

# Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

July 2017, Number 274

## Geraniums and Pelargoniums

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**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.

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

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

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### Workshop Ideas Wanted!

We are planning next year's workshops. If you have a topic, or a presenter, you'd like us to include next year, please email Anne Murphy at anne.murphy.gardening@gmail.com



**COVER IMAGE:** Join us on July 10 to hear Cynthia Pardoe, Pelargonium and Geranium expert, tell us all about new ways we can use this versatile group of plants in our San Diego gardens.

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

**NEXT MEETING: JULY 10****6:00 – 8:30 PM****SPEAKER:****Cynthia Pardoe: Artist and  
Pelargonium Expert**

On Monday, July 10, 2017, the San Diego Horticultural Society welcomes Cynthia Pardoe, multimedia artist, expert on pelargoniums/geraniums, and co-founder of the International Regal Pelargonium Preservation Project.

Cynthia loves her garden, and her landscape serves as inspiration for her various professional artistic endeavors. She was initially drawn to learning about the geranium family for use in her own garden, satisfying her quest for color, texture, minimal maintenance, and a low watering requirement. During this quest, she became concerned when she realized that varieties of pelargoniums were becoming difficult and sometimes impossible to find and that many old garden favorites had disappeared. In 2001, she became co-founder of the International Regal Pelargonium Preservation Project, which was established to collect and preserve all available varieties of regal pelargoniums. Her presentation will cover what is currently going on with the family of geraniums in this new global mega-monster agricultural marketplace and how we each can help to preserve what is still here.

Cynthia has contributed articles to the International Geranium Society's periodical *Geraniums Around The World* and San Diego Floral Association's *California Garden* magazine. Her garden has been featured in *The Reader* and in *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. In the late 1990s, KUSI came to her garden to showcase her collection for the news. She is the past president of the San Diego Geranium Society and has lectured about geraniums to plant societies and clubs throughout the west coast. She has also lectured internationally to other geranium and pelargonium enthusiasts for the past fifteen years. Cynthia continues to do her best to preserve endangered pelargoniums within this amazing geranium family and encourages others to help preserve them as well.

**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, plant display

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

**MEETINGS & EVENTS****JULY 10**

Cynthia Pardoe. The Geraniaceae Family and its Place in Southern California Gardens

**AUGUST 14**

Jim Bishop. My Life with Plants - Confessions of a Plantaholic

**SEPTEMBER 11**

Frank McDonough on 20 South African Plants every Home Landscaper Should Know

**OCTOBER 9**

Debra Baldwin on Designing with Succulents in the New San Diego Garden

**NOVEMBER 13**

Rick Dark on Gardens of the High Line: Elevating the Nature of Modern Landscapes

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The evening starts at 6:00 p.m. at the Congregation Beth Israel, 9001 Towne Centre Drive, San Diego. Parking is free and everyone is welcome. Admission is free for SDHS members and \$15 for non-members. For more information, call (619) 296-9215 or visit [sdhort.org](http://sdhort.org).

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Get more out of your membership by volunteering. We especially need folks who can help with the meeting set up and member check in at CBI on the second Monday of each month. Easy work, fun people and, as always, plenty of opportunities to 'Talk Plants'. If you can give a couple hours of your time 3-4 times a year, please email Patty Berg at [pattyjberg@gmail.com](mailto:pattyjberg@gmail.com).



## FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

### SDHS Night at the Fair

I hope you were able to join us for this year's SDHS Night at the Fair to see all the wonderful garden exhibits and to honor Debra Baldwin, our 2017 Horticulturalist of the Year. Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped make it a memorable event.

Our Fair exhibit took multiple awards this year. Please join me in thanking those responsible for creating the award-winning display: Mannah Gbeh, Terry Chamberlin, Greg Hunter, and Karen Krugman.

**Highlights of the May Board Meeting Finances:** After comparing year-to-date income and expenditures with those of the previous year, I'm happy to report that SDHS continues to be in good financial health. Our Spring Garden Tour, always a major source of income, was an outstanding success, and our ongoing expenses are within budget. Thanks again to all of those who helped out on tour day.

**Board Openings:** We still need to fill several critical positions on the Board. Most importantly, we need a new president. As mentioned in previous issues of *Let's Talk Plants*, my term will end in August. We are still looking for someone to fill this essential position and take the organization forward. While it is a big commitment, it is also a lot of fun. There's the chance to meet new people, see wonderful gardens, and, most of all, influence horticulture in San Diego. We are also looking for membership and volunteer chairs. The membership chair maintains our membership records, arranges for member check in and membership sales at meetings, and organizes new member orientations and outreach events. The volunteer chair schedules volunteers for events and organizes the yearly Volunteer Appreciation Party. Please contact me at [sdhspresident@sdhort.org](mailto:sdhspresident@sdhort.org) if you can serve.

**Online Newsletter:** We are moving ahead with plans to launch an online newsletter later this summer. The printed *Let's Talk Plants* is beautiful and has been an outstanding benefit to members for many years. However, at this point, only a very few of our members actually subscribe to the print edition. As the number of print subscriptions continues to decline, we are getting close to the point where we will not qualify for bulk mail. At that point, the cost to mail the print issue will become prohibitive. At the same time, the online pdf version, which is what most of our members receive, is not easy to read because of its length and format.

Our new website will have the same content as before,

but in a format designed for easy reading on computers, tablets, and phones. The website will be searchable, making it easy to find past articles, for example. There will be many photos of gardens and events to enjoy, as well as links to both content within our website and on other websites.

A mock-up of the new website was shared with the Board, who approved purchasing a name for the new site along with a one year subscription to a hosting service. Look for an announcement of a preview of the website later this summer.

**SDHS Workshops:** Under Anne Murphy's leadership, we have had outstanding workshops this year. More workshops are planned for the fall. Unfortunately, there have been a large number of "no-shows." Instead of cancelling in advance, people who cannot attend simply do not show up. Space at workshops is very limited; there is almost always a waiting list. It is important for people who find they cannot come to let Anne know in advance so someone else can fill their slot. The Board offered several ideas to address this issue, and the Workshop Committee subsequently decided that people who do not cancel in advance would not be able to register for future workshops. 🌿

## TO LEARN MORE...

### Endangered Plants

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Flora around the world face various threats as humans alter and encroach on their habitats. Although the threats vary by species and by region, this month's meeting presentation on endangered *Pelargonium* opens the conversation to threats to flora in general and what we can do about them.

Here's a site dedicated to providing educational articles, information, photographs, and advice about *Pelargonium* (the genus that includes geraniums). One page is devoted to describing endangered species of *Pelargonium*: [geraniumsonline.com/endangered.htm](http://geraniumsonline.com/endangered.htm).

Canadian Geraniums is a blog for our neighbors to the north to share their knowledge and stories. Here's a post about the rapid loss of many *Pelargonium* varieties: [canadiangeraniums.blogspot.com/p/pelargonium-mass-extinction.html](http://canadiangeraniums.blogspot.com/p/pelargonium-mass-extinction.html).

Beyond *Pelargonium*, you may be interested in taking a look at some other rare and endangered plants. The Center for Plant Conservation is a network of over 40 U.S. leading botanic institutions. Learn about who they are and what they do: [saveplants.org](http://saveplants.org).

And Botanic Gardens Conservation International is the comprehensive global plant conservation network. The information provided on BGCI's website is also comprehensive: [bgci.org](http://bgci.org). 🌿





## SCULPTURE IN THE GARDEN

**"Art is a harmony parallel with nature."  
— Paul Cezanne (1839–1906)**

San Diego Botanic Garden has a rich heritage of both natural and man-made garden art. Our 37-acre urban oasis provides the beautiful natural setting for this year's Sculpture in the Garden—a collection of over fifty works created by more than thirty artists, including renowned local artist James Hubbell.

Visitors are invited to engage with these diverse creations set against a unique backdrop of dragon trees, rare fruit gardens, bamboo groves, tranquil ponds, and other natural settings. Ranging from the whimsical to the abstract, each piece has been carefully placed to help guests visualize these stunning works of art in their own gardens. Visitors can enjoy a self-guided tour with a sculpture map from Welcome Center.

Sculpture in the Garden is on display from 9AM-5PM daily through early April 2018. All of the sculptures on display are for sale as part of the Garden's fund-raising effort, with a percentage of the proceeds going to maintain our urban oasis. Learn more at [sdbgarden.org](http://sdbgarden.org). 🌿



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## SDHS WINS TEN AWARDS FOR 2017 GARDEN EXHIBIT

By Terry Chamberlin

The results are in for SDHS's 2017 San Diego County Fair Garden Exhibit, The Urban Homestead.

Since last October, when Mannah Gbeh, Greg Hunter, Karen Krugman, and I answered Cindy Benoit's email looking for volunteers to create a garden on behalf of SDHS for the 2017 San Diego County Fair Garden Exhibit, it has been a roller coaster ride to the finish. After several attempts to come up with a garden theme, it was the Hort Society's Mission and Vision statements that ultimately led us to the Urban Homestead simple garden design created to educate the public about sustainable garden and agriculture practices which could be implemented in a home garden. Through the ups (meeting wonderful people) and the downs (death from shock of a 36" box tree four days before judging), the exhibit ultimately captured the judges' attention and earned the Hort Society ten awards.

In addition to a garden design sign and a plant list, we included a sign briefly outlining the guiding principles for the development of a back (or front) yard urban homestead, as well as a sign devoted to solitary bees. Web links were added to provide references where more detailed information could be found. To achieve a garden that embodied the urban homestead theme, vegetables, herbs, and fruit trees were included along with pollinator-friendly flowers and California native plants. A chicken coop (with live chickens), a beehive (without live bees), and a functional waterwheel that splashes water into a lily pond were among the practical and fanciful elements added to round out the urban homestead setting. As the garden included 110 different plants, please check out the Fair SDHS's webpage <http://tinyurl.com/SDHSFair2017> for the garden design, full plant list, and educational signs. We are humbled to have been given the opportunity to design this garden on behalf of the Hort Society, and we hope you will enjoy it, too!



Barbara Raub



## San Diego County Fair Awards

**2017 Paul Ecke, Sr.:** Best overall landscape exhibit awarded in memory of the Father of Commercial Floriculture in San Diego County

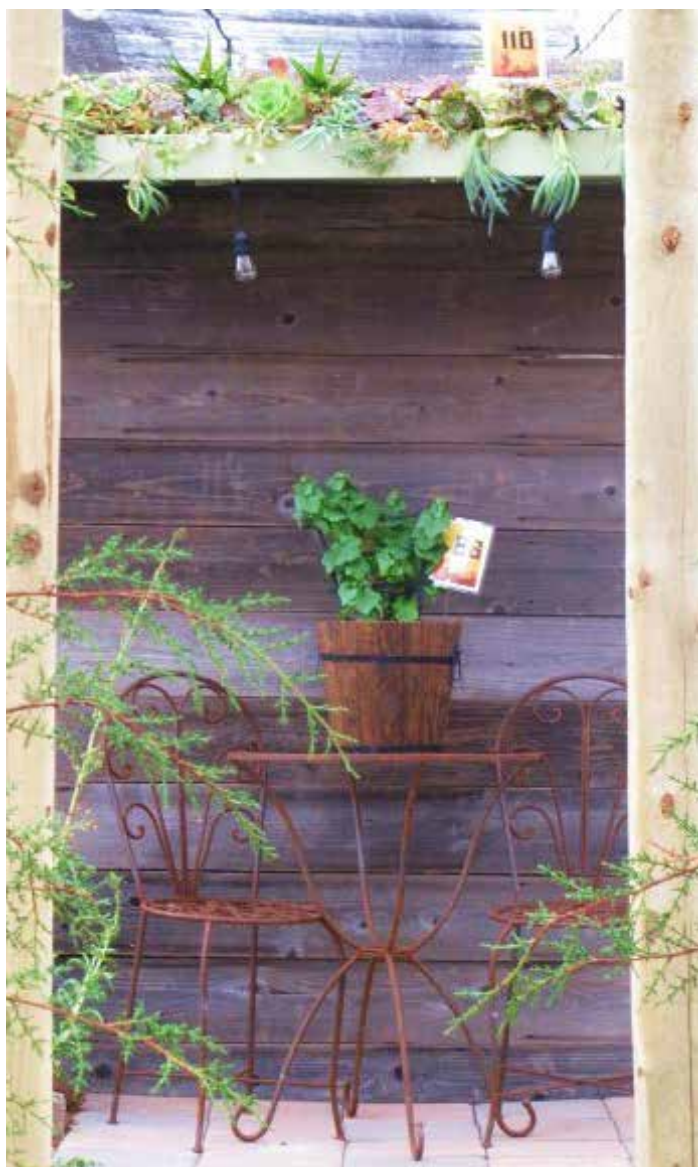
**2017 Paul Ecke, Jr. Garden Show Theme:** Third place for landscape exhibit best representing the Garden Show theme, "Happy Trails"

**Edgar Engert Educational Merit:** Landscape exhibit incorporating outstanding educational information and creative use of plant materials to encourage and inspire the home gardener


**Noteworthy Plant Specimen:** Green Ribbon for Friendship Sage (*Salvia 'Amistad'* PP23,578)



Barbara Raub (2)



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Barbara Raub

## Donated Awards

**2017 Kellogg Garden Products "Grow Your Own":** Second place for the garden that best incorporates edible components

**Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture:** Best landscape display presentation in the drawn landscape plan  
**Evergreen Nursery Green Leaf:** Best use of plants in a home garden setting

**J.C. Associates Organic:** Garden which best exemplifies the use of organic gardening practices

**Master Gardener Association Earth-Friendly Gardening:** Recognition of a garden that best demonstrates Earth-friendly Gardening principles

**San Diego County Water Authority's WaterSmart Landscape:** Garden exhibit that best exemplifies a WaterSmart Garden

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A warm hello to these new members:

Barbara P. Clark	Marc Schuckit
Lori Dittmann	Joe Sczempka
Ann Goran	Beth Sczempka
Suzanne Landa	Carl Strona
Stuart Robinson	Andrea Wagman-Christian
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## FAIR AWARDS GIVEN BY SDHS

The San Diego Horticultural Society is proud to have given seven Excellence in Horticulture awards to display gardens at the San Diego County Fair. These awards recognize the exceptional efforts of the many people who design and install the demonstration landscapes, a highlight of the Fair each year. Each award includes a cash prize (\$100 for each of six awards and \$500 for Most Outstanding Exhibit) and a one-year membership in SDHS. Congratulations to the winning gardens, which we hope you will have the opportunity to see at the Fair.

We thank our judges for the hours they spent judging the display gardens. This is not an easy task, as all the gardens are unique and each has its own charm. The judges for this year's awards were:

**Lisa Bellora** ([sandiegogardendesign.com/](http://sandiegogardendesign.com/)), former SDHS Member at Large

**Jason Chen**, incoming SDHS program chair

**Marilyn Guidroz** ([marilynsgarden.com](http://marilynsgarden.com/)), who designed our award-winning 2010 and 2011 Fair Gardens

**Susanna Pagan** ([spgardens.com](http://spgardens.com/)), who designed our award-winning 2012 Fair garden

**Susi Torre-Bueno**, past SDHS president and past newsletter editor

The **Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society** was the recipient of two awards. The Bill Teague Memorial Award for most Creative use of Unusual Plant Material was given for their outstanding display garden filled with amazing cacti. The garden contained a wealth of fascinating plants in a wide variety of shapes and colors, some of which are hard to find and difficult to grow. The garden was both educational and inspirational. The Society also won the Best Planted Container award. Their container garden had wonderful combinations of plants in a variety of unique, complementary pots. Some



of the pots even had spots to complement the plants they contained.

The Nomenclature Accuracy award went to the **San Diego Floral Society** for their beautiful garden with its great attention to detail and excellent nomenclature.



Barbara Raub (3)

**Jorge Robles** received the Best Native Plant Garden Award. His display garden had lovely, long-blooming and colorful native plants. Judges applauded his creative use of natives and noted that the entire garden consisted of only native plants.





The Best Expression of Garden Education award went to **Bonita Organic**, who provided great information on organic gardening in an educational exhibit that emphasized safe and easy gardening tips.



Barbara Raub (3)

Our Best Youth Garden award went to **San Pasqual Future Farmers of America**, whose garden showed a nice design with good balance. Judges particularly liked the elevation change, use of rocks, signage, and the interesting plant groupings.



The Don and Dorothy Walker Award for Most Outstanding Exhibit went to landscape contractor **Ramon Montes**, a new exhibitor at the Fair. His exhibit was so inviting and well designed that the judges wanted to walk in, sit down, and enjoy the setting. The use of space, plant materials, and building materials was outstanding, and the judges praised its well thought out and creative display.





## PACIFIC HORTICULTURE

### Eastern Cuba's Natural & Cultural Wonders

February 18–March 1, 2018

Join Pacific Horticulture as we return to Cuba to explore the eastern end of the island. With a vibrant history and culture, Eastern Cuba is home to an abundance of endemic species and pristine natural preserves.

Our itinerary for this twelve-day tour includes public gardens, national parks, research stations, and biosphere reserves, including the unique ecosystems of Pinares de Mayarí and Alejandro de Humboldt National Park. We'll examine the history, cultural influences, and modern day life of some of Cuba's vibrant cities, including Holguín, Baracoa (Cuba's oldest city), and Santiago de Cuba—the country's first capital and the birthplace of La Revolución.

Accompanied by expert in-country guides, we'll visit collections of tropical ferns, bromeliads, and orchids, and meet with researchers at the Cuban Academy of Sciences Integrated Mountain Research Station. We'll also explore the region's breathtaking forests, beaches, waterfalls, and mountains.

Richie Steffen, director and curator of the Elisabeth



Alejandro de Humboldt National Park is known for its extraordinary biodiversity.

Carey Miller Botanical Garden and co-author of *The Plant Lover's Guide to Ferns*, will escort this tour. For more details and booking information, visit [pacifichorticulture.org/tours/eastern-cuba](http://pacifichorticulture.org/tours/eastern-cuba).

As a SDHS partner, Pacific Horticulture offers SDHS members a special membership rate of \$24/year using discount code: SDHSPARTNER. You'll receive *Pacific Horticulture* magazine, as well as advance notice and discounts on tours and events. Visit [pachort.org](http://pachort.org) for details. 🌿

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## JUNE MEETING REPORT

By Lynn Langley

What a beautiful evening! The sky was clear and the sun was shining as members gathered at the Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair to honor the 2017 Horticulturist of the Year, Debra Lee Baldwin. Members and guests enjoyed wandering through the creative Western-themed garden installations until Jim Bishop called the meeting to order. San Diego Horticulture Society's Urban Garden was designed and installed by Terry Chamberlin, Mannah Gbeh, Karen Krugman, and Greg Hunter. Volunteers Pat Kroll, Georgana Winters, and Linda Canada assisted with the installation and Moosa Creek Nursery, Evergreen Nursery, and Briggs Tree Nursery donated plants. SDHS won ten awards, including the Paul Ecke Sr. Award for the best overall garden display. In addition, SDHS presented seven awards, including two given to the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society.

Following our discussion of Fair garden awards, Susi Torre-Bueno took the stage to introduce Debra Lee Baldwin, our Horticulturalist of the Year with a warm, succinct recap of Debra's growing contributions to horticulture, and her gift for photography and the written word, that led to today's ceremony. Her inaugural book, *Designing with Succulents*, was the first to emphasize gardens where succulents were the stars. This book, along with her two subsequent books, *Succulent Container Gardening* and *Succulents Simplified*, highlight succulents in ways never before imagined. They illustrate Debra's mantra, "flowers are fleeting, but foliage is forever." Susi outlined five ways Debra has illustrated using succulents in novel ways—getting rid of a thirsty lawn by replacing grass with drought tolerant succulents; placing succulents in pots going up a staircase; growing *Echeveria* in planters and letting them cascade; planting a succulent wall; and planting succulents in a water fountain, allowing them to be seen at eye level. Her ability to paint with words and her talent for photography allows her to share her expertise with others in a palatable way.

Debra talked of beginning her journey as a photojournalist telling the world about great horticulturists, enjoying her career as a garden scout for different publications. Editors from two of those publications were in the audience at the meeting. She introduced Peter Jensen, of *San Diego Home and Garden*, for whom she wrote her first article, "A Round-Up," almost 30 years ago. As her editor, he guided Debra as she honed her craft as a writer, showing her that she had the opportunity to make other people's lives and communities better through words and photos. Peter said that of all the journalists he has worked with during his career, she is the only one who never missed a deadline. Mary James, who was unable to be present at the meeting, was the *Homescape*



Sabrina Cole (2)



editor for the *San Diego Union-Tribune* and was another influential editor in Debra's career. Kathy Brenzel, also at the meeting, is an editor at *Sunset Magazine* who previously worked with Debra as a photojournalist. It was Kathy who suggested that Debra take her turn at writing a book about succulents, claiming that if she didn't, someone else would. Debra took her advice.

Debra's love of birds and succulents were reflected in the gifts created for Debra's guests and meeting volunteers by Jeanne Meadow and her crew in beautiful birdseed containers topped with succulents. To Debra, her garden is a scrapbook full of memories of the people who have given her plants or to whom she has given cuttings. It is a garden where friendship grows and blossoms, leading to offshoots in the community. On that thoughtful and inspiring note, the meeting adjourned for everyone to enjoy cake, the gardens, and a beautiful sunset. 🌅

## GROW IN ABUNDANCE

### Tomatoes 102

By Sommer Cartier

Summer's here! The season we await so we can enjoy the pleasure of biting into a plump, juicy, vine-ripened, homegrown tomato. As San Diegans, we live in perfect tomato climate—an ideal combination of sunlight, heat, and an extended warm season. This lends to easy tomato growing, even for the most challenged gardener. In fact, tomatoes thrive, and even excel, under stress. Even under less ideal conditions, they rise to the occasion and produce a beautiful crop of fruit ranging in color, shape, size, and flavor! You might even say that there's something to admire about the determination of a tomato! With a few helpful hints, you can reach a whole new level of tomato cultivation and further enjoy the experience.

Before planting your tomatoes, it's important to select varieties that fit both the growing conditions in your yard and your eating preferences. One thing to consider is the size of your garden. For small gardens or containers, plant determinate tomatoes. They're bushy and have genetic characteristics that limit their growth to about three or four feet in height. I've had tremendous success with 'Oregon Spring' and 'Celebrity' tomatoes.

With larger spaces, you have the luxury of choosing determinate and/or indeterminate tomatoes. The beauty in planting indeterminate tomatoes is they will produce tomatoes over a longer period of time. You also have a larger selection to choose from since the majority of tomatoes fall under this category.

Next, consider how you plan to eat your tomatoes. Here are a few of my favorites: (Note: 'I'=Indeterminate; 'D'=Determinate)

- Cherry tomatoes for snacking or salads: 'Sungold' (I) and 'Black Cherry' (I) are both super hardy plants known for producing an abundance of small, sweet fruit.
- Tomatoes for making sauces or canning: 'San Marzano' (I or D) or 'Roma' (D).
- Slicing tomatoes: 'Rutgers' (I or D) and Black Krim (I) are sweet medium sized meaty tomatoes sweet.
- Novelty tomatoes: 'Green Zebra' (I) has striped deep lime green fruit with a sweet tangy taste.

Once you have selected your tomato variety, it's time to place it in the ground (or pot). When planting tomatoes, always plant deep. Remove all leaves from the lower two thirds of the stem and bury this stem length in the soil. The plant will send out new roots along the lower stem, providing a more extensive and robust root system.

Remember to feed your plants with an organic fertilizer and water regularly while they are young and getting established. If you're starting with small plants, remove all



blossoms until they are two feet tall. This allows energy to go towards raising a strong healthy plant. Once your plant is two feet tall, let the flowering begin. Make sure there are plenty of bees to pollinate your tomato blossoms. If you find there is a shortage of bees, invite them to your garden by providing water for them and planting borage, lavender, pineapple sage, and African blue basil.

Finally, remember to provide support for your tomatoes. For bushier determinate tomatoes, a tomato cage works fine. For the more wild and prolific indeterminate tomatoes, you will need a taller structure for tying up limbs; keeping them off the ground will reduce their susceptibility to diseases. A tall vertical trellis works great. With this type of support, you can create an espalier effect, allowing the plant to spread out and benefit from adequate airflow. You can also create a tall wooden box frame above your tomatoes, securing tomato limbs to the frame.

These techniques will increase your harvest, and having more tomatoes means more opportunities for summer dinner parties and sharing with friends and neighbors. And remember, a healthy garden is a harvested garden!

Sommer Cartier is a certified Master Gardener with an MA in International Development and Social Change. Her specialty is working with local food systems and using gardens as a tool for community engagement. In her current position as a Branch Manager for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego, she is developing a garden program, Youth Grow, which aims to encourage children to make healthy food choices and connect them to their natural environment. 🌱



## THE REAL DIRT ON . . .

## Peter Raven, Biodiversity Maven

By Susan Krzywicki

Peter Raven is the beloved American botanist and environmentalist who has advised the Pope, run the famed Missouri Botanical Garden, and started the Center for Plant Conservation, which he recently moved from St. Louis to the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research.

Raven was born in Shanghai, China to American parents, but threat of war with Japan led the Raven family to move back to the Bay Area. He is a University of California, Berkeley graduate, with a Ph.D. in botany from UCLA. Peter taught biology at Stanford University before becoming director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, the nation's oldest botanical garden and a National Historic Landmark. In collaboration with the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, the Missouri Botanic Garden created the comprehensive online resource, The Plant List ([plantlist.org](http://plantlist.org)), which you may be familiar with.

## Biodiversity is Essential

In a recent Nature Magazine article entitled "Biodiversity: Extinction by numbers," Raven and co-author Stuart Pimm wrote, "How large will be the loss of species through human activities? And over what time period might that loss unfold? Habitat destruction is the leading cause of species extinction. Generally, many of the species found across large areas of a given habitat are represented in smaller areas of it. So habitat loss initially causes few extinctions [and] the peak of extinctions might not occur for decades."

Daniel Gluesenkamp, Executive Director of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), says of Raven: "The miracle of Peter Raven is not his powers of observation and clarity of vision, his brilliance as a botanist, nor the fact that he intuitively "gets" the mini-details of microevolution while also grokking the macro story of California's remarkable flora. It is that this is all brought together in one unusually likable human being. In conversation with Peter he will smoothly transition from speculating about year-to-year dynamics of *Clarkias* statewide, to his ambitious plan to back up California's flora, and conclude with him quoting Nirvana as he shares personal recollections of undeveloped San Francisco dunes. He is a leader, an inspiration, a singularly great role model even in this post-role model era."



Peter Raven, biologist and environmentalist.

## Consumption and Science

As a member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Raven was quoted on St. Louis Public Radio as saying, "The pope is so widely accepted as a world leader in these areas that I can only hope that his words will help to accelerate the negotiations about climate, about discharge of more greenhouse gases, and put a new level of serious debate into the discussion."

Raven continues to voice his message on overpopulation and overconsumption, and how we can save both plant and human life. He is forceful and animated in his call for us to consume less and pay attention to the natural world. And that, my fellow horticultural enthusiasts, is what we are doing.

Susan Krzywicki is a native plant landscape designer in San Diego. She has been the first Horticulture Program Director for the California Native Plant Society, as well as chair of the San Diego Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Gardens Committee and is on the Port of San Diego BCDC for the Chula Vista Bayfront. 🌿

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## TREES, PLEASE

## Wilt, Anyone?

By Tim Clancy

My first arboricultural encounter with lethal disease killing a tree from the inside was about 25 years ago. The tree, a white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), was located in a small planter carved out next to an office building in La Jolla. The tree had been in decline for a few years; it was able to produce new foliage each spring, but that foliage would wilt and die prematurely.

Eventually, it was decided that the tree would never make a full recovery and it should be removed. This task was contracted out to a local tree care firm. They, too, were perplexed at the cause of decay. I decided to stick around for the removal to see if I could determine anything by looking at the inside of the tree. The contractor cut me a couple of "tree cookies" so I could examine the tissue of the vascular system.

The first thing I noticed was an odor that did not smell like freshly cut disease-free wood. (At least in my experience.) Besides the odor, there was some discoloration in tree rings representing the previous nine years' growth. I was still unable to determine what the cause was, so I conferred with my friend and mentor. He put on his teaching hat and guided me through this mystery. One thing he confirmed was that in white alders, the odor could be diagnostic. He also



Wilt and dieback are commonly seen in trees infected with Verticillium.



A common symptom of Verticillium wilt is cracked bark with brown streaks.

confirmed that the discoloration of the tree's xylem (water conducting vessels) was out of the ordinary. These clues and the assistance of a book (*Diseases of Trees and Shrubs* by Wayne Sinclair and Howard H. Lyon) eventually led me to learn about Verticillium wilt.

Verticillium wilt is a systemic fungal disease that attacks many deciduous trees. The soil-borne fungal pathogen that causes it (either *Verticillium albo-atrum* or *Verticillium dahliae*) enters the tree through root wounds and causes a gradual wilting and death of branches, and can eventually kill highly susceptible trees. Affected trees will exhibit both wilt and dieback. Variable symptoms include rapid collapse of foliage and even large sections of the crown. Bark may crack and a brown fluid may ooze out of the trunk. Sometimes, leaf growth will be stunted, the leaves will cup and exhibit leaf scorch, and/or there is copious seed production, as well the eventual foliage decline.

It turns out that the tree I was dealing with was indeed subjected to root wounding nearly ten years prior to its removal. The building was taking on water at the base of the planter, so a waterproofing repair was made and the roots were compromised at this time. This is the year that the pathogen entered the tree and for the subsequent nine years, it slowly infected the tree until its untimely death. 🌿



## GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

### Easy to Grow

By Susan Krzywicki

Starting on the adventure of using California Natives can be daunting at times. So many plants...so many new names...but as with other types of gardening, from vegetables to orchids, there is a core group of plants that are a good entry point. These species are found in most nurseries and used in native plant landscaping. Begin with some of the following and you can make a fast start. These plants become like good friends: you learn their names, then their habitats, and eventually their quirks in your own garden. You will develop a long-lasting relationship with many of these easy-to-grow favorites.

### Smaller Perennials and Ground Covers

**Dwarf Coyote Bush** (*Baccharis pilularis* 'Pigeon Point'): Medium green "shag carpet" ground cover; great for hillsides.

**California Buckwheat** (*Eriogonum* sp.): Two of my favorites are *E. grande* var. *rubescens* (small with red blossoms) and *E. giganteum* (large with sprays of delicate white flowers).

**Island Bush Snapdragon** (*Gambelia speciosa*): This small shrub offers beautiful red flowers.

**Manzanita** (*Arctostaphylos* sp.): Look for species with a coastal sounding name—like 'Carmel Creeper' or 'Pacific Mist'.

**Cleveland Sage** (*Salvia clevelandii*): Our classic "California Coastal" plant.

### Shrubs

**Toyon** (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*): Vase-shaped form with cream-white flowers and red berries; they make up much our coastal scrub wildlands.

**California Coffeeberry** (*Rhamnus californica*): Sturdy, compact shrub with beautiful berries.

**Matilija Poppy** (*Romneya coulteri*): Spreading perennial with the most amazing white blooms with yellow centers.



*Romneya coulteri*, or Matilija Poppy, displays large sunny side up blooms.



*Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens*, or San Miguel Island Buckwheat is a butterfly magnet.

### Larger Shrubs and Small Trees

**Manzanita** (*Arctostaphylos* sp.): Try 'Dr. Hurd', which has larger, rounder leaves than most in a pale grey-green.

**Western Redbud** (*Cercis occidentalis*): Deciduous fall foliage tree with magenta flowers in spring.

**Catalina Ironwood** (*Lyonothamnus floribundus* ssp. *asplenifolius*): Tall, narrow tree reaching up to fifty feet; fern shaped leaves and bark resembling that of a redwood tree.

**Torrey Pine** (*Pinus torreyana*): Our local symbol; it is rare, so adding one to your garden is a real treat.

**Holly-Leafed Cherry** (*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *ilicifolia*): Large shrub with white spring flowers and red fall berries; can be pruned to encourage a graceful shape.

**Lemonadeberry** (*Rhus integrifolia*): Large shrub with berries that really do taste like lemons!

### Your Results May Vary

As with all plant lists, it may be that you have tried a particular plant and didn't find it to be "easy" or it didn't perform for you. In that case, just move on to another choice. With over 6,000 native plant species, you will create your own personal "Easy to Grow" list and you will come to love your favorites for their ability to make your garden more beautiful and create habitat.

Susan Krzywicki is a native plant landscape designer in San Diego. She was the first Horticulture Program Director for the California Native Plant Society, as well as chair of the San Diego Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Gardens Committee, and is on the Port of San Diego BCDC for the Chula Vista Bayfront. 🌿

## MY LIFE WITH PLANTS

By Jim Bishop

This is the first of two articles about the recovery and revival of plant life at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park following the October 2003 Cedar Fire.

### Climbing Cuyamaca: Part I

Back in the mid-1990s, I did several mountain bike rides in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. I especially recall a ride along Green Valley Trail, which passes the upper and lower falls of the Sweetwater River and runs through large stands of fragrant pale blue *Ceanothus*. Another time, I rode between the three peaks of the Cuyamaca Mountains on a trail that passed through large stands of pine forest. However, in the fall of 2003, the Cedar Fire burned over 24,000 acres of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, killing 95% of the pine trees in the park. Disheartened by the damage, Scott and I hadn't visited the park much since the fire. However, with the abundant rain and snowfall this year, we decided to take a closer look at Cuyamaca Peak in early May on an 8-mile hike climbing 1800 feet to the top.

The trail up is a wide graded dirt fire road. Most of the roadside has a very dense cover of *Ceanothus* up to twelve feet high that has grown to replace the pine forest. Most of it is so dense as to be impenetrable. Pockets of wildflowers grow in openings along the road and when we visited, white

*Ceanothus* was in full bloom at lower elevations. Higher up, the *Ceanothus* was not yet in bloom, but at the very top the mountain, a dark blue species of *Ceanothus* was in bloom. There were some small oaks that had survived the fire and were mostly recovering from dense growth at the base of very large burned tree trunks. Dead trunks of burned pines remained upright in many places. Also, new short, dense, beautiful pine trees were mixed in with the *Ceanothus*.

Without the forest cover, the views from the mountain are spectacular and they only improve moving up the trail. Looking to the east, there's a good view of other peaks in the park, Lake Cuyamaca, the Laguna Mountains, high desert peaks, and the Salton Sea. At the top of the mountain, we gazed towards the desert across the green hills of the park and then turned westward to see out as far as the Pacific Ocean. The vegetation changes with elevation and those who reach the top are rewarded with the chance to see some species that don't grow elsewhere in the County. The fire

Pale pink Phlox unassumingly crawls along the trail up to Cuyamaca Peak.



In this view east towards Cuyamaca Lake, the remains of burned pine trees surrounded by new chaparral growth are seen in the foreground.





spared a few large cedars, pines, and fir trees on east side of the peak, giving a sense of what the forest looked like before it burned. Most notable were some very large manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos*) in full bloom, covered with honeybees and black native bumblebees. The bell-shaped flowers were a bright pink color set against large dark green leaves atop several beautifully sculpted, smooth red-bark trunks. Any of us would grow this plant in our gardens, if only we could.

Other notable wildflowers sprinkled along the trail were yellow-orange wallflowers, bright red *Penstemon*, blue-eyed grass, both white and pale pink *Phlox* groundcover, several species of lupine, chaparral pea, and clumps of red-orange paintbrush. New to me was *Viola pedunculata*, with yellow pansy-like flowers and fuzzy leaves, and near the top of the peak stood a single large dogwood tree in full bloom.

We decided to take the Azalea Glen Trail back down. It was much narrower—to the point of being overgrown in some places—and very rocky with little flat ground. We never did find any western azaleas, which are supposed to grow in the area, but noted a white-flowered shrub related to blueberries that might have been mistaken for an azalea. We also observed some Humboldt lilies that will bloom later in the season. The lower portion of the trail crossed a few small spring-fed creeks and some areas that weren't burned. As we got closer to the parking lot, we again entered the large stands of snow-white *Ceanothus* surrounding burned pine trees and set off against the bright blue sky with fire-cracker-red *Penstemon* along the trail.

Stay tuned for Part 2, my follow-up hike in the Cuyamacas, next month. 🌿

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## BOOK REVIEW

*Invitation to the Garden: A Celebration in Literature & Photography*

Edited By Ferris Cook

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

You'll have to excuse me. I'm just recovering from an attack of nostalgia. Do you remember the book, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett? If you've never read it, go out of your way to find it. I'm thinking about it because the book I read for this month has an excerpt from it. It's the section in which nine-year-old orphan Mary first enters the garden. She thinks all the plants are dead, but then she notices little green spears poking up through the soil and fighting their way through weeds and grass. It's a magical scene.

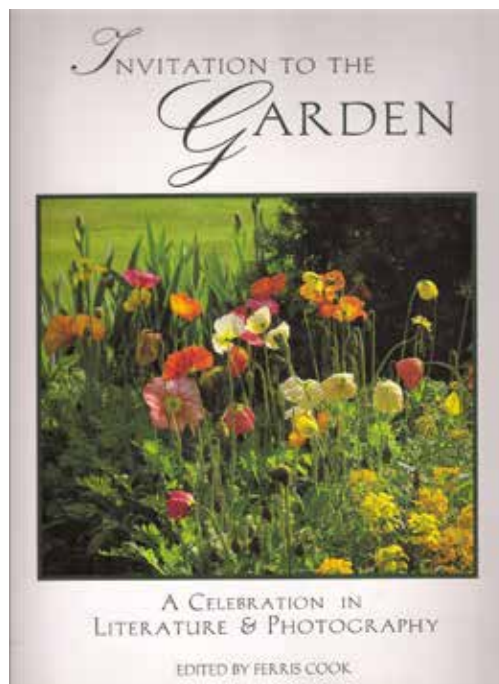
This short excerpt is one of 93 sections of prose and poetry in *Invitation to the Garden: A Celebration in Literature & Photography*. This is a delightful coffee table book. I don't know whether people still have coffee tables featuring artfully arranged books—none of my friends do—but this book would be perfect for that. Your guests would get great pleasure leafing through it, enjoying the photos, and savoring the short readings.

Thirty-six of the ninety-three readings are poems. Most of the authors wrote during the 19th and 20th centuries—poets such as Homer, Chaucer, Shakespeare, John Donne, Andrew Marvell, and Po Chu-I are included. Some of the prose authors are Lewis Carroll, Colette, Virginia Woolf, H.G. Wells, and A.A. Milne. What a rich selection. If you are an aspiring writer, this is just the kind of book to study for examples of the best writing of different eras.

One section is especially charming. It has inscriptions from sundials, of all things. The inscriptions are variations on a theme that time is fleeting and human life short. My favorite: *Haste, traveller, on thy way. / The Sun is sinking low. / He shall return again, / but never thou.* Not a cheery thought, but still, interesting.

I've told you about the words. The more than 100 pictures, by nine different photographers, are equally eye-catching. My favorite is a spectacular photo of prize-winning onions that accompanies Pablo Neruda's poem "Ode to the Onion."

Editor Ferris Cook is both an artist and a writer. Her wide knowledge of garden writing and photography is on display here. She has a number of other books in print, some illustrated by her own very fine drawings instead of photos. Two that I found listed were *Bark: Selected Poems about Dogs*



and *Yowl: Selected Poems about Cats*. These and *Invitation to the Garden* could cover just about everyone on your Christmas list.

Just a small note: It may take a little work to find them. *Invitation to the Garden* is one of those few books that doesn't show up on Amazon either by title or by editor, so you'll have to use the ISBN—I-55670-397-X. It's definitely worth making the effort. 🌿

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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 [sdhort.wildapricot.org/SharingSecrets?eid=1093874](http://sdhort.wildapricot.org/SharingSecrets?eid=1093874). Also, you can continue the discussion by adding new replies online to Sharing Secrets topics.

**The question for July was: What summer edibles are you planting this year? Is there anything different or special you do with your summer garden?**

**Charlotte Getz:** I planted strawberries, five varieties of tomatoes, cantaloupe, yellow peppers, carrots, and eggplant. Because I live so close to the coast, it's a challenge to plant cantaloupe, peppers, and eggplant. We will see if there is enough sun this summer to ripen those plants.

**Lisa Lindmark:** The standard—tomatoes (several varieties), squash, peppers, chiles, chard, herbs, etc. Plus capers.

**Sabine Prather:** I'm growing tomatoes and hopefully dill. That's all. It's a new garden and will take time.

**Lucy Warren:** My one-pot vegetable garden includes a zucchini, two tomato plants, and basil. Alas, I have already consumed my sumptuous crop of artichokes.

**Cindy Sparks:** This year, I have planted special Fordhook lima beans because my boyfriend requested them. I haven't done limas before and I always worry that my fog belt patch may not get enough sun and heat to ripen anything. But I've prepared a big plot in my best sun, planted an entire bag of limas, and we will just have to wait and see. Richard has promised that no matter how big the harvest, he will eat every one.

**Susan Oddo:** Tomatoes! Virtually anything else at the farmers markets is wonderful but there is nothing like a fresh picked tomato.

**Susan Ward:** This year, I am hand-pollinating passion flowers because I missed out on some fruit last year. How delicious it is.

**Barbara Dunn:** Tomatoes, apples, oranges, lemons, peaches, basil, lettuce. What did I do different? My raised bed receives too much shade so I planted lettuce.

**Susi Torre-Bueno:** I planted tomatoes in March/April and we're already eating them. Some of the most vigorous tomatoes are ones that self-seeded from last year's plants. My

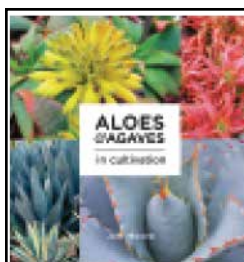
raised veggie beds are in a bit of a transitional state, so I'm taking advantage of their current drip irrigation lines to start cuttings of salvias and other plants. The drip is also good for growing some tiny agave plants from my plant that sent up a 15' tall spike of flowers (which turned into about 1,167 baby plants). It seems to be loving a bit of tomato leaf shade, too.

**Tynan Wyatt:** This year, I finally have a house instead of an apartment! It was a bit ironic that the company that flipped my house spent a couple thousand bucks on the sod and irrigation system because my grass is brown, brown, brown. So I weed-whacked twelve one-foot plots right in the middle of the front lawn and sowed some seeds. These included three types of watermelons, four types of melons, and two types of squash. I spot water these by hand. I also have some new veggies in pots I'm trying this year: zucchini and Brussels sprouts. These are in addition to my carrots and basil added to the 15-gallon pots that my trees are already growing in. And my final new experiment for the summer is four ever-bearing strawberries in a 15-gallon square container. I've found the strawberries like the consistent moisture a big soil base can give them.

**Dayle Cheever:** I have a coastal garden and generally do better with cool weather crops, so I have a light summer garden. Even at the beach, I find that summer gardens take a lot of water. This year, I decided to try one watermelon in a very sunny patch (if the sun ever comes out) and three cucumber plants in my raised bed. I also have a small volunteer tomato from last year that looks rather sad, but I have to admire any plant that is trying so hard to survive.

**Vivian Black:** I've already planted strawberries, tomatoes, pansies, poppies, water hyacinths, water irises, water lettuce, and Azolla.

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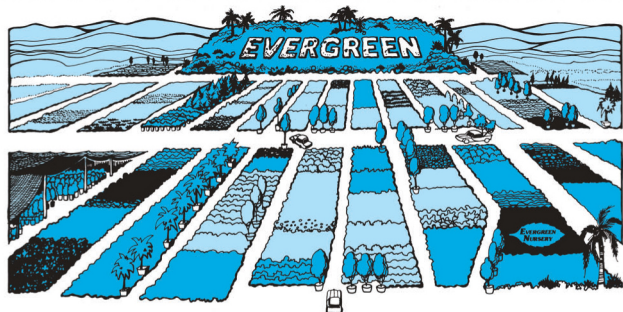


## What's Happening? for JULY 2017

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 Barbara Patterson at [calendar@sdhort.org](mailto:calendar@sdhort.org).

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### DRIVE THRU SHOPPING

Use your car as a shopping cart!!!



### UNBEATABLE VALUE

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

### Come on out and see for yourself!

- 1 gallon plants starting at \$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 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Free Monthly Seminar

*Starting at 10am at three locations: Carmel Valley, Oceanside and El Cajon*

### July 1, Summer Color and Fragrances

Come be amazed at the many different choices of color and fragrances for your garden. Learn how to choose the best color for your garden and your micro-climate. Seating limited. Call numbers below to reserve your seat.

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  
TBA – check their website calendar.

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** Contact info on other side  
**July 8, 9:00am-Noon, Living Wall/Vertical Garden:** Learn the basics of planting a living wall. You will plant a 10" X 20" wall of succulent varieties. Register early as classes sell out. (Ages 18+) Members \$30, non-members \$36 plus \$80 per student materials fee paid directly to the instructor, Mary Lou Morgan, at the class.

**July 8, 9am-Noon, Why You Should Have a Vegetable Garden:** Create a start-to-finish plan for a small raised bed garden, window box herb garden and patio garden. Site selection, soil preparation and choosing the right vegetables will be discussed. Each participant will create his own garden plan. Instructor: Jano Nightingale. (Ages 18+) Members \$45, non-members \$54 plus a \$10 per student materials fee paid directly to the instructor.

**Last Saturday of month, 10:30am, Waterwise Tour:** There are so many alternatives to using large amounts of water in the garden. Come see our gardens and take home lots of tips for conserving water in your own garden.

### ❖ The Water Conservation Garden

Contact info on other side.

**July 1, 11am-3pm, Faeries in The Garden:** A special event to fund free art classes for children at The Garden. Local artists works for sale, fun activities and demonstrations, food trucks, costume parade and more. Cost: \$5 per person at the door. Under 3 years, free.

**July 16, 10am-11am, Free Special Access Tour:** If you have trouble navigating the terrain of The Garden, go for a ride instead! Explore the garden from the comfortable Verbeck Shuttle with a garden docent. Tour seats only 4-5 people. Advanced reservations required. Call (619) 660-0614 Ext. 16. Free.

## Events Hosted by SDHS Sponsors

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

♦ **Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops** Info:  
[www.barrelsandbranches.com](http://www.barrelsandbranches.com).

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

♦ **Sunshine Care - FREE Seminar Each Month**

**July 15, 10:30am-noon:** Wonderful Plants from the Desert Southwest. Speaker will be Wendy Proud of Mountain States Wholesale Nursery. Seating is limited to the first 45 people. RSVP: (858) 472-6059 or [roy@sunshinecare.com](mailto:roy@sunshinecare.com). [www.sunshinecare.com](http://www.sunshinecare.com).

♦ **Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes**  
Details at [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

#### Point Loma, 9am

July 1 Summer Vegetables  
July 8 Plumeria Care  
July 15 Water Gardens  
July 22 Bromeliades & Tillandsias  
July 29 Staghorn Care & Mounting

#### Poway, 9:30am

No Class  
Organic Insect Controls  
Summer Fruit & Pruning  
Maximizing Your Soil  
To be Determined

## Next SDHS Meeting

July 10:

**All in the Family:  
Geraniums & Pelargoniums  
With Cynthia Pardoe**

See page 1 & website for details

**More garden-related events  
on other side.**

## Other Garden-Related Events:

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

**July 8, 3pm-4:30pm, UCCE San Diego County Healthy Garden/Healthy Home Program:** Starting to Grow Your Own Food? Learn How to Win the Battle Against Pests! Learn how to keep your plants healthy, how to prevent pests from the start and how to tell good from bad bugs. Free garden gift for the first 50 attendees! Fallbrook Branch Library, 124 S. Mission Rd., Fallbrook. Additional info: <http://cesandiego.ucanr.edu> or (858) 822-6932.

**July 9, 1pm-3:30pm, Southern California Plumeria Society:** Lei Making Workshop with Kumu Kapena. Bring your own plumerias, and create a beautiful lei. Raffle and sales tables. Farb Middle School, 4880 La Cuenta Dr., San Diego.

**July 15, 10am-11:30am, UCCE San Diego County Healthy Garden/Healthy Home Program:** Starting to Grow Your Own Food? Learn How to Win the Battle Against Pests! Learn how to keep your plants healthy, how to prevent pests from the start and how to tell good from bad bugs. Free garden gift for the first 50 attendees! Crest Branch Library, 105 Juanita Lane, El Cajon. Info: <http://cesandiego.ucanr.edu> or (858) 822-6932.

**July 18, 6:30pm-8:30pm, California Native Plant Society San Diego Chapter:** Native Plants & Permaculture. Alden Hough (Sky Mtn. Permaculture Institute), Diane Kennedy (Finch Frolic Garden) and Christina Simokar (Cal State San Marcos). More info at [www.cnpsd.org](http://www.cnpsd.org)

**July 22, 10am-11:30am, UCCE San Diego County Healthy Garden/Healthy Home Program:** Control Ants the Healthy Way! Learn how to make your home and garden less attractive to ants, what to do when ants invade your home, what to do when there are ants in your plants, why spraying chemicals does not provide effective control of ants and how and why ant baits really work. Free garden gift for the first 50 attendees! Lakeside Branch Library, 9839 Vine St., Lakeside. Info: <http://cesandiego.ucanr.edu> or (858) 822-6932.

**July 26, 7-9pm, California Rare Fruit Growers San Diego Chapter:** Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Program to be announced. More info: [www.crfgsandiego.org](http://www.crfgsandiego.org)

**July 29 & 30, Saturday Noon to 5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm, San Diego County Orchid Society:** Orchids in the Park Show & Sale: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. More information: [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)

**July 29, 10am-11:30am, UCCE San Diego County Healthy Garden/Healthy Home Program:** Control Ants the Healthy Way! Learn how to make your home and garden less attractive to ants, what to do when ants invade your home, what to do when there are ants in your plants, why spraying chemicals is not the answer. Free garden gift for the first 50 attendees! Valley Center Branch Library, 29200 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center. Additional information: <http://cesandiego.ucanr.edu> or (858) 822-6932

**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 Barb Patterson at [calendar@sdhort.org](mailto:calendar@sdhort.org).

**For an extensive list of garden club meetings and events, visit [www.sdfloreal.org/calendar](http://www.sdfloreal.org/calendar)**

## 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/\$5. 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:** Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-4pm. 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 Show:

**Garden America Radio Show (local).** Saturday 8-10am on KPRZ 1210AM radio. Hosts Bryan Main, John Bagnasco and Tiger Palafox. Call-in questions to toll-free number (855) 424-9825. Each show also features an industry "expert". Podcast and live stream are available through "Biz Talk Radio". Archived shows are posted on the "Biz Talk Radio" website: [www.biztalkradio.com](http://www.biztalkradio.com).

### San Diego County Farmers Markets

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