemblance to any other garden book you've ever read ends. A few of the things you'll learn from this chapter include:

- why he calls himself a MasterVegetablarian;
- what it's like to eat slugs. (No, Kienitz didn't do it, but some of his students did);
- why you should be planting eggs with your tomato plants. No, it's not so you can grow eggplants;
- why turning children loose in your yard with handfuls of pennies is a good way to get them interested in gardening;
- and how to make a garden gnome composter.

And reversing direction and going from the ridiculous to the sublime, you will find, disguised with humor, some of the most profound thoughts about the spiritual nature of gardens and gardening that you will ever read. Kienitz tells us what he learned from a speech by the Dalai Lama, how the latest discoveries in physics about string theory relate to gardening, and what he would design if he'd been put in charge of creating Eden.

I often mention in these reviews that I wouldn't mind living next door to the author (or not). Kienitz can have my spare bedroom, but only if he promises to keep writing. Unfortunately, in researching him on the Internet, I find no references to him after about 2008. This book, evidently the only one he's written, was published in 2004. The website for his company is no longer on line either. That's unfortunate. We'll just have to hope that he's busy writing and gardening someplace.

*The Year I Ate My Yard*, (a paperback, 184 pages), is a wonderful book. Don't miss it. 🌱





## TREES, PLEASE

### Climate Change and Urban Trees Meeting 2035 Action Plan Thresholds

By Robin Rivet

You've seen the images. Infernos wiping out Ecuadorian rainforests, goliath-sized icebergs calving in Greenland, and the island people of Kiribati literally sinking into rising seas. In mild-weathered San Diego, we may strategically moderate our thermostats, turn off excess lighting, eat locally, and think twice about jet flights, but making a profound global difference for the next 100 years might be as simple as planting a tree.

Imagine you're a tree. You consume sunlight, convert carbon into sugar for growth, and exhale oxygen while transpiring water. Consider human dependence on clean air and water. Our governments are woefully late addressing this basic chemistry gone awry. Trees innately know what to do, so why wait? Cities need quality and quantity carbon sinks, and soon. According to the US Forest Service, a large, mature urban tree can sequester a ton of carbon in 40 years. In 2006, the California Climate Action Team recommended planting 5 million trees in cities to reduce 3.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide [1]. Sizeable trees are possible by 2035 only if we start planting now.

How is your neighborhood doing? Only substantial trees with wide crowns and big leaves maximize photosynthesis, and absorb the most CO<sub>2</sub>, so small trees hardly count. Longevity is vital, so tolerances to drought, heat, frost, pollution, flooding, disease, and compacted urban soils must be weighed. Decreasing maintenance pruning with petroleum-fueled machinery and chemical fertilizers is also essential. Fast-growing species significantly boost climate benefits, although shorter life spans can link to hasty maturity. Evergreens with foliage during our rainy season lessen the need to transport water, reducing indirect GHG, and all tree roots increase groundwater recharge, mitigate runoff and erosion. Inevitably, some species will thrive, while some may fail unexpectedly, so diversity is also crucial. It's definitely complicated.

*Continued on page 20*

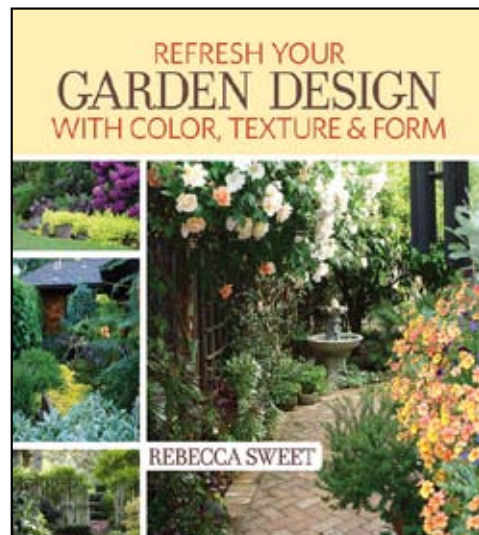
## THE DIRT ON WATER BLOG

### Save Water with Fresh Perspective

By Jeanne Meadow

We've all worked hard to reduce our water usage in the garden. I thought I had done just about all I could considering time, effort and most importantly, money! But then I remembered a book by Rebecca Sweet called *Refresh Your Garden Design with Color, Texture & Form*. While her book is about garden design, her approach is perfect for water savings as well. And a lot of fun, too! [Rebecca was our September 2015 speaker.]

We all get what Rebecca calls "familiarity blindness" in our own gardens. Yes, we may see our gardens every day, from close up and as a whole. But how can we take a new, objective look at our garden? I followed the recipe in the chapter called "Seeing with Fresh Eyes" by starting with my personal garden designer – my camera.



You don't need a fancy camera. Most phones now can take great photos. I took around a hundred photos of my garden, including some from inside the house looking out. I printed out a few large pictures, and reviewed the rest on the computer.

I discovered many small, easy changes such as taking out plants that were just filler and really didn't look great, and plants that were being crowded out by bigger, less beautiful ones. Then there were the plants that grew too high near the house, blocking sunlight from coming in, and blocking views of the garden from inside.

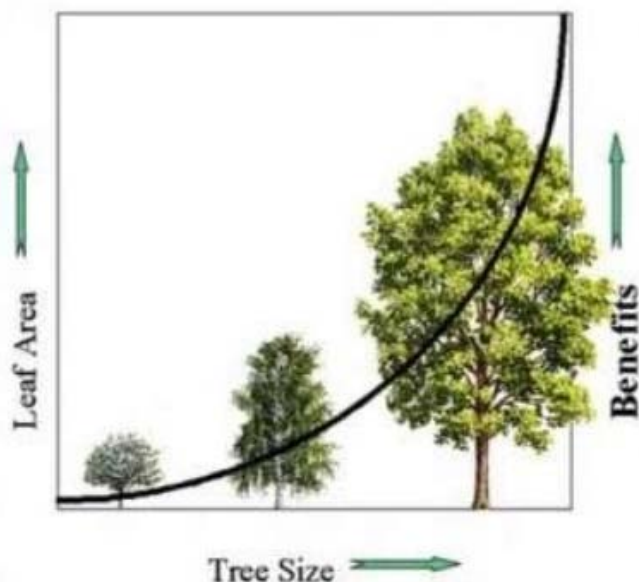
But the real magic that the photos showed was that I was blind to two exceptionally large changes that could save lots of water. One area was a garden bed of protea and lavender. When the blooms died, the whole thing looked like a woody mess. I capped five sprinklers, and pulled out all the plants and shared them with my friends. This area of my garden is now a rock mosaic in progress. I am having a blast looking for rocks and drawing up designs. Rocks don't need maintenance or water!

The second area for big change was the side yard. It never appeared in any pictures of my garden, and no visitors ever went there. So I thought, why am I watering it, planting it, and maintaining it? It's about 50 feet by 7 feet. It has pavers with lots of plants, mostly succulents, on both sides of the path--and ten sprinklers. No more. I have been potting up the plants and selling them. I plan to add rock designs using leftover rocks from the mosaic. I'm the only person who walks through there, so it is just for me!

So thanks to my personal garden designer, Mr. Nikon, and Rebecca, too.

Visit my blog at [Thedirtonwater.com](http://Thedirtonwater.com) to read my latest rants or contact me at [Jeanne@jeannemeadow.com](mailto:Jeanne@jeannemeadow.com). ☘

## Larger Trees, Greater Benefits



Arbor Day Foundation

## GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

### Phoebe, is That You?

By Pat Pawlowski

Yes, it was; out of the blue came a Black Phoebe, a year-round resident in Southern California. She (he?) came to sit on an unused sprinkler riser. Maybe this bird was a sign: break out the bugs and moisten the landscape!



Black phoebe from San Elijo Lagoon

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy

Bugs, you say? Why would anyone want to draw insects to the yard? Well, the Black Phoebe is an insect eater, so if you want to enjoy Phoebe's company, you've got to draw insects. Not to you, to your yard.

I can see you are wrinkling your respective noses already. But wait: here are some reasons: Enticing the right kind of insects will benefit Phoebe, plus help your tomatoes, parsley, etc., to survive. We all know how beneficial to garden plants some insects can be. Of course, Phoebe will gobble some of those bennies up, but there will always be more if you plant the right kinds of native annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees.

For example: Wildflowers such as California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*); subshrubs like Desert apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*) and Indian mallow (*Abutilon palmeri*); shrubs such as California lilac (*Ceanothus* spp.) and Island tree mallow (*Malacothamnus fasciculatus*); trees like Mexican palo verde (*Parkinsonia aculeata*), Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), Scrub Oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), Engelmann Oak (*Quercus engelmannii*), and coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*).

Now, as to moistening the landscape: you'll need water and mud. Water can make your outdoor surroundings much nicer. You don't have to build an elaborate pond, although wouldn't that be nice? All Phoebe really needs is some water gently cascading down a few well-placed flagstones or any hard material that is not slippery (glass is too smooth), so her little footsies can get a grip.

Now, as to mud. A Phoebe's nest is a cup, which may be made up of mud pellets, dry grass, weed stems, plant and bark fibers. See why you need to have some mud laying around? Besides, the males of some butterfly species need mud to provide them with minerals to enhance their butterfly-baby-creating capabilities. So we see that it's a win-win for everyone. No need to be overly neat, and no need to yank up all those weeds; to Phoebe, mud and weeds are building materials. No need to spray unless you want to kill lots of helpful and interesting animals.

And what will you get for this casual approach to gardening?

You will get to admire Phoebe, the trim and tailored Phoebe with white-feathered underparts and a black head, chest and shoulders, the head feathers emulating John Travolta's hairstyle in the movie *Grease*. Really cute. You may even be treated to a song, "fee-bee," as Phoebe rocks out, bobbing her tail in time to her music.

~~~~~  
Member Pat Pawlowski is a writer/lecturer/garden consultant who should have been named Phoebe. ☺



Desert apricot mallow

San Diego Zoo

## TO LEARN MORE...

### Botanical Collection at the San Diego Zoo

By Ava Torre-Bueno

As many people know, the San Diego Zoo is really a botanical garden with 700,000 plants that has a few animals thrown in for variety. The Zoo's founder, Harry Wegeforth, had plants in mind from the very beginning: [sandiegozoo.org/CF/plants/gardens\\_zoo.html](http://sandiegozoo.org/CF/plants/gardens_zoo.html)

On the third Friday of each month, take a botanical bus tour of the zoo at 2pm:

[zoo.sandiegozoo.org/content/botanical-tours](http://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/content/botanical-tours)

On the same day, visit the Orchid House, which is only open the one day each month. I'm not an orchid person, but I go to the Orchid House as often as I can because the breadth of the collection is staggering, and even when they're not in bloom, orchid leaves are so varied and wonderful:

[sandiegozoo.org/CF/plants/collectiondetail8.html](http://sandiegozoo.org/CF/plants/collectiondetail8.html).

The Zoo also hosts a Native Seed Gene Bank, which collaborates with Kew Royal Botanic Gardens in attempting to preserve plants for future generations to enjoy:

[sandiegozoo.org/CF/plants/seed\\_bank.html](http://sandiegozoo.org/CF/plants/seed_bank.html)

If you need added incentive to go to the Zoo, watch these webcams:

[zoo.sandiegozoo.org/cams/panda-cam](http://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/cams/panda-cam)

[zoo.sandiegozoo.org/cams/ape-cam](http://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/cams/ape-cam)

[kids.sandiegozoo.org/animal-cams-videos/elephant](http://kids.sandiegozoo.org/animal-cams-videos/elephant)

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[sdzsafaripark.org/tigertrail/tigercam.html](http://sdzsafaripark.org/tigertrail/tigercam.html) ☺





Entertainers Delight

At the top of the drive a large, level space, formerly filled with grass and other thirsty plants, is now home to a colorful field of poppies in spring. A group of Grevilleas brings soft color and feathery texture. Turning the corner brings you to a circular planter filled with a graceful Coral Tree. The front of the home is decorated with pots of shade loving plants. In the rear, the owners entertain diner guests on a patio by a pool nestled beneath a giant Bird of Paradise. From there, guests used to look out on yet more lawn, but now they can enjoy a view of a variety of orange-toned succulents surrounded by carefully selected matching boulders and set off by spiky rush and colorful pottery.

Pause to enjoy the view over a forest of many shades of green stretching to the west, and then continue meandering through a well-planted side yard to find the next secluded dining and seating area surrounded by numerous pots of blooming flowers. Stop to admire the newly installed meditation garden, which offers visitors a quiet retreat. Hardscape contributes to the beauty of the setting, vine-covered pergolas create texture and depth, and sun sail has

been cleverly mounted to provide shade for the poolside patio.

## Hawaiian Hilltop

Anyone walking by this lovely home will immediately notice the attractively landscaped front yard. They may also realize that instead of the typical hedge or fence to keep out animals and discourage foot traffic, the owner has installed a ribbon of lava rock filled with colorful succulents, bromeliads, and other plants. However, the treat for tour guests is being invited behind the double wooden doors to the jaw-dropping Hawaiian botanical garden sanctuary. Inside the gates lies an outdoor room filled with orchids, ferns, cactus, bromeliads, succulents, flowering vines, unusual palms, plumeria, and Chinese banana trees. An imported teakwood wall, a koi pond, a fish aquarium, and numerous rare plants and exotic statuary are just some of the other elements in this artful courtyard masterpiece.

This is a garden full of surprises. There is jasmine draping the outdoor fireplace, a petrified vine supporting air plants and orchids, and a brain-shaped succulent serving as the centerpiece of the outdoor dining table. Wooden monkeys stretch out their arms to welcome the visitor; a Polynesian style stone god hides in the shrubbery facing the street.

Along with all the beauty, the owner has achieved a more than 30% water savings from an innovative irrigation system. Water from rain gutters and buried spaghetti tube dribbler piping is recovered from three cisterns. Inconspicuous drains in the front yard direct the water to the cisterns through 3-inch pipes, and plants easily find the water sources. What appear to be thirsty plants on the south side of the property are actually surviving completely on this recycled water. The landscaping has been a joint effort of landscaper Dave Ericson (our February speaker) and the owner. For years, Dave has worked closely with this creative homeowner to help him realize his evolving vision. The result is an almost endless series of exciting vignettes, which will surely stimulate ideas for your own garden.

*Continued on page 12*



Hawaiian Hilltop



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We encourage our 1200+ members to be active participants and share in the fun; to volunteer see page 2. A warm hello to these new members:

### We welcome St. Madeleine Sophie's Center as our newest Life Member (see page 15).

|                   |                    |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Gale Bakker       | Susan Halenza      | Ludwig Michael           |
| Arnold Barron     | Deborah Hall       | Olivia Miethke           |
| Victor Bernardino | Lee Haydu          | Martin Niwinski          |
| Michael Bradbury  | Katherine Houston  | Andy & Jennifer Phillips |
| Barbara Brown     | Coleen Huang       | Luke Rhee                |
| Jenna Bush        | Ryan Hughes        | Patrick & Patsy Sample   |
| Mary Clemons      | Carol Korfin       | Gay Sinclair             |
| Dylan Connolly    | Carrie Kubacki     | Carrie Thomas            |
| Betty Corvey      | Priscilla Lindberg | Elyse Tierney            |
| Kristine Desiata  | Skylar Loesch      | Leo Villa                |
| Ashley Dunn       | Ann McKenna        | Chris Weathers           |
|                   |                    | Rebecca Wilbanks         |

### HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2016; 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.

|                      |                     |                          |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Karen Baccei (I)     | Brett Eckler (I)    | Mo Price (I)             |
| Lorraine Bolton (I)  | Maria Mata (I)      | Susan Starr (I)          |
| Kathleen Closson (I) | Rachele Melious (I) | Linda Teague (I)         |
| Alice Dukelow (I)    | Toni Muncell (I)    | Wishing Tree Company (I) |
|                      |                     | Linda Woloson (I)        |

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Redfin San Diego

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#### Serra Gardens Landscape Succulents

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#### Southwest Boulder & Stone

Sterling Tours

#### Sunshine Care

#### Tejus Trivedi

The Wishing Tree Company

#### Walter Andersen Nursery

#### Waterwise Botanicals

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### LIFE MEMBERS \*Horticulturist of the Year

\*Chuck Ades (2008)

\*Walter Andersen (2002)

Norm Applebaum &

Barbara Roper

\*Bruce & Sharon

Asakawa (2010)

Gladys T. Baird

Debra Lee Baldwin

\*Steve Brigham (2009)

Laurie ConnableDeeter

Buckner

Design Group

\*Julian (2014) & Leslie Duval

\*Edgar Engert (2000)

Jim Farley

Sue & Charles Fouquette

Caroline James

Joyce James

Debbie & Richard Johnson

\*Vince Lazaneo (2004)

\*Brad Monroe (2013)

\*Bill Nelson (2007)

Deborah & Jack Pate

\*Kathy Puplava (2016)

Tina & Andy Rathbone

\*Jon Rebman (2011)

Mary Rodriguez

Peggy Ruzich

Gerald D. Stewart

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center

\*Susi Torre-Bueno (2012)

& Jose Torre-Bueno

Dorothy Walker

Lucy Warren

\*Evelyn Weidner (2001)

\*Pat Welsh (2003)

Betty Wheeler



## What's Up at

### Spring Planting Jubilee & Tomato Sale

March 19 & 20,  
9 am – 5 pm

Featuring a locally-sourced and  
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extravaganza offered by  
Coastal Roots Farm

It's March planting madness at the Spring Planting Jubilee & Tomato Sale at San Diego Botanic Garden! This event is a plant lover's dream, with a wide variety of herbs, spring plants, orchids, bromeliads, California natives, garden art and implements, plus a new locally-sourced and grown summer garden vegetable extravaganza offered by Coastal Roots Farm.

Coastal Roots Farm is a nonprofit community farm and education center located on the Leichtag property next door to the Botanic Garden. The sale will feature a wide variety of tomatoes, vegetables, seeds, cut flowers and annuals. Garden experts will be on hand to answer questions and provide helpful advice on spring plantings and caring for your entire garden.

Delicious food and refreshments will be available from Red Oven Artisanal Pizza Kitchen, Rita's Italian Ice, and the Jitter Bean Coffee Cart. A KidZone with educational displays, crafts, a petting zoo and pony rides will also be available.

For more information, visit [SDBGarden.org/springfest.htm](http://SDBGarden.org/springfest.htm) or call 760-436-3036 x201. FREE with paid admission or Garden membership. ☘



## DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

(see ads for more discounts)

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: Chelsea Rubino, [crubino@SDBGarden.org](mailto:crubino@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). ☘



## LOCAL GARDEN TOURS

### In March and April

By Mary James

San Diego's garden tour season gets the jump on spring this year when seven desert gardens welcome visitors in Borrego Springs on March 19. By mid-May, fifteen tours spread from Bonita to Fallbrook, Coronado to Jamul, will delight and inspire thousands of garden lovers. Among them is an inaugural event sponsored by The Water Conservation Garden that visits the East County home gardens of five of its volunteers. Missing from the calendar this year are three popular, long-lived events – Encinitas Garden Festival, Alpine Sage & Songbirds Festival, and Friends of East County Arts Garden Tour. All struggled without success to replace volunteer leaders who stepped down after years of service. Because some tours sell out, purchase tickets early when prices often are discounted.

#### March 19, 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Borrego Garden Tour

The estate of former San Diego City Manager Jack McGrory is among seven gardens (and some homes) on tour. There should also be plenty of desert wildflowers blooming.

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$30 / Info: [abdnha.org](http://abdnha.org)

#### March 26, Water-Wise Home Garden Tour - NEW

This inaugural tour will highlight five beautiful gardens in El Cajon, La Mesa and Rancho San Diego, featuring an array of color, variety, and low water plants. Learn about using natives, succulents, cacti and

Mediterranean plants and how you can design your yard for low water usage plants. The gardens emphasize plants from semi-arid regions of the world including Australia, New Zealand, Southwestern U.S. and South Africa. Succulent cuttings and original garden art will be for sale. Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. / Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 on tour day. Info: [thegarden.org](http://thegarden.org) or (619) 660-0614, ext. 10

#### April 2, San Diego Horticultural Society Spring Tour

See pages 3 and 10

#### April 2-3, Garden Native Tour

Native plants, water conservation and wildlife habitats are the focus of this tour to 18 private and public gardens in East County. On Sunday, the Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon hosts a Sustainable Gardens Showcase open to tour goers and the public. Sponsored by the California Native Plant Society.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. / Tickets: \$25; kids free

Info: [gardennative.org](http://gardennative.org)

*Continued on page 17*

## SDHS RECEIVES AWARDS FROM CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

By Susi Torre-Bueno

We're very proud of three awards that we recently received from California Garden Clubs, Inc. These had been proposed to CGCI by BJ Boland (thanks, BJ!), our Corresponding Secretary, and relate to the gardens we have adopted as part of the Balboa Park Centennial Celebration.

Two awards went to our members who volunteered their time and expertise as landscape architects to design the garden areas on either side of the Lily Pond. As we noted in the May 2014 newsletter, the theme for our garden restoration is "Kate Sessions' Vision of Balboa Park Gardens, 100 Years Later." A planting plan for the gardens was developed by landscape architects and SDHS members Chris Drayer, ASLA and Cindy Benoit, ASLA. Installation began in mid-2014, helped in part by generous donations from our members. The Landscape Architecture Awards of Merit they each received in January were from the California Consultants Council, and they read "For excellent land use on a public project to update and refurbish the Timken Museum and Casa Del Prado gardens in Balboa Park for the 2015 Balboa Park Centennial. Design elements include colorful, low-maintenance and water-wise plants using succulents, bromeliads and low-water shrubs to create a contemporary landscape while maintaining the classical appearance of Balboa Park." Congratulations to Cindy and Chris!

The SDHS also received a Landscape Design Recognition of Achievement award for our part in making these garden upgrades possible. It read, "For their outstanding success with the Friends of Balboa Park 'Adopt a Plot' project providing both financial support and volunteers to refurbish gardens for the 2015 Balboa Park Centennial including the Timken Museum, Casa Del Prado, Marston House, Promenade, Children's Garden and Natural History Museum gardens within Balboa Park." We applaud president Jim Bishop and treasurer Sam Seat for their leadership roles in this exceptional effort, and thank all the volunteers who made it possible. I hope you'll take note of the signs with our logo on them when you next visit Balboa Park.

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**sdhort.org/  
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In 2016 the SDHS Annual Garden Tour takes garden lovers from the fertile low lying gardens of Carmel Valley to the sloping hillside landscapes of Del Mar.

Our self-guided tour of nine beautiful gardens showcases all that San Diego horticulture has to offer. Although every garden is water wise, each exhibits a unique approach to creating beauty in San Diego's distinctive climate. Tour gardens include an Hawaiian fantasy, a palm-studded paradise, a succulent jewel box and a celebration of the plants of Australia and New Zealand. One garden is a living plant tapestry; another gives a special nod to California natives. Stunning outdoor living spaces and inviting water features charm the visitor and encourage them to linger and savor the landscape.

Selected vendors will be selling garden related items, and clever irrigation techniques will be on display. A special attraction this year will be the Del Mar Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale featuring one-of-a-kind living plant arrangements and plant art for your garden.

.....

### TOUR & TICKET INFORMATION

Purchase tickets online at **sdhort.org / tickets**

**SDHS members \$25**  
**Non-members \$35**

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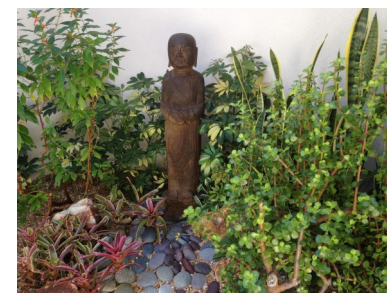
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**Spanish Villa**



**Texture and Tapestry**



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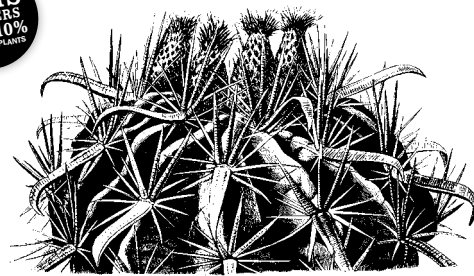
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■ **Next Meeting** Continued from page 1

foliage to support the zoological collections. He has contributed many articles and photos to *Zoonooz* magazine. He was an adjunct faculty member of Cuyamaca Community College for over 20 years, teaching arboriculture and related fields.

Michael Letzring is Senior Plant Propagator whose fervor for unique plants and naturalist displays to best showcase conservation efforts is evident in many areas of the Zoo. He previously owned a landscape business and graduated from Mesa College with a degree in ornamental horticulture.

Christy Powell is Horticulture Manager, and oversees nursery and propagation operations, botanical records and collections, pest control, and special events. She was responsible for diversifying and broadening the Zoo's botanical collection and browse program. Christy received her BS in Horticulture Science and her MS in Agricultural & Extension Education from Purdue University.

For more information see [sandiegozoo.org](http://sandiegozoo.org) and page 6.

■ **Spring Tour** Continued from page 7



**Spanish Villa**

This large Spanish-style property, built in 1928, has several separate garden areas behind its walls. Entering from the street, the visitor passes a tile-lined swimming pool flanked by a wall hand-painted with large, colorful peacocks. Here, grass has been replaced by artificial turf, and the Pacific Ocean sparkles between the tree branches lining the yard.

The garden beyond includes a trompe l'oeil painted tile Spanish style fountain and a stucco wall decorated with subtle paintings of palm fronds; paintings of cheetahs were recently added in honor of the owners trip to Africa. A charming flagstone patio with hanging flowerpots creates a shady spot for visitors and family alike, who can enjoy the beauty of a lush red passionflower vine climbing over the roof.

Other features include a guesthouse, expansive grass area, rose garden, and a side yard where the owner grows vegetables in raised beds. The front of house has large and small succulent planting areas, some designed by the late Bill Teague, a founder of SDHS.

Be sure to join us on the tour. Visit the SDHS website, [sdhs.org](http://sdhs.org), to learn more. If you have questions, contact Susan Starr, Spring Garden Tour Chair, at [tours@sdhort.org](mailto:tours@sdhort.org).



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## SHARING SECRETS

Edited by Dayle Cheever

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>. Also, you can continue the discussion by adding new replies online to Sharing Secrets topics. 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: What are some good sources for rare plants?**

**Marilyn Wilson:** Mail Order: PlantDelights.com (if you buy something, they'll start sending you large printed catalogs). BrentandBeckysBulbs.com (they have spring-flowering bulb and summer-flowering bulb printed catalogs, including a chart showing when blooms, height, zone, etc., along with some perennials, too). Kartuz.com (this nursery is in Vista. You can visit 9-noon and 1-3pm, Tuesday through Saturday, 1408 Sunset Drive, Vista).

**Pat Venolia:** Last week I took my second trip to Ventura County for Australian natives, stopping by Green Thumb International Nursery in Ventura (oh my gosh, what a nursery) on my way up to Seaside Gardens in Carpinteria and the Australian Native Plant Nursery in Casitas Springs. Found everything I wanted and came home with 18 plants. Call before going to be sure they're open. It just occurred to me that I should include Robin's Ausachica Nursery in El Cajon as a place to get neat plants. I've gotten a couple of nice Aussies from her (they sometimes sell plants at our meetings, too).

**Jo Casterline:** If you're looking for Australian plants and like a Valley Center adventure, go to Obra Verde. Check out the website for information: [obraverde-flowers.com](http://obraverde-flowers.com).

**Tandy Pfost:** Big time collectors should go to Rancho Soledad nursery in Rancho Santa Fe. Other retail North County sources are: Solana Succulents (see page 16), Gardens by the Sea and Anderson's La Costa Nursery (see page 17; p.s., I work there).

**Marilyn Wieland:** Kartuz Greenhouses, 1408 Sunset Drive, Vista, CA; [kartuz.com](http://kartuz.com). Call before visiting (760-941-3613).

**Gerald D. Stewart:** Gerald Stewart struggled making the decision to give up his best sources, but in the end decided to do just that in hopes others sharing theirs will give him leads to new sources. Locally Walter Andersen Nursery in Point Loma and Poway (see page 16), and Green Thumb Super Garden Center in San Marcos (see inside front cover), often have rare stuff, but when it's gone, it's gone, so you need to keep checking (as if taking time to walk those plant paradises regularly on Saturday mornings before somebody else scores the prizes is a problem for die-hard gardeners); Kartuz in Vista (see above); Oasis in Escondido; and Rancho Soledad Nursery in Rancho Santa Fe. Online they offer wide selections of plants (as opposed to specialty nurseries like Geraniaceae.com that specialize in a focused type of plants) include: Plant Delights, Glasshouse Works (you need to be patient, but they've got stuff I've not seen anywhere else); Logee's Greenhouses; Forest Farm; Cistus Nursery; and Joy Creek Nursery. The other trick to finding rare stuff is to shop at every nursery you pass. Jean and Mike Kashkin

(Deena Altman of Altman's is their daughter) had Fuchsialand Nursery in Culver City many years ago, and offered stuff other retailers didn't. Talking to Mike a few years back for an article for the San Diego Geranium Society's newsletter, I asked him how they had stuff no one else did. He said often on days they were closed he and Jean would hop in the van and see what other retailers were offering. When they stumbled across something rare, they bought it and propagated it to sell in their nursery. Persistent home gardeners can stumble across stuff just like the Kashkins did.

**Cathy Tylka:** I have found the Master Gardener's plant sale and the Cactus and Succulent Society's plant sales, great places for rare plants.

**Tammy Schwab:** My go to nurseries: Rancho Soledad Nursery, Oasis Waterwise Gardens (Escondido), and Plant Play Nursery (Carlsbad). I also power shop every botanical garden and club plant sale in the Spring and Fall!

**Tynan Wyatt:** These are my top three mail order sources when I want something unusual: [lifestyleseeds.co.za](http://lifestyleseeds.co.za); [logees.com](http://logees.com); [chileflora.com](http://chileflora.com). Lifestyle Seeds and Chileflora are great sources for Mediterranean seeds, while Logees is pretty much for my special houseplant/high maintenance needs plants that have something special about them.

**Steve Zolezzi:** Exotic Gardens has relocated to East County just off Interstate 8 at the Lake Jennings exit. They offer a large selection of succulents and cactus, many hard to find and collector specimens at very reasonable prices. I like to support the small independents. The address is 14269 Olde Highway 80, El Cajon, 92021.

**Ralph Evans:** Rare and less common cycads, African plants, and palms, many one of a kind are found at Botanical Partners Vista, home of Bamboo Headquarters.

**Jim Bishop:** One of my favorite and most dependable plant sources for 20 years has been the plant vendors at our monthly meetings. Through them I've been introduced to many plants that I might not have otherwise tried to grow. Most know that our members like rare and/or unusual plants, so there is almost always something worth checking out. Plus, there is usually someone knowledgeable; staffing the table and you can ask them questions about the plants. Often times they bring plants that go with the theme or the speaker topic for the evening.

**Candace Kohl:** I hope to hear some useful things in answer to this question. I have found that specialized plant societies (with associated annual sales) and the people in them, are often very good at finding and sharing rare stuff. Most of the other plant nuts I know are very generous with information and divisions. I have two nurseries in Tucson that I often visit when I drive over; Plants for the Southwest and Arid Lands. Once they know I am serious they will sometimes sell things that they otherwise would not. I have not tried buying plants on line, although I have seen some tempting stuff listed. I would rather see the size and condition of what I am paying for.

**Stuart Robinson:** I don't know. I use Walter Andersen Nursery (see page 16) and Mission Hills Nursery for patio and indoor plants; wouldn't know where to go for rare specimens.

**Vivian Blackstone:** San Diego Rare Fruit Growers, a large group of San Diego gardeners. There is a San Diego Central group and a North County group. I have a lot of trees from them as I was a member for several years and cultivated many rare trees.

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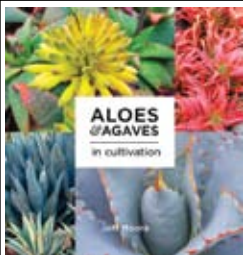
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**J.R. Miles:** Floribunda Palms in Keaau, Hawaii is a great source of rare palm seedlings. Anderson's La Costa Nursery (see page 17) sometimes has some of the less common plants, but sometimes you will need to be careful of the labeling.

**Sheila Busch:** Kartuz Greenhouses, Vista (see above); Annie's Annuals mail order; Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos.

**Wanda Mallen:** Favorite sources for rare plants, mail order: Arid Lands and Out of Africa for succulents, Tropiflora for bromeliads and other tropicals, Plant Delights for woodland plants and agaves. There are local plant club sales, particularly the inter-city cactus and succulent show every August at the Los Angeles Arboretum. Local nurseries: Walter Andersen (see page 16), Armstrong Nurseries, and the Green Thumb Nursery (see inside front cover). You just need to look and prepare to be surprised.

**Debra Lee Baldwin:** One of San Diego's best kept secrets is Peta Crist's Rare Succulents Nursery in Rainbow (off I-15 north of Escondido). Petra caters primarily to collectors, is known nationwide (she judges at the Philadelphia Flower show), has won numerous Cactus and Succulent Society trophies, and has pristine greenhouses full of amazing, perfectly grown succulents. I've shot several You Tube videos there. It's well worth visiting, and Petra's a gracious guide, but do be considerate of her time. Go in a group and plant to purchase plants. By appointment, contact her at [info@raresucculents.com](mailto:info@raresucculents.com).

**Walter Andersen:** Let's see now... a good place to find rare plants? I would start at Walter Andersen Nursery (see page 16), they have two locations, San Diego, near Old Town—Marine Base area and Poway Business Park. Both stores stock the common plants, often used, but also a great assortment of unusual plants you don't see every day at other nurseries. There is a great selection of Moosa Creek California Native Plants (see page 17) that are becoming more popular because of water restrictions. The Cactus and Succulent selections have grown a lot for the same reason, but there always seems to be some new plant for indoors, or outside as a curiosity. Check out the many varieties of Playcerium, common name staghorn fern. While you are checking these, be sure to check the many other fern selections available, both indoors and out in the shade. For things that are super unusual check out Kartuz Greenhouses in Vista (see above). You should probably call to be sure of the hours.

**Ruth Sewell:** Take a walk in your neighborhood, if you see something interesting, knock on the door and introduce yourself and ask for a snip.

**Susi Torre-Bueno:** Great question! Some of my favorite local sources for rare succulents are Serra Gardens (Fallbrook, see page 12), Oasis Water Efficient Gardens (Escondido), Solana Succulents (Solana Beach, see page 16), and Waterwise Botanicals (Bonsall). For other kinds of plants I've sometimes found rare items at Green Thumb Nursery (San Marcos, see inside front cover), Anderson's LaCosta Nursery (Encinitas, see page 17), and Walter Andersen Nursery (San Diego and Poway, see page 16). I've also had great success finding uncommon plants at the spring and fall plant sales at the U. C. Riverside arboretum, although I can't always go because they often conflict with garden events closer to home.

✂

## ■ Local Garden Tours Continued from page 9

### April 10, 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Seaside Native Plant Tour

Plant experts and locals lead this 1 ½-mile walking tour past 18 front-yard gardens in Oceanside's historic Seaside neighborhood. Tour goes meet at St. Mary's School parking lot, 515 Wisconsin Ave., Oceanside. Refreshments sold by neighborhood youngsters.

Time: 2 p.m. / Tickets: Free; donation requested for map and plant list  
Info: [BVAudubon.org](http://BVAudubon.org) (Buena Vista Native Plant Club), [OCNA101.org](http://OCNA101.org) (Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association), or call the Buena Vista Nature Center at (760) 439-2473.

### April 16-17, 91<sup>st</sup> Coronado Flower Show

Enjoy floral displays, exhibits and entertainment under the big tent at Spreckels Park and drive by winning front-yard gardens throughout the community. Sponsored by the Coronado Floral Association.

Time: 1 to 5 p.m. April 16; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 17  
Tickets: \$5 (free for CFA members and children under 12)  
Info: [coronadoflowershow.com](http://coronadoflowershow.com)



Coronado  
front garden

### April 23, 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Point Loma Garden Walk

Point Loma's historic Plumosa Park neighborhood is home to the gardens (and some residences) featured on this tour, organized by the Rady Children's Hospital Auxiliary to benefit the hospital's craniofacial programs. Shop at the Garden Boutique in the Park.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. / Tickets: \$25 /  
Info: [pointlomagardenwalk.com](http://pointlomagardenwalk.com)

### April 23, Bernardo Gardeners Club Spring Garden Tour

A *Sunset* magazine-featured garden, a landscape designer's home garden and a 19-acre collector's garden and natural preserve highlight this tour in the Rancho Bernardo environs. Refreshments provided in one garden.

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Tickets: \$20, purchase at Walter Andersen Nursery, Poway, starting March 14. Or order by mail: Send a check payable to Bernardo Gardeners Club and self-addressed, stamped envelope to 17361 Regalo Lane, San Diego, CA 92128.  
Info: [bernardogardenersclub@gmail.com](mailto:bernardogardenersclub@gmail.com)

### April 30, Ramona Garden Club Tour

A diverse landscape around a Victorian home, a view estate next to the Cleveland National Forest and a landscape designer's home garden are among the eight water-wise landscapes on tour. Plants, garden accents and crafts for sale at the Ramona Community Library parking lot, 1275 Main Street, Ramona.

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. / Tickets: \$20 / Info: [ramonagardenclub.com](http://ramonagardenclub.com)



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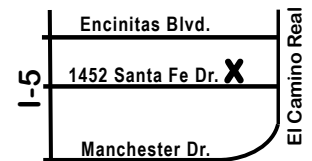
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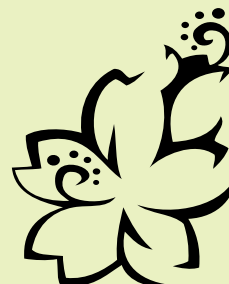
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## FEBRUARY 2016 PLANT DISPLAY

By Charley Fouquette, Joan Herskowitz & 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. All plants are welcome. Write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with your plant(s).

Join the fun and bring something to the next meeting. We thank those people who brought in plants to show to other members.

**Now available FREE on our website – all 21 years worth of plant descriptions! Go to [tinyurl.com/Plant-Descriptions](http://tinyurl.com/Plant-Descriptions).**

***Chlorogalum parviflorum*** SMALL-FLOWERED SOAP PLANT (Asparagaceae) Coastal California s. of Santa Barbara to Baja, Mexico

A perennial wildflower that grows from small bulbs in the native coastal sage scrub plant community. The plant has a row of basal leaves and an inflorescence that may reach up to 3 feet supporting numerous small white or pinkish star-like flowers. It blooms May through August (starts in February in Vista, CA, where it thrives on rainfall alone) and each flower opens for only one day. The plant name is derived from the Indian practice of crushing and rubbing the bulbs with water to produce a lather for cleaning clothes and baskets. If grown in the garden, irrigation should be withheld or sparse in summer to mimic the dry conditions of its native habitat. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 2/16) – J.H.

***Iris ‘Marty Richards’*** TALL BEARDED IRIS (Iridaceae)

Horticultural Hybrid

This impressive iris hybrid, introduced in 2005, produces dazzling, deep violet-blue blooms with white tipped beards, and will provide a stunning addition to a perennial border or amassed in groupings that develop into dense colonies. The large flowers have a slight sweet fragrance and are formed on flowering stalks that may grow to a height of 34 inches. The plant is a rebloomer; i.e., it produces more than one growth of bloom stalks in a growing season. The second growth usually begins in late summer or early fall and does not require chilling, but cooler nights promote more reblooms. Due to the rebloom characteristic, the plants need an extra boost of water and fertilizer in order to flower a second time. It grows best in full or filtered sun and with moderate water. The flowers are excellent for cutting, and the sword-like leaves remain grayish green in color throughout the season. The member displaying the plants notes that she planted it in 2009 and in the last 6 months (when she started keeping records) it has bloomed (without fertilizer or much water) in each month from October through February. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 2/16) – J.H.

***Paphiopedalum Cavalli-Sforza*** SLIPPER ORCHID

(Orchidaceae) Horticultural Hybrid

This plant has been owned by Charley Fouquette for at least 40 years, and was one of four similar orchids owned for the same length of time (some for over 50 years!) and displayed on the same night. Its parents

are *Paphiopedalum* Amber Star × *P. Winston Churchill*, and each of those are complex hybrids. Tracing its lineage back, about 29% of its genes come from *P. insigne*, a slipper orchid native to areas of 3000' (and higher) in India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Another 25% of its genes come from *P. boxallii*, which grows at over 3000' altitude on cliffs in Burma. You can find photos of these two ancestors at [orchidspecies.com](http://orchidspecies.com). According to information provided by Charley, it is best grown in shaded to dappled light, in cool to warm conditions of 58°F to 75°F at night. It needs moderately high humidity of 60-70%, and should not dry out between waterings. This hybrid originated in Japan and was first registered in 1976. (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 2/16) – C.F. & S.T.B.

**In addition to the plants described above, the plants listed below were displayed; all have been previously described.**

What's that in front of the plant name? Plants marked 3 are fully described in the SDHS Plant Forum Compilation, available online for FREE at [tinyurl.com/Plant-Descriptions](http://tinyurl.com/Plant-Descriptions).

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the February newsletter was *Haemanthus dentifloss* TOOTHBRUSH LILY.

*Chaenomeles* cv. or sp. FLOWERING QUINCE

(Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 2/16)

3 *Dalea greggii* TRAILING INDIGO BUSH

Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 2/16)

3 *Galvezia speciosa* 'Firecracker' ISLAND BUSH SNAPDRAGON

*Hyacinthus orientalis* HYACINTH (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 2/16)

3 *Kalanchoe daigremontiana* MOTHER OF THOUSANDS (? 2/16)

3 *Leucojum aestheticum* FANCY SNOWFLAKE

(Bulb Lover, El Cajon, 2/16)

3 *Leucojum aestivum* WINTER SNOWFLAKE, SUMMER SNOWFLAKE (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 2/16)

*Narcissus* 'Cheerfulness' DAFFODIL (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 2/16)

*Paphiopedalum* F. C. Puddle SLIPPER ORCHID

(Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 2/16)

*Paphiopedilum* Leeanum SLIPPER ORCHID

(Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 2/16)

*Paphiopedilum* Spotter SLIPPER ORCHID

(Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 2/16)

3 *Salvia karwinskii* KARWINSKI'S SAGE

(Sheila Busch, Escondido, 2/16)

3 *Verbena lilacina* 'De La Mina' BAJA BUTTERFLY FLOWER,

CEDROS ISLAND VERBENA, BAJA VERBENA

(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 2/16) ♪

### We Goofed!

Apologies to member Barbara Raub for not crediting her for two of the garden tour plant photos (on page 8) in the February newsletter – she's been a terrific volunteer for photos at this and other events. They were credited to Barbara Berg by mistake.

## FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT

### Think Outside the Box: Thirty Design and Horticultural Techniques for Creating Perfect Pairing, Focal Points and More

By Ellie Knight

Dave Ericson, horticulturist, landscape designer, and mentor, has been designing creative landscapes throughout Southern California for over 40 years. Thinking outside the box was the primary focus of his presentation. Drawing from his lifelong experience in landscaping and gardening, Dave presented thirty different design and horticultural techniques, illustrated with slides representing some of his gardens.

1. Hide telephone poles or neighbors' windows with large plantings.
2. By setting key plantings deeper in the garden, one forces the eye to look deeper, thus blurring the focus.
3. Living art can reflect the personality of the owner in the garden's focal points.
4. A garden without a back story is like a human without a personality.
5. Plant groupings to lead to pathways to discover what is around the corner.
6. Plant with an eye to backlighting, so that colorful translucent plants shine at sunrise or sunset.
7. Accent plant examples are a huge bromeliad, a spectacular shrub, or giant bird's nest fern.
8. Dave recommended connecting with a neighbor to plant duplicates of your style in his yard to make your garden look bigger.
9. Trick the eye, Hollywood-style. For example, plant a large philodendron high on a fence to look like a tree.
10. Five-sensing, Disneyland's secret to being the happiest place on earth, can be employed in a garden. For hearing, have a sound system for music. For smell, plant fragrant flowers. For taste, include fruit trees. For vision use color; for feeling, interesting textures.
11. Heavier elements in the garden should be touching the ground, with lighter ones higher.
12. Find a key spot to rotate flowers, such as orchids in bloom or indoor plants with striking foliage, near the most used area of the garden.
13. Create focal points with individual plants, elements, living art, or a combination.
14. Plant in layers, in odd numbers, and in random-sized triangles.
15. Irrigation, drainage and soil are very important. Dave recommends planting a 50-cent plant in a \$5 hole. He also shared a tip to buy an electronic control system to notify you in the event of leaks.
16. Night lighting can be very effective, using LED lights on thin wires placed inside plants.
17. Alternatives to obtrusive fencing are rock planters, sharp or dense plantings.
18. Shade patterns can be striking, such as that of *Schizolobium parahyba*, also called Brazilian fern tree, or yellow jacaranda.
19. Avoid garden liabilities such as poisonous plants or invasive roots.
20. Use circle planters to triple the planting space and enhance background views.

21. A garden can tell a compelling story with "deep" explanations.
22. Future predictions: allow for monarch butterflies (no pesticides) and carnivorous plants.
23. Match or mimic shapes or house décor with garden style.
24. Plant pairing techniques include pruning various groups of fragrant plants into a perfume.
25. Know the color wheel, and use two colors and an accent.
26. Feature nature by attracting, feeding, and housing birds and animals.
27. "Peek-a-boo" reverses the perspective by planting a larger specimen in the front.
28. Use time-lapse planting to sequence bulbs and flower periods.
29. Wow, wower, and wowest are an analogy of a person – first impression (a gate), get to know them (the entry), and come to love them (garden depth).
30. Dave's concluding point was how to make a difference with the garden – he asks that we send examples of what we have done to [dave@ericsonlandscapeconsulting.com](mailto:dave@ericsonlandscapeconsulting.com). Also visit his website, [ericsonlandscapeconsulting.com](http://ericsonlandscapeconsulting.com).

Thanks, Dave, for a fascinating presentation!

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## PACIFIC HORTICULTURE

Vancouver, Bali, & San Miguel

Mark your calendars for June when we travel to lovely Vancouver and Victoria. We will visit top public gardens and a collection of private gardens, including Thomas Hobbs' personal estate and his Southlands Nursery, called a "must see" by Martha Stewart. We will be based at the Fairmont Hotel in Vancouver and the boutique Hotel Oswego in Victoria. Garden visits include Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden (pictured here), VanDusen Botanical Gardens, Bloedel Conservatory, Abkhazi and Butchart – one of the world's premier floral display gardens.

In September join us for the allure of tropical gardens in Bali and Singapore. Singapore is a contrast of ultra-modern urban design and traditional culture, while Bali will consist of colorful markets, ancient temples, palaces and workshops of Balinese artisans working in silver, wood, stone and cloth.



Join us in San Miguel de Allende this October and celebrate Dia de Muertos with the locals while walking narrow cobblestone streets and leafy courtyards. We will visit private gardens as well as attend the Festival de la Calaca.

PacHort believes in supporting the power of gardens and SDHS is a Pacific Horticulture Partner. Visit [pachort.org](http://pachort.org) for more tour info or to subscribe to *Pacific Horticulture* magazine. A special rate of \$24 is available for new and renewing members using discount code SDHS2016. ☘

## SDHS Nametags

**Sturdy magnet-back nametags are just \$10**

To order go to <https://sdhort.wildapricot.org/Shop> or buy one at any monthly meeting.



## Sunshine Gardens

**It's time to plant ... Come on Down!**

*We have just about everything the gardener in you is looking for:*

- ☘ Bedding Plants ☘ Shrubs
- ☘ Citrus ☘ Houseplants
- ☘ Vegetables ☘ Fertilizers
- ☘ Soils ☘ Seed
- ☘ Trees ☘ Pottery

*When you're here also visit Elizabethan Desserts & Twigs by Teri*

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

**Open 7 Days Monday-Saturday 7:00-5:00; Sunday 9:00-4:00**



## SUBSCRIBE TO *GARDEN DESIGN* AND GET A FREE ISSUE!

Our sponsor *Garden Design* magazine has a special offer for members. Use the link in their ad on the inside back cover and get a FREE issue of this exceptional publication when you subscribe. Subscribe by March 31 and they'll donate \$12 to SDHS. Every quarterly issue has 132 pages with no advertisements, expert insights, outstanding gardens showcased with inspiring stories and splendid photos, new plants, garden tours, and much more! ☘



## LOVE TO GARDEN? LOVE THE SD COUNTY FAIR?

**Lots of jobs are available for all shifts at the 2016**

**Paul Ecke, Jr. Garden Show June 3 - July 4.**



**Contact Coordinator  
Cindy Benoit @  
760-473-4244!**

### ■ Trees, Please Continued from page 5

#### Species ideas for vacant sites:

- Myrtaceae: typically long-lived and fast-growth species; dense wood is good at storing carbon: rose gum, swamp mahogany, red-flowering gum, spotted gum, red and white ironbarks
- Big trees with large leaves: magnolia, ficus, avocado, camphor, sycamore, oaks
- Gymnosperms: tough, dinosaur age species: ginkgo, araucaria, fern pine
- Conifers: low maintenance: deodar cedar, Canary Island pine, Torrey pine, Aleppo pine, stone pine
- Nitrogen fixers: locust, she-oaks, black acacia, silk tree, ice-cream bean (Inga spp.)

Remember to plant small saplings, and consider re-utilized wood for furniture, flooring, and crafts – the carbon remains stored.

[1] McPherson, E.G., Urban Tree Planting and Greenhouse Gas Reductions – June 2007, *Arborist News* pp.32-34. [fs.fed.us/psw/programs/uesd/uep/products/psw\\_cufr684\\_TreesAndGHG.pdf](http://fs.fed.us/psw/programs/uesd/uep/products/psw_cufr684_TreesAndGHG.pdf)

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, UCCE Master Gardener - City of La Mesa Environmental Commission & Community Forest Advisory Board. Contact: [treetutor@gmail.com](mailto:treetutor@gmail.com).

#### Interesting websites:

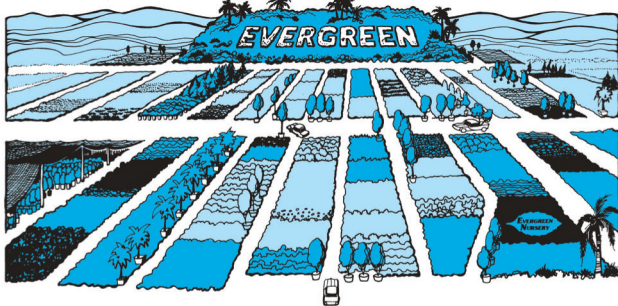
[fs.fed.us/psw/programs/uesd/uep/products/cufr\\_511\\_large\\_tree\\_argument.pdf](http://fs.fed.us/psw/programs/uesd/uep/products/cufr_511_large_tree_argument.pdf)  
[arborday.org/takeaction/carbon/offsetting-with-trees.cfm](http://arborday.org/takeaction/carbon/offsetting-with-trees.cfm)  
[usmayors.org/trees/treefinalreport2008.pdf](http://usmayors.org/trees/treefinalreport2008.pdf)  
[thoughts.arup.com/post/details/180/cities-need-large-trees](http://thoughts.arup.com/post/details/180/cities-need-large-trees) ☘

## What's Happening? for MARCH 2016

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@sdhort.org](mailto:calendar@sdhort.org).

### ▼ SDHS Sponsor

## DISCOVER EVERGREEN NURSERY



Landscaping? Relandscaping?  
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The discount houses and depots can't compete  
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**Come on out and see for yourself!**

- 1 gallon plants starting at \$3.50
- 5 gallon plants starting at \$10.00
- 15 gallon plants starting at \$39.00

**PROMPT DELIVERY AVAILABLE**

### Hours - call to confirm

ALL LOCATIONS:

Monday – Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Free Monthly Seminar

*First Saturday of every month*

*Starting at 10am at two locations: Carmel Valley and Oceanside*

**March 5:**

### Choosing and Caring For Fruit Trees

How to choose, plant, and grow stone fruit trees. Fruits of topic will be: apples, apricots, figs, nectarines, pears, peaches, persimmons, plums, and pomegranates.

Each FREE seminar is approximately 1 hour long. Come to the location nearest you! Refreshments will be provided. Seminar attendees receive a coupon for an instant discount for any purchases made the day of the seminar!

To view our entire seminar schedule and check  
our hours of operation, visit us at

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

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

### Three Convenient Locations:

**CARMEL VALLEY**

13650 Valley Rd.  
(858) 481-0622

**OCEANSIDE**

3231 Oceanside Blvd.  
(760) 754-0340

**EL CAJON**

9708 Flinn Springs Rd., (619) 443-0873

## Events at Public Gardens

❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** Contact info on other side  
See [www.avgardens.org](http://www.avgardens.org) for events & classes

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** Contact info on other side  
**March 5, 9am-2pm, Succulent Wreath Class:** Take home a beautiful succulent wreath that you make yourself. Members \$65, Non-Members \$78. Register by February 26.

**March 12, 9am-12pm, Living Wall/Vertical Garden:** Learn the basics of planting a living wall. Members \$30, non-members \$36. A \$70 materials fee per student.

**March 19-20, 9am-5pm, Spring Planting Jubilee & Tomato Sale:** Wide variety of herbs, spring plants, bromeliads, garden art and implements available, as well as all new locally-sourced and grown Summer Garden vegetable extravaganza. Free with paid admission or membership.

❖ **The Water Conservation Garden**

Contact info on other side. For ALL events below, register online or at (619) 660-0614.

**March 12 & 13, 9am-3pm, Tomatomania:** Tomato seedling sale featuring hundreds of heirloom and hybrid tomato varieties, expert advice, and more. Presentations: \$5/Members; \$10/Non-Members.

**March 20, 10-11am, Free Special Access Tour:** Explore The Garden from a comfortable shuttle. Advanced reservations required. Call 619-660-0614 x16.

**March 26, 9am-3pm, Water-Wise Home Garden Tour:** Self-guided tour will highlight a variety of five beautiful gardens, located in El Cajon, La Mesa and Rancho San Diego. \$20.

## Events Hosted by SDHS Sponsors

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

### Spring Home/Garden Show

**March 4 (11am-6pm), March 5 (10am-6pm), March 6 (10am-5pm):** See hundreds of different exhibits and gorgeous indoor display gardens at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. FREE admission for SDHS members, see page 3.

**[www.springhomegardenshow.com](http://www.springhomegardenshow.com)**

### ◆ Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops

Info: [www.barrelsandbranches.com](http://www.barrelsandbranches.com). See ad on page 17.

◆ **City Farmers Nursery** – see [www.cityfarmersnursery.com](http://www.cityfarmersnursery.com)

◆ **Evergreen Nursery: FREE Seminar** Details in left column

◆ **Grangetto's FREE Workshop**, [www.grangettosgardenclub.com](http://www.grangettosgardenclub.com)  
**Planting Spring Veggies, 10-11:30am**

March 5, 530 E. Alvarado St., Fallbrook. Info: (760) 728-6127.

March 12, 1105 W. Mission Ave., Escondido. Info: (760) 745-4671.

March 26, 189 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd., Encinitas. (760) 944-5777

April 2, 29219 Juba Rd., Valley Center, Info: (760) 749-1828.

### ◆ Sunshine Care FREE Seminar Each Month

**March 19, 10:30am-noon: You say Tomaato, I say Tomato:** Tips on soil preparation, varietal selection, pest/disease control, cultural practice, and harvesting. RSVP: (858) 472-6059 or [roy@sunshinecare.com](mailto:roy@sunshinecare.com). [www.sunshinecare.com](http://www.sunshinecare.com). See ad page 13.

### ◆ Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes

Details at [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com); address in ad on page 16.

**Point Loma, 9am**

**Poway, 9:30am**

Mar. 5, Irrigation (Must rsvp at (858) 513-4900)

TBA

Mar. 12, Organic Gardening: Food for your soil

TBA

Mar. 19, Spring Vegetables

TBA

Mar. 26, Colorful Containers

TBA

### ◆ Weidners' Gardens Herb & Veggie Festival

March 19 & 20: Sales, seminars (10am, Healthy Soil for Healthy & Tasty Veggies by Mia McCarville), free food, more! 695 Normandy Rd., Encinitas. Info: [www.weidners.com](http://www.weidners.com), (760) 436-2194.

## Next SDHS Meeting

**March 14:**

## Botanical Collection at the Zoo

See page 1 & website for details



## Other Garden-Related Events:

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

### Free Workshop: See page 2

The March workshop will be announced on our website.

To register go to [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org) and click on the workshop link.

## Garden Tours in March & April See page 9

**March 5, 8-10am, Solana Center's Composting Workshop:** 2920 Zoo Drive. Info/register: [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org).

**March 5, 10am-1pm, Calif. Native Plant Society Hike, Explore Nature's Gardens:** Black Mountain regrowth. Lusardi Creek Trailhead in the NE corner of Black Mountain Ranch Community Park, 14700 Carmel Valley Road. Info: [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org).

**March 9, 9am, Poway Valley Garden Club:** Discussion and demonstration on how to prepare horticulture and floral designs. Templars Hall, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Rd., Poway. Info: [www.powayvalleygardenclub.org](http://www.powayvalleygardenclub.org) or (858) 204-9070.

**March 9, 10am-noon, Point Loma Garden Club:** Divine Vines: several vines that thrive locally and how to grow and manage them. 2818 Avenida de Portugal. Info: [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org).

**March 12, 8am-noon, Dos Valles Garden Club:** Community Seed Swap and Plant Sale. Martin Gang Ranch, 28933 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center. Info: [www.dosvallesgardenclub.org](http://www.dosvallesgardenclub.org) & (760) 580-1630.

**March 11 (3-7pm), 12 (9am-6pm), 13 (10am-4pm) Orchid Society Spring Show & Sale:** Admission \$8/day, \$10 weekend pass. Scottish Rite Events Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South. Info: [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com).

**March 13, 1-3pm, Iris Society:** Floral design demonstration. 9906 Maine Ave., Lakeside. Info: [www.sandiegoirissociety.org](http://www.sandiegoirissociety.org).

**March 13, 1-3pm, Plumeria Society:** Graywater Use for the Home. Roosevelt Middle School, 3366 Park. Info: [www.socalplumeriasociety.com](http://www.socalplumeriasociety.com).

**March 12, 10:30am-12:30pm, Solana Center's Composting Workshop:** Crestridge Ecological Reserve Visitor Center, 1121 Horsemill Road, El Cajon. Info/register: [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org).

**March 17, 1:30- 3:30pm, Bernardo Gardeners Garden Club:** Trees and bushes in containers. Rancho Bernardo Swim & Tennis Club, Castille Room, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive. Info [www.bernardogardeners.org](http://www.bernardogardeners.org).

**March 19, 10am-12pm, Solana Center's Composting Workshop:** Ocean Knoll Educational Farm, 701 Bonita Drive, Encinitas. Info/register: [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org).

**March 19, Calif. Native Plant Society Explore Nature's Gardens:** San Diego National Wildlife Preserve - El Cajon. Info: [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org).

**March 21, 2pm, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club:** Colorful Plants for the Waterwise Garden. Rancho Bernardo Public Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Dr. Info: [www.lhnpc.org](http://www.lhnpc.org).

**March 26 & 27, Native Plant Society Explore Nature's Gardens:** San Anza Borrego Desert State Park, Campout in Palm Canyon. Info: [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org).

### Do you belong to a club or organization whose events aren't listed above?

For a FREE listing (space permitting) send details by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month BEFORE the event to Neal King at [calendar@sdhort.org](mailto:calendar@sdhort.org).

For an extensive list of garden club meetings and events, visit [sdfloral.org/calendar.htm](http://sdfloral.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: \$14/adults, \$10/seniors, \$8/kids 3-12; 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. Info., events, road conditions, etc.: (760) 767-5311 or [www.desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html](http://www.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 [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 [www.lifestyletalkradio.com](http://www.lifestyletalkradio.com).

### San Diego County Farmers Markets

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