

## 2012 Fair Awards Given by SDHS

The San Diego Horticultural Society is proud to have given six Excellence in Horticulture awards to display gardens at the Fair – photos of the gardens are on the inside front cover and on our Facebook page. These awards recognize the exceptional efforts of the many people who design and install the demonstration landscapes that are a highlight of the Fair. Each award includes a cash prize (\$100 for the first five, and \$500 for the Most Outstanding Exhibit) and a one-year membership in SDHS. Our very thoughtful judges this year were: Kristi Beach ([www.AkanaDesign.com](http://www.AkanaDesign.com)), who won our award for Nomenclature Accuracy in 2010; Lynlee Austell-Slayter, who taught our May workshop on Sustainable Garden Maintenance; landscape architect Chris Drayer ([www.ChrisDrayer.com](http://www.ChrisDrayer.com)), who designed the xeriscape gardens at the Rancho La Puerta spa in Tecate, Mexico and led our tour there this spring; Sergio Regalado ([www.PlantPlay.com](http://www.PlantPlay.com)), who owns Plant Play nursery in Carlsbad and designed the award-winning SDHS Fair garden in 2009; and newsletter editor Susi Torre-Bueno. We thank them for the hours they spent judging all the display gardens. Congratulations to these six winning gardens, which we hope you got a chance to enjoy during the Fair.

The Nomenclature Accuracy award for 100% perfect nomenclature went to **Seasons in the Garden**. Hats off everyone involved. Their colorful and fun garden had a selection of edibles, many with names matched to this year's Fair theme of Cosmic Spaces. We especially liked how user-friendly and easy to find their plant nametags were.

The Bill Teague Memorial Award for Creative Use of Unusual Plant Material was given to **Solana Succulents**, who also won this award in 2011 and 2010 (and several previous years as well). Designer Jeff Moore, a longtime SDHS member and sponsor (see page 17), created an alien invader-themed low-water garden ("attack of the euphorbians") showcasing the fascinating foliage and form of succulent plants (many sprouting from custom-made creature containers, or sporting googly eyes).

Our award for Best Youth Garden went to **EI Capitan FFA**, whose lush jungle garden was designed to remind us of the planet Pandora from the movie *Avatar*. They won this award in 2011, too!

**Surfrider Foundation** won the award for Best Expression of Garden Education with their handsome display of California native and water-thrifty plants and sustainable garden features. There was a dry streambed, permeable paving, rainwater capture, etc.

The Best Planted Container award winner was **Chris Manion**, who had an especially large and interesting garden on display with the San Diego Hon Non Bo Association. This style of tray garden originated in Vietnam and Chris' entry included water features, very interesting plants, and much to capture the imagination.

Our Don & Dorothy Walker Award for Most Outstanding Exhibit went to **Alleé Landscape Design** and SDHS member Kimberly Alexander for her outstanding modern garden, which was an exceptionally beautiful interpretation of the Fair theme. It featured outstanding hardscape, including a very large stucco wall with cut out shapes and a very handsome recycled glass rill; and water-thrifty plants in a formal design that was a striking example of creative thinking. This is all the more impressive knowing that it was Kimberly's first Fair garden entry. Bravo!