

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

July 2013, Number 226

Succulents Simplified

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On the Cover: Color echoes and contrasts



CUYAMACA COLLEGE ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Fall 2013 Class Schedule

August 19 – December 16

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>
Xeriscape – Water Conservation	Rottke	M 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Floral Design I	Citrowske	T 4:00 – 8:50 pm
Floral Design II	Citrowske	M 4:00 – 9:50 pm
Fundamentals of OH	Staff	Th 7:00 – 8:50 pm
Saturdays 9/7, 9/21, 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 12/7		8:00 am – 3:20 pm
Fundamentals of OH	Schultz	Th 11:00 am – 4:50 pm
Greenhouse Management	Palafox	W 12:00 – 4:50 pm
Golf and Sports Turf Management	Spardy	W 5:00 – 6:50 pm
Saturdays 8/24, 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 11/23		8:00 am – 3:20 pm
Plant Materials: Trees & Shrubs	Whitney	Th 3:45 – 6:50 pm
Plant Materials: Trees & Shrubs	Schultz	T 2:00 – 5:50 pm
Landscape Drafting	Holladay	M 1:00 – 4:50 pm
(8 week course beginning August 26)		
Intro to Landscape Design	Holladay	W 12:00 – 4:50 pm
Annuals & Perennials	Rottke	W 4:00 – 6:50 pm
Principles of Irrigation	Monroe	M 12:30 – 4:40 pm
Urban Forestry (8/22 to 9/14)	Rottke	Th 5:00 – 6:50 pm
Saturdays 8/24 – 9/14		8:00 am – 3:20 pm
Palms and Related Plants (9/19 to 10/17)	Simpson	Th 5:00 – 6:50 pm
Saturdays 9/28 – 10/12		8:00 am – 3:20 pm
Specialized Pruning (10/24 to 12/5)	Rottke	Th 5:00 – 6:50 pm
Saturdays 11/9 – 11/23		8:00 am – 3:20 pm
Diagnosing Horticultural Problems	Simpson	M 5:00 – 7:30 pm
Sustainable Urban Landscapes	Whitney	W 7:00 – 8:50 pm
Landscape Water Management	Crais	T 1:00 – 4:50 pm
Business Practices for OH	Crais	T 5:00 – 7:50 pm
Advanced C.A.D.	Sumek	F 12:00 – 3:15 pm
Cooperative Work Experience	Palafox	Hours To Be Arranged

Cooperative Work Experience Required Orientation Friday, August 16 at 5:00 pm in M-111

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL (619) 660-4262 or
VISIT THE ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE WEBSITE**

www.Cuyamaca.edu/ohweb



It's all
about
growing...

Come learn
about growing
with us.

Ornamental Horticulture Department Orientation

Majors include:

**Sustainable Urban Landscapes - Irrigation Technology ~ Landscape
Technology - Golf and Sports Turf Management ~ Arboriculture
Landscape Design ~ Nursery Technology ~ Floral Design**

Wednesday, August 14, 2013 ~ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Cuyamaca College ~ Room M-111

900 Rancho San Diego Parkway ~ El Cajon, CA 92019

**The free presentation is open to everyone, including new and continuing students. Meet
the professors, find out about classes, careers, job opportunities, and the
Ornamental Horticulture Program at Cuyamaca College.**

**For more information, please call John Thomas at 619-660-4262
Or visit us online at Cuyamaca.edu/OHweb**

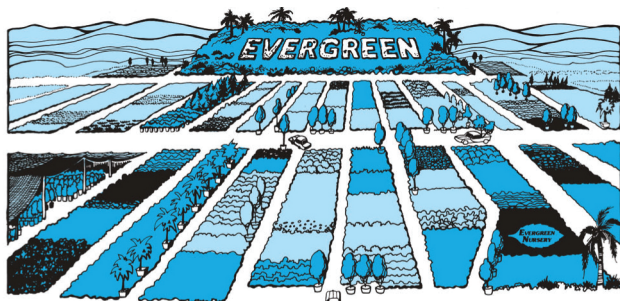
What's Happening? for JULY 2013

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

Send calendar listings by the 10th of the month before the event to Neal King at calendar@sdhortsoc.org.

▼ SDHS Sponsor

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Spring/Summer Hours

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

Free Monthly Seminar

*First Saturday of every month
Starting at 10am at both locations*

July 6

Landscaping with Succulents & Natives

Creating a beautiful landscape with
succulents and natives without looking
like a desert. Yes, it can be done and
you'll also use a lot less water.

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

www.evergreennursery.com

Send questions and comments to:
info@evergreennursery.com

Two Convenient Locations:

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

OCEANSIDE
3231 Oceanside Blvd.
(760) 754-0340

Events at Public Gardens

❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** contact info on other side

July 4, 6:30pm, Fourth of July Dinner & Fireworks.

See www.avgardens.org for events & classes.

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** contact info on other side

Most are free with membership or admission.

Through August 29, Family Fun Night: The Garden stays open until 8 pm on Thursday nights. Special interactive Environmental Science Programs on July 18, & August 29. We will have activities for children every Thursday in the Hamilton Children's Garden from 4:30 – 6 pm, followed by entertainment.

Through April, 2014, Sculpture in the Garden: Sculptures from regional artists installed in natural setting.

July 6, 9am-1pm, Garden Photography Workshop: Learn proven techniques from local plant and garden photographer, Bob Bretell. Members \$59, non-members \$69.

July 13-14, 10am-4pm, Insect Festival: This one-of-a-kind event features thousands of fascinating creepy-crawlies including live insects, lizards, snakes, and the famous "Madagascar hissing cockroaches."

❖ **The Water Conservation Garden**

contact info on other side

July 6, 10am-noon, Creating A Succulent Wall: how to make your own living piece of art. Pre-registration is necessary. Members free, non-members \$10.

July 10, 6-8pm, Free Tour, Evening In The Garden: unique tour to discover "little known plant facts".

July 21, 9:30-10:30am, Free Special Access Tour: Explore The Garden from the comfort of the Verbeck Shuttle with a Garden docent.

Events Hosted by SDHS Sponsors:

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

✿ **Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops**

Info: www.barrelsandbranches.com, (760)753-2852 or danica@barrelsandbranches.com

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

Details at www.cedrosgardens.com; address in ad on page 17.

✿ **City Farmers Nursery Classes**

See www.cityfarmersnursery.com or call (619) 284-6358.

✿ **Evergreen Nursery FREE Seminar Each Month**

See column at left for details.

✿ **Grangetto's FREE Workshops**

TBA - Info & registration: www.grangettosgardenclub.com/workshops

✿ **Sunshine Care FREE Workshop**

July 20, 10:30am, TBA.

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

✿ **Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes**

Details at www.walterandersen.com; addresses in ad on page 15

	Point Loma, 9am	Poway, 9:30am
July 6	Summer Water Guide	TBA
July 13	Great Grasses for Ground Covers	TBA
July 20	Staghorn Fern Remounting Class	TBA
July 27	Native Plants	TBA

✿ **Waterwise Botanicals**

Tom Jesch will teach a FREE workshop (for SDHS members) on "Water Features the Natural Way." For info and registration go to www.sdhort.org and click on Events.

✿ **Weidners' Gardens classes & workshops**

July 20-21, Begonia Festival: Learn all about begonias and enjoy homemade begonia sorbet! Dig your own begonias and save money.

Details & registration at www.weidners.com.

Next SDHS Meeting

July 8 - Debra Lee Baldwin on Succulents Simplified

See page 1 for details

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

Other Garden-Related Events:

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

♦ July 14, 1:30pm, American Begonia Society: Begonias Species. FREE. 423 Rancho Santa Fe Road, Encinitas. For info call (760) 815-7014.

♦ July 16, 6:30pm, California Native Plant Society: "Irrigation, Planning, & Maintenance," Coffee, Camaraderie and Questions, and "Orchids Native to Southern California." Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. Info: (760) 434-5033, www.cnpsd.org.

♦ July 19 (4pm-6pm), 20 & 21, 11am-4pm, Art in Bloom: Meet the artists, artisans and floral designers and see them demonstrate their creativity. Balboa Park, Spanish Village Art Center, 1770 Village Place. FREE. See article on page 3 and ad on page 9.

♦ July 27, 10am-11:30am, Control Ants the Healthy Way (taught in SPANISH): A great way to brush up on your Spanish - and please share this with your Spanish-speaking friends, family & neighbors.

Control las hormigas de manera segura y efectiva!

El manejo de las plagas de las plantas en el paisaje y en el jardín es un desafío que enfrenta todo jardinero. En el ambiente actual de mentalidad verde, el público esta en una constante búsqueda de alternativas seguras para controlar sus problemas de plagas. La Universidad de California y el Programa Jardín Sano – Hogar Sano le invita a participar en un taller gratis acerca del control de las hormigas de manera segura y efectiva. Este taller será ofrecido en la biblioteca Vista, ubicada en Vista en la dirección 700 Eucalyptus Avenue de 10:00 – 11:30 AM el sábado 27 de julio del 2013. El taller de 90 minutos brindará a los participantes consejos sobre cómo hacer que su casa y su jardín sea menos atractivo para las hormigas, lo que se puede hacer cuando las hormigas invaden su hogar y jardín, por qué rociar productos químicos no proporciona un control eficaz de las hormigas, cómo funcionan los cebos y por qué son la alternativa más eficaz, y mucho, mucho más. Los primeros 50 participantes del taller recibirán un regalo para el manejo de plagas.

Para más información acerca de este taller comunitario y otros en el futuro, por favor contacte el programa Jardín Sano/Hogar Sano favor contactar a Scott Parker por el teléfono 858-822-6932 o saparker@ucanr.edu.

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

San Diego County Farmers Markets

www.sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farmers-Markets.php

MONDAY: Escondido - Welk Village

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

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

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

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

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

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

For an extensive list of garden club meetings and events, visit the San Diego Floral Association website: www.sdfloal.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 or (760) 945-3954.

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

Canyoneer Walks: FREE guided nature walks Saturday & Sunday. (619) 232-3821 X203 or 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

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.

Garden TV and Radio Shows:

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

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

SDHS GARDEN AT THE FAIR - SEE PAGE 7



Garden seating area with cool-colored plants in foreground, bright artwork on the fence.

Photos: Marty Schmidt



Award-winning stonework includes a dramatic fire pit (filled with brightly colored glass), set in a bed of blue and white glass and stone pavers.

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SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

MEETINGS & EVENTS

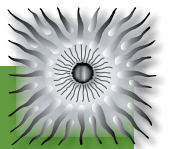
(FW = Free Workshops; Register at www.sdhort.org)

- July 13** Water Features, The Natural Way (FW)
- July 27** Overgrown Plants in your Garden (FW)
- August 3** Growing organic fall & winter vegetables (FW)
- August 10** Summer Fruit Tree Pruning (FW)
- August 12** Nan Serman on Drip is Hip: Upgrading Wasteful Irrigation Systems
- September 9** Greg Richardson on Problem Plants: What Home Gardeners Can Do
- September 28** Garden Tools (FW)



www.SDHort.org

COVER IMAGE: A red pot echoes the edges of 'Kiwi' aeonium leaves and contrasts with chartreuse 'Angelina' sedum, paddle plant, and cobweb houseleeks. Design and photo by Debra Lee Baldwin. From *Succulents Simplified*.



SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

Next Meeting: JULY 8, 2013, 6:00 – 9:00 PM Topic: DEBRA LEE BALDWIN ON “SUCCULENTS SIMPLIFIED”

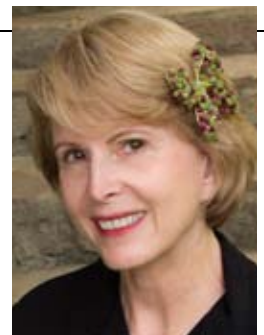
Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$15. Parking is free.
Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (619) 296-9215

We welcome Debra Lee Baldwin, award winning garden photojournalist, consultant, speaker and author. Her recently released book, *Succulents Simplified: Growing, Designing and Crafting with 100 Easy-Care Varieties*, introduces the best succulents for gardens and containers, explains how to grow and use them, and gives step-by-step methods for design-oriented projects. Debra's entertaining and visually appealing presentation will show how a few photogenic San Diego gardens launched a worldwide phenomenon. "We have a near-perfect climate for succulents, so our nurseries and landscape professionals have had a head start on the plants' cultivation and uses," she says. "The international gardening community is eager to see what San Diego hybridizers, growers and designers come up with next." Emphasizing readily available and easy-care varieties, Debra's presentation demystifies the vast succulent plant palette and shows design ideas for gardens of all sizes, including container arrangements and suggestions for an array of garden projects.



Debra has also authored *Designing with Succulents* and *Succulent Container Gardens*, both bestsellers. She is a regular contributor to *Sunset* and other publications, and her own half-acre garden near San Diego has been in *Better Homes & Gardens* among other publications. Debra specializes in showing how to use architectural, waterwise and easy-care succulents in a variety of appealing and creative applications. Debra is a Life Member of the San Diego Horticultural Society. Her books will be available for sale and she'll be happy to autograph them. The meeting will include a Silent Auction of succulents donated by Altman Plants.

To learn more, visit www.debraleebaldwin.com and see page 3. 🌿



SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

Patty Berg – Volunteer Coordinator

Jeff Biletnikoff – Meeting Room Coordinator

Jim Bishop – President, Membership Chair

B.J. Boland – Corresponding Secretary

Mark Collins – Finance/Budget Committee

Bryan Diaz – Member at Large

Julian Duval – San Diego Botanic Garden
Representative

Mary James – Program Committee Chair

Cheryl Leedom – Member at Large

Dannie McLaughlin – Tour Coordinator

Susan Oddo – Publicity Coordinator

Susanna Pagan – Member at Large

Sam Seat – Treasurer

Susi Torre-Bueno – Newsletter Editor,
Past President

Don Walker – Past President

Lucy Warren – Secretary

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

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

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

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☛New Email? New Street Address?

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

BECOME A SPONSOR!

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for the SDHS. Sponsors help pay for our monthly
meetings, annual college scholarships, and other
important programs. Sponsorships start at just
\$100/year; contact Jim Bishop at sponsor@
sdhort.org. Sponsors are listed on page 10;
those with ads in the newsletter have the words
SDHS Sponsor above their ads. We thank them
for their extra support!

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFORMATION

VOLUNTEERS FOR JULY 5

We need volunteer drivers (with trucks, vans or large cars) on July 5 to return plants and other garden display items that were used in our Fair garden. If you have some time and would like to be a part of the Fair Driving team, please email info@sdhort.org.

COORDINATE FALL HOME/GARDEN SHOW BOOTH

We are looking for a volunteer to design, organize and install our booth at the Fall Home/Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Sept 13, 14, and 15th (setup is on Sept 12th). You'll be provided with previous years' documents, and materials and also have help from Patty Berg, volunteer coordinator, in staffing the booth during the show. This is part of our outreach to the community and a chance to show and tell San Diegans about all the great benefits of being a SDHS member. To volunteer please contact Patty Berg at PattyJBerg@gmail.com or (760) 815-0625.

Volunteers Needed for Our Fair Display Garden

You can still help out at our award-winning garden at the San Diego County Fair, which runs until July 4th. We need enthusiastic volunteers to be our garden ambassadors. You'll let folks know about SDHS and answer questions about our exhibit and plants in general. You don't need to be an expert of any kind – just friendly and outgoing. Sign up online at www.sdhort.org/fairvol or by calling Patty Berg at (760) 815-0625 or emailing her at volunteer@sdhort.org. Free admission to the Fair and free parking make this one of the year's best volunteer opportunities!

September Board Opening: Membership Chairperson

Are you an outgoing "people person"? Our membership chair is a job you'd enjoy! You'll recruit new members, interact with current members, set membership policies (with board review), and answer questions regarding membership renewals. Best of all: the majority of the routine membership tasks are done by our bookkeeper and automated on our website. Requires familiarity with email and computer editing skills. Contact Jim Bishop: president@sdhort.org.

Plant Experts at Monthly Meeting

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

IS YOUR NAME HERE?

Please pick up your name badge at the next meeting you attend.

Eric Anderson	Susan Clark	Barbara Huntington	Mimi Mortensen
Diane Bailey	Jenise Deeter	Joyce James	Sharon Muczynski
John Beaudry	Lori Dekker	Donna Johnston-Taylor	Marvin Murphy
Marie Becker	Susan D'Vincent	Elizabeth Jones	Tom Sadler
Jane Coogan Beer	Don Doerfler	Britta Kuhlrow	Donna Scarfo
Kathryn Bell	Yvonne Doerfler	Laura Lefebvre	Nicholas Soroka
Lisa Bellora	Linda Fiske	Sherrill Leist	Vern Strey
Kathryn Blankinship	Jennifer Garson	Patricia Leon	Pamela Stricker
Vero Boyer	Margaret Grasela	Libby Levine	Shelly Sulit
Chris Brawner	Lillian Gutierrez	Roger Martin	Laura Tezer
Forrest Breese	Jon Hatch	Betsy Markle	Laura Walker
Constanze Christopher	Faith Hoiberg	Jerry Markle	Penelope West ☛



TO LEARN MORE...

Succulents, Fire, and Climate Change

By Ava Torre-Bueno

So many succulents come to us from South Africa. Many are caudiciforms, and you can see them on page after page of this web site: www.africansucculents.es/10/plants/plantlist.htm
www.africansucculents.es/10/gallery/gallery.htm

Caudiciforms hold water in their stems and roots, the way other succulents hold water in their leaves and pads. As our July speaker, Debra Lee Baldwin, has pointed out in the past (and on her website below), because they hold water, succulents are fire protection, which we need here in San Diego more than ever as our part of the world gets drier and hotter:

www.debraleebaldwin.com/FirewiseLandscaping.htm

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, "The climate of the Southwest is changing. Over the last century, the average annual temperature has increased about 1.5°F. Average annual temperature is projected to rise an additional 2.5-8°F by the end of the century." And, "Warming has already contributed to decreases in spring snowpack and Colorado River flows, which are an important source of water

Continued on page 10



ART IN BLOOM WELCOMES COMMUNITY TO SPANISH VILLAGE JULY 19-21

Art in Bloom, combining the talents of area artists and floral designers, will take place July 19 – 21 at Spanish Village Art Center in Balboa Park, in collaboration with the San Diego Floral Association. Free and open to the public, the annual event is set in the picturesque courtyard of Spanish Village, where original art works in various media will be displayed side by side with their fresh flower interpretations.

Meet the artists, artisans and floral designers, and see them demonstrate their creativity during a walking tour of 37 working artist studios. Enjoy live music on the patio. Sales benefit the historic Spanish Village Art Center, which for more than 60 years has preserved and enhanced this flourishing arts community.

The opening reception is set for 4 to 6 PM on Friday, July 19. Event hours are 11 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and Sunday, July 20 and 21. Spanish Village Art Center is at 1770 Village Place in Balboa Park (north of the Natural History Museum). For info call (619) 233-9050.



Arrangement by Marj Myers, ceramic art tile by Kathy Waller.

Mary-Ella Bowles



FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

Thinking Locally

One of the best things about being a member of the San Diego Horticultural Society is getting to meet all of our talented local horticulturists.

In June, our award-winning garden at the San Diego County Fair was designed and installed by local landscape architect, Marty Schmidt of Environs Landscape Architecture (www.environs.us). You can learn more about the awards our garden won and also view photos of the garden in this newsletter. A delight to behold, I do hope you had the opportunity to view it in person. Our garden featured over 50 unique plants and was brimming with ideas for our own gardens. We also were fortunate to be sponsored by the San Diego County Water Authority. A video by the Water Authority, featuring Marty, can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMvLUTv-9H8. There is much to learn on their new conservation website, www.Watersmartsd.org. If you are considering replacing part of your lawn with a watersmart landscape, now may be a great time, and you may even get a rebate with their turf replacement program.

Also in June, we recognized Brad Monroe as our Horticulturist of the Year. During his tenure at Cuyamaca College, Brad was instrumental in creating one of the best local Ornamental Horticultural programs in the state. Through the program, Brad has inspired and educated many of our wonderful local Landscape Designers.

In July, we welcome back Debra Lee Baldwin as our speaker to introduce her new book, *Succulents Simplified*. This is Debra's third book on succulents, and has helped further the trend of using these terrific plants in gardens from coast to coast. We are lucky to have such a wonderful talent right in our own backyard; Debra is a life member of SDHS.

In August, we welcome back local landscape designer, lecturer, writer and garden show host, Nan Sterman. I hope you've had an opportunity to watch Nan's new show, *A Growing Passion*, on KPBS. If not, you can view it online at <http://video.kpbs.org/program/growing-passion>. At our meeting, Nan, who is a long-time SDHS member, will update us on water saving irrigation and some of the latest technology to help us conserve water.

As members of SDHS, each of us is also part of the local horticultural talent base that makes this such a wonderful and diverse place to live and garden. 🌿



SDHS Fair garden - see page 7

Jim Bishop



THE REAL DIRT ON...

Raymond Decary

By Linda Bresler

Raymond Decary (1891-1973) was a renowned French collector of plants from Madagascar; and he had a passionate interest in this island. He traveled widely on that island and collected some 19,700 specimens, of which he gave over 4,000 to the Paris herbarium. These included vascular plants, fungi, and bryophytes (mosses). There are also a number of reptiles named after him. Throughout his life, he was a French financial administrator, botanist, zoologist, geologist, ethnologist, and plant collector in Madagascar.



Raymond Decary in 1958

After being severely wounded in the Battle of the Marne in 1914, Decary was unable to return to active service. He was sent to Madagascar in 1916 as an officer in the Reserve to replace fully fit officers for active service in France. He then trained as a colonial administrator and returned to the island in 1922. While on Madagascar, he undertook seven scientific expeditions from 1923-1930. He was interested in anything and everything that had to do with Madagascar. In 1937, Decary became Director of Scientific Research for the island.

During World War II, Decary again fought in the French army. After the war was over, he returned to France. He retired into private life to continue his research. In 1950, he wrote *Malagasy Fauna*. A number of plants were named after him including *Decarya madagascariensis*, a shrub or small tree, and the genus *Decarydendron* (Decary's Tree), which is endemic to Madagascar. One especially interesting tree, native to the Madagascan rainforest, is the Triangle Palm (*Dypsis decaryi*), which grows quite well here in San Diego. A succulent worth trying in your garden is *Senecio decaryi* (Madagascar Senecio), with yellow flowers on a shrubby plant growing to 4' tall. The yellow flowers of *Uncarina decaryi* are shown above.

Among the reptiles that were named after him are Angel's Dwarf Gecko (*Lygodactylus decaryi*), Decary's Pygmy Chameleon (*Brookesia decaryi*), and Rock Skink (*Amphiglossus decaryi*). Among the dozen

books he wrote were *Malagasy Fauna* (in 1950) and *Manners and customs of Madagascar* (in 1951). He also authored over 400 articles on a variety of topics, mostly having to do with Madagascar.

Member Linda Bresler is a certified landscape designer living in Poway. She specializes in drought-tolerant, low maintenance designs that provide four-season beauty. 🌿



Triangle Palm



BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

Sleeping with a Sunflower: A Treasury of Old-Time Gardening Lore

By Louise Riotte

One of the really nice things about living in the age of the Internet is that you can find practically any book. That's why I don't worry about recommending to you a book this old. *Sleeping with a Sunflower* was published in 1987. Written and illustrated by Louise Riotte, prolific author of *Carrots Love Tomatoes* and *Roses Love Garlic* (well-known books about companion planting), this book is just fun.

It's set up with one chapter per month. I think the author must have spent years clipping articles from newspapers, magazines, and seed catalogs and collecting little bits of garden lore from friends and relatives. One day she said, "I should really put this stuff in some kind of order," and suddenly she had a book.

To get an idea of the range of interesting information she provides, we can look at the eighth chapter, "July." July is the month of the Thunder Moon, and it's time to complete your planting during the first three weeks. Vegetables planted now will grow juicy and delicious, but won't store well, so eat them up or give them away. It's a good time to have a party.

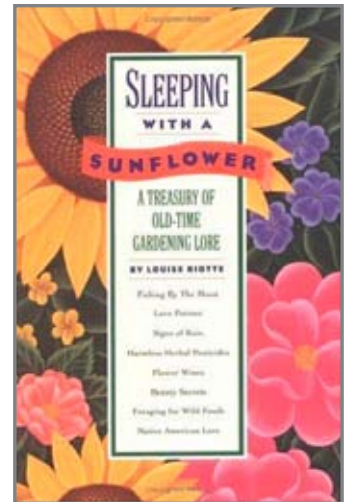
Other topics she touches on for July include planting by phases of the moon; the right way to grow new potatoes; how to hive a swarm of bees; uses of honey; French and Spanish influence on American culture; how to use okra, chicory, and pecans; how to grow peanuts; and what medicinal herbs you can use for your pets and poultry. She closes the chapter by telling us how to grow and use berries and how to catch earwigs. Did I mention that this was eclectic?

Her illustrations are professionally done. It's clear she's had quite a bit of art training. In July they include an Indian shaman doing a rain dance, a hive of bees, a sketch of the above- and below-ground parts of a peanut plant, a blackberry plant, and a frog. Who can resist such delights?

The other chapters are equally rich and varied. Riotte has a comfortable and casual style of writing. With all the other things she manages to pack in, she includes anecdotes about her experiences in her garden, and how she and her husband manage to avoid "barn burners" when one or the other happens to kill a precious plant.

Sleeping with a Sunflower (ISBN 0-88266-502-2) is available in hardbound and paperback, is 220 pages long, and includes an index and a probably long-out-of-date list of suppliers.

I'm not going to tell you the meaning of the title. You'll have to find that for yourself. This book is well worth tracking down. I know you'll enjoy it. 🌿





TREES, PLEASE

Why Trees Are Like Elephants

By Tim Clancy

It is difficult to know when we as a species started to use trees for our benefit, but it is safe to assume early man did just that in order to survive. The list of uses for trees is quite extensive. One need only look around and surely you will see something made of wood. A glance in your kitchen at the apples and oranges is to be reminded of what trees do for the human race.

In 1943, Laurel and Hardy made a 5- 1/2 minute film for the United States Department of Agriculture on the many benefits of wood. The only known surviving color film of Laurel and Hardy can be seen at http://archive.org/details/The_tree_in_a_test_tube. It's a WWII propaganda piece that outlines the many uses of wood. Some of the items featured are now made of plastic (they were in the film, too, but the narrator says that plastic has a lot of "wood flour" in it), but you can get a good idea of how important wood is and was to mankind.

Of all the uses for trees, my favorite is the deliberate planting of a tree to commemorate someone. In 1905, on the gun ship Bennington, there was a boiler explosion that killed some 60 people. On the corner of Florida and 26th in San Diego is the Bennington Memorial Oak Grove, an impressive collection of oak trees in the middle of the city.

Scattered around San Diego are memorial plaques reminding loved ones and strangers alike about someone's life. Kate Sessions Park has several memorial plaques that look to have been placed at least 25 years ago, maybe more. It is a beautiful place to visit and a pleasant way to pass the time going from tree to tree and reading the names of those being remembered.

Mission Hills has its fair share of plaques as well. There is one that commemorates a tree called the "Serra Palm," which is "Traditionally the earliest planted tree in California" (California Historical Landmark #67, <http://jawajames.livejournal.com/241369.html>), and one plaque with a tribute to the white deer of Mission Hills.

Balboa Park, too, is peppered with memorial tree plaques honoring ordinary people who did extraordinary things in their lives. These include one dedicated to the memory of San Diego great Kate Sessions, credited as being the "Mother of Balboa Park" (www.sdfloal.org/founder.htm).

The Soroptimist grove in Rancho Bernardo is a great example of trees used to commemorate past citizens of San Diego. This grove is planted with oaks that are now left on their own devices, and they are doing quite well on the water they get from Mother Nature; they also benefit from being left alone. (Read: not pruned!) Close by is the Bob Brocato memorial walkway as well, with native oak trees planted in 1992 to honor this late San Diego City Planner.

My favorite memorial plaque (shown here) can be found at the County Administration building. It reads, "As many leaves as there are and will be on this tree, those are the number of lives Neil touched through his kindheartedness Neil J. Rossi, Chief Deputy Treasurer, County of San Diego, October 26, 1961 - September 16, 2002. Dedicated to the memory of the Friend to all county employees. September 16, 2003." Sounds like he was a very special person.

As you make your way around the city, instead of looking up at

Continued on page 10



SDHS PARTNERS WITH THE 2013 WATER AGENCY CALIFORNIA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE CONTEST

On May 18th, local residents gathered at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College to share their award winning landscapes and take home prizes during the regional recognition ceremony for the 2013 California Friendly Landscape Contest. The winners were awarded a \$250 gift certificate from a local nursery, a \$250 gift card from Home Depot, and a complimentary one-year membership to the San Diego Horticultural Society.

Nine San Diego County water agencies participated in this year's contest, which recognizes outstanding residential water-wise landscapes based upon the criteria of overall attractiveness, appropriate plant selection, design, maintenance, and efficient irrigation methods. This year's winners and their respective districts are Barbara Whelan from the Sweetwater Authority (see article on page 14); Patti and Mike Gollong from the San Dieguito Water District; James and Kay Vincent from the Olivenhain Municipal Water District; John and GERALYN Orcutt from the Otay Water District; John and Rhonda McCoy from the Vista Irrigation District; Adam and Ashley Feist from the City of San Diego; Tere Trout and Jonathan Becket from the Helix Water District; Steve and Gayle Bailey from the Padre Dam Municipal Water District; and Stephen Rubin from the Vallecitos Water District.

The annual contest was created as a way to showcase the beauty of water-wise landscaping. With a majority of residential water use in San Diego County attributed to watering landscapes, regional water conservation efforts are focusing on outdoor water use. By showcasing their beautiful landscapes in the California-Friendly Landscape Contest, these local homeowners provide other homeowners with ideas and incentives to reduce their own outdoor water use by installing attractive and efficient water-wise landscaping. Being able to partner with Home Depot and the San Diego Horticultural Society only furthers this effort by increasing the exposure of the contest in the community. "We were very excited to receive support from Home Depot and the San Diego Horticultural Society for this year's contest. The mission of the San Diego Horticultural Society to educate and promote awareness of horticulture in San Diego County makes it an ideal partner in our effort to educate the public on the benefits of water-wise gardening," said Brent Reyes, water conservation specialist for the Vista Irrigation District. "I know the winners of the contest really appreciated receiving the Home Depot gift card and free one-year membership as well."

You, too, can be part of the regional effort to promote beautiful water-wise landscaping and reduce the region's dependence on imported water; by entering your water-wise landscape in next year's contest! For more information on the contest and to see pictures of current and past winners, please visit the contest's website at www.landscapcontest.com.

John and Rhonda McCoy's garden in Vista





GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

What's Killing Your Ceanothus? Part 1: Scale

By Greg Rubin

It's really the ants. Ants are the root of most evils when it comes to Ceanothus (pun intended). I know – *Sunset Western Garden Book* says that wild lilacs only live 5 to 10 years. Yet they thrive in the wild upwards of 75 years. This is a classic situation often seen with many natives, as most of the problems they experience in gardens are horticultural in nature. You don't typically see scale or other sucking insects in the chaparral. It goes like this: Ceanothus plants often receive too much fertility and moisture in a home garden. Drip systems, with their localized hyper-saturation, tend to exacerbate the problem. Protective chemical compounds, called phytochemicals, are secreted by most chaparral plants. However, they are diluted by the overwatering and fertility, which leads to nice juicy leaves with no protection. This is the perfect environment for sucking insects like scale and aphids to proliferate. The immune systems of the plants are gone.

But most of these pests wouldn't stand a chance against natural predators if it wasn't for intervention. This is where the ants come in, specifically Argentine ants. Most sucking insects secrete honeydew, a sugary substance that these introduced ants will die for (literally). They clean, place, and protect the larva at all costs. They prevent natural predators like lacewings and lady bugs from devouring the scale and aphids. In fact, scale is one of the worst problems for Ceanothus, because these tan colored immobile insects can so cover a branch that they are indistinguishable from bark. Often the only clue that they are there is the train of ants tending them. Ants on a Ceanothus are an indicator of real problems, and closer examination will reveal in many

cases the tiny scale completely covering the bark.

The scale will completely desiccate that branch over time. Leaves will wilt but remain attached. Cracks will form in the bark. Once this occurs, airborne pathogens can penetrate through these cracks and finish off that dying stem, or even the whole shrub, one branch at a time. It's an insidious process that is usually discovered too late.

Any control of scale should really start with the ants, and it needs to be done as early as possible. Get in the habit of looking for ant trails on your Ceanothus whenever you are putting in the garden. If you spot these critters, inspect the leaves and axils for aphids and the bark for scale. Sometimes the scale only appears as a roughening of the bark, but nearer observation reveals the tiny, individual, flat, barnacle-like lesions.

You need to jump on the ant infestation. Follow the trail back to the nests, which are often open holes in the ground or under solid objects like pavers or rocks. Boric acid can be applied directly to the nests, or baits can be made based on boric acid. A multitude of commercial bait stations are also available. Once the ants are gone, the scale will be wide open to predation. However, you may also want to use an insecticidal soap, Neem oil, or other organic control to hasten their demise.

In the next article, we will talk about horticultural issues with Ceanothus and how to properly deal with dead and diseased branches. Simply controlling ant infestations should significantly improve your success rate with these beautiful native shrubs.

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



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Patty Berg,
Volunteer Coordinator

Wanna Play?

As Volunteer Chair, I get many opportunities to see our Board in action. The members work with an enthusiasm, passion and diligence that would make any employer very happy. But, as an all-volunteer organization, nary a penny compensates them. That's just one more thing that makes SDHS such a remarkable organization.

Another is that the Board is constantly looking for ways to improve the members' experiences, whether it be at the annual Spring Garden Tour, the Featured Gardens, the dozens of fantastic (and free!) workshops, or the monthly meetings in Del Mar. They really live out the SDHS mission statement so that all of us can constantly learn and enjoy.

With our 20th anniversary year coming up in 2014, this is the perfect time to introduce "Four for Hort." **It's a simple initiative that asks each member to volunteer just four hours each year.** Taking on just one volunteer activity will fulfill it. And there are hundreds of opportunities, so you can look for something



Cheerful volunteers at a monthly meeting

that you know you'd enjoy.

No particular skills are necessary. If you like talking to the public, you might take a shift at our Fair garden. If you don't, you might help with our meeting set up or with the Volunteer Appreciation Party. Can you host a workshop at your home, or sit on a committee?

Another way of asking you to get involved is with the magic words we used as children, the ones we never got tired of hearing: "Wanna play?" The nature of play may change for us over the years, but we never lose our need for it. As kids, we'd scan the playground looking for someone our own age. If we were outgoing, we'd run up and ask to join in. If we were kind of shy, we'd wait, hopeful for those words.

If you are not already contributing your Four for Hort, you must be one of the shy kids. So here it comes... **Wanna Play?**

You do? Great! Then be sure to stop by the Four for Hort table under the green canopy at the July 8th meeting. We'll have signups for events through September and a special treat for all the Fair volunteers and Night at the Fair volunteers. 🌿



SEE US AT THE FAIR! MODERN GARDEN/ PLANTING MODERN

By Jim Bishop

SEE THE GARDEN ON YOUTUBE!

For a short video of our garden, including comments by the garden's designer, landscape architect Marty Schmidt of Environs Landscape Architecture, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMvLUTv-9H8. The video was produced by the San Diego County Water Authority (see page 21 and www.watersmartsd.org), who sponsored this award-winning display.

Our mid-century modern garden is truly up-to-date, utilizing regionally-appropriate plants and no lawn or sheared hedges. This modern garden demonstrates the concepts of water conservation, low maintenance and sustainability. Planting modern means using plants that require less water, less fertilizer, and produce less yard waste. The hardscape elements include re-purposed materials — a fence from recycled plastic bender board, a door turned into wall art by the garden designer's children, and recycled glass in the firepit and between stepping stones. This inviting and low-maintenance garden attracts beneficial insects and birds, provides a shady retreat and welcoming sitting areas, and demonstrates a lush, contemporary design suitable for the small space typical of many urban homes.

Smart Hardscape Choices

Using recycled or repurposed local-sourced materials plays a big role in sustainability when creating a garden with a smaller carbon footprint. The garden designer's children turned an unused door into wall art. The blue glass mulch and firepit red/yellow glass are recycled glass. The boulders and granite artwork is from a quarry in San Marcos. The decomposed granite is from a quarry in Riverside.

Garden-Friendly Paving

All of the paving materials were chosen for beauty and permeability. A dry streambed retains rainwater and demonstrates the use of contouring the site to direct and slow rainwater so it can infiltrate into the soil. The patio materials also allow rainwater to pass through and seep directly into the soil instead of running off into storm sewers. This lessens pollutants entering nearby streams and the ocean, and also acts a water reservoir that helps plants produce deep root systems and go longer without supplemental irrigation.

Mulch, Mulch, Mulch

The planted areas of the garden are well mulched using Perennial Mulch from AgriService (www.agriserviceinc.com) to prevent both excessive evaporation of water and heating of the soil. The organic mulch is composed of wood chips, plant cuttings, and similar organic materials. As it breaks down it releases nutrients into the soil and increases the ability of the soil to absorb water. A 2" to 4" layer of mulch helps reduce your water bill while keeping weeds to a minimum — especially if you use a few sheets of newspaper or a layer of cardboard under the mulch.

Water-Thrifty Plants

Plants were chosen not only for beauty and to match the color theme but also for their low water requirements. The garden uses mostly low water trees, shrubs and succulents. Higher water use plants are grouped together near the dry stream to advantage of runoff and moister soil conditions.

All succulent plants are water thrifty because they store water in their leaves, stems and/or roots. A huge variety of succulents are available, with foliage in every color of the rainbow from white to coral, gold, lime green, teal blue, and near-black — and everything in between! Succulent leaves can be narrow or broad, flat or bumpy, fuzzy or shiny, and with scalloped or smooth edges. Grown mostly for their leaves, which are usually evergreen, many succulents also have beautiful flowers that can decorate the plant for many months.

California friendly plants — including California natives and plants from other Mediterranean-climate areas similar to ours — usually need little water to thrive because they're well adapted to dry summers. Some do well with watering only once or twice a month during the summer and not at all during our winter rainy season. Many also need little, if any, supplemental fertilizer and some do best with none at all. The plants have been arranged to show off the different textures, colors, contrasts and repetition that can be created with these versatile plants.

It Took A Village To Create This Beautiful Garden

Thank you for your Support!

Sponsored by:

San Diego County Water Authority
www.sdcwa.org, www.watersmartsd.org

Garden Designed by:

Martin Schmidt, ASLA
Environs Landscape Architecture
www.environs.us

Garden Installation:

Brickman
www.brickmangroup.com

Plants Suppliers:

Mountain States Wholesale Nursery, www.mswm.com
Green Meadow Growers, www.greenmeadowgrowers.com
Martinez Farms, www.martinez-farms.com

Other Suppliers:

Horizon www.horizononline.com
Master Halco, www.masterhalco.com
Modern Builders Supply, www.modernbuilders.net
RCP Block & Brick, www.rcpblock.com
Southwest Boulder & Stone, www.southwestboulder.com
Silver Moon Lighting, www.silvermoonlighting.com
Vessel Architectural Pottery, www.architecturalpottery.com

Wall art by the garden designer's children:

Austin and Hailey Schmidt 🍀

PLANTS USED IN OUR FAIR GARDEN

FAIR AWARDS WE WON

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Acacia stenophylla</i>	Shoestring Acacia
<i>Achillea</i> 'Terracotta'	Terracotta Yarrow
<i>Aeonium</i> 'Cyclops'	Giant Red Aeonium
<i>Agave attenuata</i> 'Nova'	Blue Fox Tail Agave
<i>Agave attenuata</i> 'Ray of Light'	Fox Tail Agave
<i>Aloe</i> 'Blue Elf'	Blue Elf Aloe
<i>Aloe striata</i>	Coral Aloe
<i>Anigozanthos</i> 'Bush Gold'	Bush Gold Kangaroo Paw
<i>Anigozanthos</i> 'Velvet Amber'	Velvet Amber Kangaroo Paw
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> 'Pigeon Point'	Pigeon Point Dwarf Coyote Bush
<i>Buddleja marrubifolia</i>	Woolly Butterfly Bush
<i>Bulbine frutescens</i> 'Tiny Tangerine'	Tangerine Stalked Bulbine
<i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora</i> 'Karl Foerster'	Feather Reed Grass
<i>Carex solandri</i>	New Zealand Forest Sedge
<i>Coprosma</i> 'Evening Glow'	Evening Glow Mirror Bush
<i>Coprosma</i> 'Karo Red'	Karo Red Mirror Bush
<i>Coprosma</i> 'Tequila Sunrise'	Tequila Sunrise Mirror Bush
<i>Crassula tetragona</i>	Minature Pine Tree
<i>Dichondra argentea</i>	Silver Dichondra
<i>Echeveria</i> 'Afterglow'	Afterglow Echeveria
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i> 'Blue'	Blue Weeping Lovegrass
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i> 'Green'	Green Weeping Lovegrass
<i>Eremophila hygrophana</i> 'Blue Bells'	Blue Bells Emu Bush
<i>Euphorbia rigida</i>	Gopher Plant
<i>Festuca californica</i>	California Fescue
<i>Festuca filiformis</i> 'Tenuifolia'	Dwarf Green Hair Fescue
<i>Festuca Idahoensis</i> 'Siskiyou Blue'	Siskiyou Blue Fescue
<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i> 'Yellow'	Yellow Hesperaloe
<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i> 'Perpa' Brakelights®	Brakelights® Red Yucca
<i>Heuchera</i> 'Crimson Curls'	Crimson Curls Coral Bells
<i>Juncus patens</i> 'Elk Blue'	Elk Blue California Gray Rush
<i>Lantana camara</i> 'Dallas Red'	Dallas Red Lantana
<i>Leucophyta brownii</i>	Cushion Bush
<i>Limonium perezii</i>	Sea Lavender
<i>Lobularia</i> 'Snow Princess'	Snow Princess Sweet Alyssum
<i>Lonicera x americana</i> 'Pam's Pink'	Pam's Pink Honeysuckle
<i>Lotus</i> 'Flash Bulb'™	Flashbulb™ Parrot's Beak
<i>Malephora lutea</i>	Rocky Point Iceplant
<i>Parkinsonia</i> 'Desert Museum'	Desert Museum Palo Verde
<i>Pedilanthus macrocarpus</i>	Lady's Slipper
<i>Portulacaria afra</i> 'Minima'	Dwarf Elephant Food
<i>Punica granatum</i> 'Nana'	Dwarf Pomegranate
<i>Russelia equisetiformis</i>	Firecracker Plant
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland Sage
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> 'Eva'	Black Lace™ Elderberry
<i>Scirpus cernuus</i>	Fiber Optic Grass
<i>Senecio repens</i>	Blue Chalksticks
<i>Sesleria</i> 'Greenlee'	John Greenlee's Moor Grass
<i>Simmondsia chinensis</i>	Jojoba
<i>Solenostemon scutellarioides</i> 'Kiwi Fern'	Kiwi Fern Coleus
<i>Strelitzia reginae</i>	Bird of Paradise
<i>Tecoma</i> 'Solar Flare'®	Solar Flare® Esperanza
<i>Yucca rostrata</i>	Beaked Yucca

Susan Oddo



Our garden won EIGHT awards, and it is very gratifying that the judges thought so highly of our design. As mentioned in the June newsletter, Marty Schmidt's design also won the competition for the prestigious Featured Entrance Garden (which included \$5000 cash)! We thank the award sponsors for their generosity; the \$9100 in awards helps to underwrite the cost of producing the garden. The awards are:

Award Of Merit from the Fair: The garden was judged on the "quality of plant material, practicality of design, presentation of conceptual design, visual appeal of installed design, educational value (including labeling)." Our \$2200 award is based on the size of the garden, and at 1000 square feet ours is among the largest.

Best Stonework Award presented by the Fair for "outstanding use and integration of natural stone in a patio or walkway. Our 3rd place award includes \$100.

Contemporary Design Award presented by the Fair for "the best representation of a contemporary design in a garden display." Our 3rd place award includes \$100.

Don Diego Award from the Fair for "the display by a non-commercial exhibitor with the best design, aesthetic appeal and plant quality." It includes \$500.

Environmental Award from the Fair is "presented to landscapes that benefit the environment (i.e. water conservation, use of organic practices, sustainability etc.)." We won First Place, which includes \$200.

Paul Ecke, Jr. Flower & Garden Show Theme Award from the Fair is "presented to the garden which best exemplifies the show theme 'Arcades of Color.'" We won First Place, which includes \$500.

San Diego County Award from the Fair is for "the best display representing the diversity of San Diego landscape," and includes \$400. We also won this award in 2012.

Cuyamaca College Botanical Society Award is judged by faculty members of the Cuyamaca College Horticulture Department and donated by the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society. It is awarded for "the best presentation of the landscape display in the drawn landscape plan. Design features such as ease of reference, accuracy of plant identification (botanical and common), layout, presence of design characteristics (directional arrow, Statement of Purpose), and color presentation are some of the criteria." It includes \$100.

At the end of the Fair, we hope to also win the **Bill Teague Well-Maintained Gardens Award**, which is given to "Each garden that is as well maintained on the last day as on opening day is eligible." It includes \$100, and we have won it every year. 🌿



MY LIFE WITH PLANTS

By Jim Bishop

This is a continuing series of articles that chronicle Jim Bishop's experiences with plants and the effect they have had on his life.

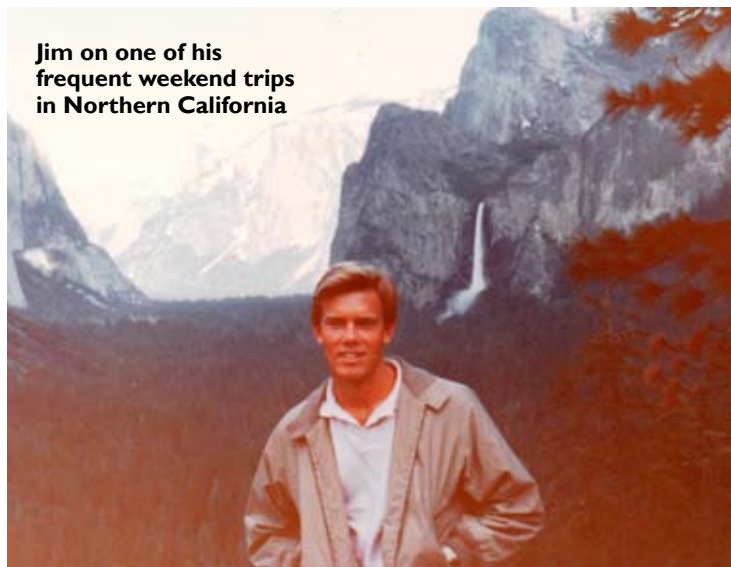
Starting Small

After just one year in the Bay Area, I was anxious for a place with real soil to garden. About the same time, I realized that my job had little opportunity for advancement, but most of all was really boring. So, I found a new job working for a software company that developed computer aided drawing and design (CADD) software (and had an R&D facility in San Diego). I was employed there for the next 14 years, and would work the next 28 years in the software industry. And, after getting over the sticker shock of Bay Area real estate, I bought a two bedroom, one bath downstairs unit in an apartment-to-condo conversion project.

The condo complex in Santa Clara had very dense landscaping and was across the street from Central Park. Between my building and the next one was a row of coast redwoods under-planted with purple leaf plum, *Prunus cerasifera*. Under the trees grew an assortment of shrubs, with agapanthus in the more sunny areas.

The condo unit had a small patio that was mostly covered with concrete and surrounded by a six-foot fence with a gate to the walkway in front of the building. The first thing I did was borrow a bender bar and sledge hammer, and I removed the patio. I threw the concrete in the garbage dumpsters and next week everyone in the complex received a notice about the proper use of the dumpsters. In front of the glass sliding door, I replaced part of the concrete with a small wood deck that was the same elevation as the living room floor, making the space feel larger. I was very surprised to find that the soil underneath the concrete was the consistency of potting soil, and understood why this had once been a very productive farming area. I created a large soil mound in front of the dining room window and another long mound between the deck and the fence.

I enjoyed the beautiful roses I saw growing everywhere, but I knew they needed at least six hours of direct sun to be successful. I decided if I planted rose standards they would be tall enough to get sufficient light, and planted five on the mound between the fence and deck.



Jim on one of his frequent weekend trips in Northern California



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However, there was too little direct sunlight, and one by one they died starting, beginning with the one in the densest shade. I replaced them with dwarf azaleas and a standard fuchsia.

On the mound in front of the dining room, I had more success with an Australian tree fern. Underneath, I planted various narcissus bulbs and seasonal annuals. I fell in love with primroses, especially the lacy fairy ones that come in shades from white to hot pink. I grew cinerarias, with their rich dark blue and deep magenta daisy flowers with white bands. I had once tried to grow one in Texas, thinking it was some sort of strange delicate African violet and placing it indoors under grow lights, and quickly killed it.

I filled all the pots from my apartment with more shade-tolerant annuals, and again grew wax-leaf begonias and coleus in summer. Originally, I put the redwood planters from my prior apartment on top of the fence and envisioned growing trailing plants to hide the fence, but the homeowners' association swiftly informed me that they needed to be removed. So, I placed one on the edge of the deck and the other on top of the air-conditioning unit under the dining room window, and planted them with fuchsias. I put half-round wooden hanging pots on the fence and planted more fuchsias and trailing lobelia. I had one pot that got a little more light, and planted a *Paludosum* daisy in it. It did, as I was warned, drop seed everywhere, and those did well in the soil beneath the pot.

Everything filled in very quickly and I was able to have lots of year-round color. I used the concept of borrowed space and hid as much of the fence as possible. Above it, you could see the plum trees with their pink flowers in spring and purple leaves in summer. They were set against the dark green of the redwoods. I loved gardening in my tiny space and the view of all the plants from inside.

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

PLANTING IT FORWARD: OUR 2013 CROP OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

By Al Myrick

Just as it has done traditionally for many years, your Society once again has fulfilled an important part of its educational mission by awarding a \$1000 scholarship and 1-year SDHS membership to one student with a horticulture-related major at each of our three local community colleges. The Fred B. Meyer Memorial Scholarship is awarded at MiraCosta College; the award given at Cuyamaca College is the Don and Dorothy Walker Scholarship; and that for Southwestern College is named in memory of Bill Teague. Under strict guidelines from SDHS, review committees from each college select an outstanding student whom they feel would best benefit from the financial award.



The first in our 2013 crop turns out to be a perennial who continues to grow and blossom. Cari Johnson was Cuyamaca's selection for our scholarship last year and, despite strong competition, she was awarded our Don and Dorothy Walker Scholarship again this year! As she reported last year, she was single-handedly running an organic, self-sustaining, teaching farm with 150 animals, including milking goats, turkeys, ducks, chickens, and more. Over the last year she has relocated the farm and tripled its size, and added sheep, tilapia ponds and more breeds of heritage chickens. She has also put in twenty new fruit trees and re-established her edible gardens. But now she accepts volunteer help! She is nearing completion of her AA degree (still with better than a 3.8 GPA) and has plans to study for a degree in Agricultural Sciences at a four-year university. All of this while volunteering in various organic and botanical organizations and holding workshops for the public on home-growing food and food-based urban landscapes. Not bad for a perennial!



Our newest Fred B. Meyer Scholar at Mira Costa College is Cheryl Broadhead. If you are Cheryl, you study geography and dance, get married and have kids... and expand your family by 5 dogs and 5 tortoises. Then you retire from your regular job (seeing the world as a flight attendant), become a grandmother, raise (with your husband) composting worms to share with schools and community gardens. Now you are in trouble – you hear the clarion call – you start raising mostly edibles and begin to kill your front lawn to make way for drought-tolerant plants. You then apply and become a San Diego Master Gardener! And now that gardening has you hooked completely, you enroll as a full-time horticulture student to learn more... and more. According to our rigorous SDHS scholarship standards, Cheryl has done well as a re-bloomer. And as we gardeners always say, "If you really want to see blossoms, just wait 'til next year!"

The Selection Committee down at Southwestern has presented our award this year to Eduardo Palmerin. Their top-of-the-crop pick is studying for his AA in Sustainable Landscape Practices, a major in which he has excelled as a student. But, as is true of all of our recipients, Eduardo is also a hard worker outside the classroom. He is a volunteer at the South Bay Botanical Garden, where he is honing his



practical knowledge and skills in such activities as fruit tree propagation and grafting, and composting, as well as in general landscape management. This hardworking scholar is a young man with a growing family, who has dreams of entering the horticulture industry after receiving his Southwestern degree. But, as he says, dreams do not support a family and he greatly appreciates our scholarship

that helps to ensure that school finance is less of an issue. After the AA, he plans to hire on with an established company, and then perhaps later to have his own environmental company to "...practice what I learn, and to give back to my community." Hey, this bud is for us, right?

What a wonderful new crop that we are helping to grow! They all have been invited to attend the August 12th meeting of SDHS, so we hope you all will turn out to help us welcome them to our garden of members. 🌿

■ More Continued from page 3

for the region. Future warming is projected to produce more severe droughts in the region, with further reductions in water supplies." www.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/southwest.html

Just last week, Magdalena, New Mexico ran out of water: www.kpbs.org/news/2013/jun/06/small-new-mexico-town-runs-out-water

And so did a small town in Texas: www.texastribune.org/2013/06/06/west-texas-oilfield-town-runs-out-water

So there you have it – the question isn't IF you will be gardening with succulents, but how soon you're going to start. Your other choice is gravel.

Member Ava Torre-Bueno is a psychotherapist in private practice and the organizer of Gardeners 4 Peace. This group of volunteers is helping to create a peaceful, organic, permaculture garden at the San Diego Friends Center. To learn more contact Ava at gardeners4peace@hotmail.com and visit sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm. 🌿

■ Trees Continued from page 5

the trees all the time look down once in a while and you might be surprised at what you find.

Member Tim Clancy is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist # W E - 0 8 0 6 A . Tim welcomes comments and questions and can be reached at treemanagers@gmail.com. 🌿



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Elizabeth Bluhm	Dolores Hartman	Jan Tucker
Cheryl A. Broadhead	Caroline Isaacs	Tami Van Thof
Leslie Costello	Eduardo Palmerin	
Patti Gollong	Elizabeth Segil	
Jon Guinn	Tere Trout	

NEW ADVERTISER:

**SPANISH VILLAGE ART IN BLOOM
(PAGE 9)**

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

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

Alta Vista Gardens (Ed) (1)	Carla Gilbert (1)	Tandy Pfost (1)
Jim Bishop (2)	Irina Gronborg (1)	Sally Sandler (1)
Barbara Bolton (1)	Heather Hazen (1)	Sue & Dick Streeper (1)
Ann Dahnke (1)	Su Kraus (1)	Julia Swanson (1)
Gigi Dearmas-Lopatrillo (1)	Claudia Kuepper (1)	Marcia Van Loy (1)
Bryan Diaz (1)	Vince Lazaneo (1)	Pat Venolia (1)
Dave Ericson (1)	Mike Masterson (1)	Lucy Warren (1)
	Toni Munsel (1)	

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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 Connable

Julian & Leslie Duval

*Edgar Engert (2000)

Jim Farley

Sue & Charles Fouquette

Penelope Hlavac

Debbie & Richard Johnson

*Vince Lazaneo (2004)

*Jane Minshall (2006)

*Brad Monroe (2013)

*Bill Nelson (2007)

Tina & Andy Rathbone

*Jon Rebman (2011)

Peggy Ruzich

San Diego Home/
Gardens Lifestyle

Gerald D. Stewart

*Susi Torre-Bueno (2012)

& Jose Torre-Bueno

*Don Walker (2005) &
Dorothy Walker

Lucy Warren

*Evelyn Weidner (2001)

*Pat Welsh (2003)

Betty Wheeler

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Renee's Garden (www.reneesgarden.com)

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

Join Grangetto's FREE Garden Club for coupons and tips delivered to your inbox. www.grangettos.com/garden.

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What's Up at

San Diego BOTANIC GARDEN

Game On!

California Fusion was the perfect name for San Diego Botanic Garden's landscape garden entry in the 2013 San Diego County Fair. Following a year sabbatical, San Diego Botanic Garden volunteers, Peter and Margaret Jones, returned to lead the team. They were more than excited to start with an exceptional design by Greg Rubin, who has just written a book called *The California*



Native Landscape. Greg wanted to show fairgoers that California's native plants can be used in any garden setting.

Following the design, the Jones' created an Asian-inspired garden comprised entirely of native plants of California. Many San Diego Botanic Garden volunteers came forward to implement this imaginative garden. Several months in advance of the actual installation, volunteer carpenters began building the focus point "Tea House" with a gate and bridge. The installation of boulders and contouring of the soil preceded the planting of several boxed trees, some weighing over one ton.

Smaller plants were then carefully placed appropriately in the landscape. We even created a Zen pond filled with crushed stone and raked with a homemade peg rake. In addition to the donation of many hours by our wonderful volunteers, we are indebted to many others, including Moosa Creek Nursery, Laird Plumleigh, Phil Tacktil for the amazing bonsai (a native Lemonade berry shrub), and SDBG Gardener Chris Garcia for late-night tasks.

We are proud to announce the San Diego Botanic Garden won nine awards, including two from the San Diego Horticultural Society: Most Outstanding Exhibit and Nomenclature Accuracy. We thank everyone involved in this wonderful experience and we're looking forward to next year! 🌿

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PACIFIC HORTICULTURE TOURS

Pacific Horticulture is planning a rich variety of tours for 2014. First up is Santa Barbara in April, a terrific time to see fresh blooms in this lovely seaside community. On the heels of a sold-out 2013 Morocco & Andalusia tour, next year the focus will be just Morocco with a 10-day tour highlighting gardens, architecture, culture and cuisine. A rare gem is on tap for July with a tour to the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, an international show for flowers, plants and gardening. The show centers on community gardening, and looks at how gardening can bring people together and improve communal spaces. [The photo shows the glorious Great Dixter Garden, which will be on this July tour.] Later in the summer, PacHort will visit the gardens and historic homes of New England and coastal Maine. Clam bake, anyone?



PacHort tours typically sell out well in advance, but there is still limited space open for "Northern Italy and Tuscany: Garden and Villas through the Centuries." Tour dates are Sept 13-24. Highlights include visits to Asolo, Bellagio, Lake Maggiore, San Gimignano, the Chianti region, Siena and Florence. For a complete itinerary and to reserve a place on this tour, please visit www.pacifichorticulture.org.

SDHS is an affiliate member of the Pacific Horticulture Society, producers of the highly regarded *Pacific Horticulture* magazine. Tours are operated by San Diego-based Sterling Tours, a SDHS sponsor. More info at www.sterlingtoursltd.com.

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FAIR AWARDS GIVEN BY SDHS

The San Diego Horticultural Society is proud to give six Excellence in Horticulture awards to display gardens at the Fair. 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. Congratulations to the winning gardens, which we hope you all got a chance to enjoy during the Fair.

We thank our very thoughtful judges for the hours they spent judging all the display gardens. It is a demanding task requiring both a good eye for design and a significant depth of plant knowledge. The judges were:

- Jim Bishop (our president; he took all the photos shown here)
- Marilyn Guidroz (www.marilynsgarden.com), who designed our award-winning 2010 and 2011 Fair gardens, and who worked with MiraCosta student interns for 2011 and 2012 Fair gardens
- Susanna Pagan (www.spgardens.com), who designed our award-winning 2012 Fair garden
- Mary James, SDHS board member; writer for the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles* magazine, and elsewhere; and editor of the award-winning *California Garden* magazine (published by the San Diego Floral Association, www.sdfloal.org)
- Susan Oddo, SDHS board member and co-creator (with husband Frank) of a stunning Elfin Forest garden (www.birdsongbotanicgarden.com) which has hosted a number of SDHS events and garden tours.

The Nomenclature Accuracy award for 100% perfect nomenclature went to **San Diego Botanic Garden** (www.sdbgarden.org). Hats off everyone involved. We especially liked how beautiful and user-friendly their large display sign was.

The Bill Teague Memorial Award for Creative Use of Unusual Plant



Material was given to **Solana Succulents** (www.solanasucculents.com), who also won this award in many previous years. Designer Jeff Moore, a longtime SDHS member and sponsor (see ad on page 16), created a "plant collector's garden" showcasing the fascinating foliage and form of succulent plants. Dozens of species were included, and Jeff has juxtaposed spiny plants with smooth ones; gray foliage was set off by oranges, reds and greens; and some of the plants were extremely

Continued on page 19

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GARDEN**

One of the winners of the 2013 California Friendly Landscape Contest (see page 5) is long-time SDHS member Barb Whelan. She won for her garden in the Sweetwater water district. Barb was excited to share her experiences with us (including these before and after photos), and we congratulate her on her award. She writes:

My husband and I live on approximately 3/4 acre in Bonita. We have a front lawn and a back lawn. The back lawn requires less water because of the canopy of trees that keep it from drying out quickly, and it provides a playground area for my grandsons. I realized that my front yard lawn served no real purpose and required a lot of water to keep it looking nice, so I decided to replace it with waterwise landscaping.

I am a 65 year-old retired elementary teacher and did all the work myself, with some muscle help from my husband. I began the project in November, 2012 and finished in March, 2013. I was excited to win the contest!

My favorite and most rewarding feature is the stepping stones, which are recycled concrete pieces from a friend's backyard in Coronado. I stained the stepping stones with two bags of Ironite fertilizer, and the total cost of my entire walkway was \$25.34, the cost of the Ironite.

Some other water conservation efforts that I have made in the last few years include:

- 1) Rainwater collection in 65-gallon urns.
- 2) Use of grey water from my washing machine to irrigate. I use Oasis, a biocompatible laundry detergent.
- 3) Use of soaker hoses.
- 4) Use of ground cover bark.
- 5) Planting waterwise plants throughout my yard. ♻️



BEFORE



AFTER





SHARING SECRETS

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

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

The question for July was:

What herbs and veggies have you planted this year and how are they doing?

Ron Vanderhoff is succeeding with a grafted veggie: My grafted tomatoes are off the charts this year. It's my third year with grafted plants (four varieties) and they are bearing heavily with no verticillium, fusarium or apparent nematode issues.

Jeanne Skinner does great with zucchini: It is always a wonderful year to grow zucchini and have a game of where is it in the garden. Remember: veggies love compost tea and warm winds, giving us a reason to use overhead watering in our grow plan.

Gerald D. Stewart says: The vegetable garden is late in being planted, but tomato seeds were started awhile back and are nearing full size in quarts, ready to plant out. The seeds, purchased three years ago, germinated almost 100%. Cultivars are: Ace 55VF, Balconi Yellow, Black Sea Man, Burpee's Long-Keeper, Cherokee Purple, Early Girl, Green Zebra, Goliath Pio, Red Alert, Red Zebra, Striped Stuffer, Super Beefsteak, Super Sweet 100, Sweet Million, Tami G, a rainbow mix of cherry types, a rainbow mix of beefsteak types, and a tomato with variegated foliage! Two herbs were planted near the tomato patch. African Blue Basil grows 4' around and nearly 4' tall, and is full of flowers that attract hundreds of bees from March well into December. It usually survives the winters here in Vista, and lasts two to three years. Also planted was bronze fennel, which was allowed to go to seed a couple of years ago. When harvest-time came I was stunned at the huge number of tiny ladybug "alligators." It is like a ladybug factory. The cut seed heads were laid on other plants so the larvae could scurry onto them. Once they were gone the seeds were finally collected and saved. Those seeds provided the plants that were planted this year.

Andy Rathbone has some veggies year-round: The tarragon is doing better this year than last year's plant. The basil's not doing as well. I also tired of buying green onions, only to have them rot in the fridge before having a chance to eat them. So, before the last batch was about to rot, I stuck them in a glass of water. A few days later, they had roots, and a few days after that they were in the ground and doing well. When I need some green onions, I just dig down a few inches, then snip a few onions a half-inch or so above the roots. They always grow back within a few weeks, ensuring a supply of fresh green onions. The year-round gang of chives, rosemary, sorrel, thyme, and oregano are all doing well.

Tammy Schwab is using grow bags this year: I am in the middle of a landscape makeover, so this season I am trying grow bags for my

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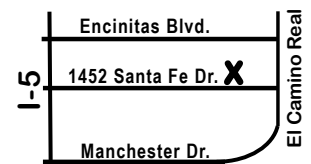
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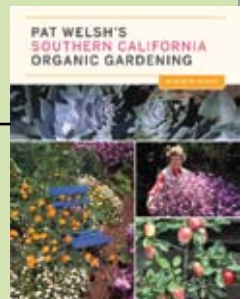
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veggies and herbs. I have several heirloom tomatoes, celery, fennel, basil, parsley, oregano, eggplant, and peppers. So far so good! All were purchased from the Master Gardeners, including the grow bags. Love the grow bags!

Barb Huntington has been very busy with: regular zucchini, some kind of pale long zucchini, a big rounder squash (can't find packets, but I know it was all organic and it tastes great). Cucumbers (several varieties), green beans, Russian kale, spinach (still going strong and hasn't bolted, chard (several types), a gazillion tomatoes (have only had a few ripe small ones), still getting wonderful peas, tomatillo, beets, carrots. Fruit: blackberries (not doing very well), strawberries, finishing up the goji berries, one single almond on the new tree, peaches, apples, avocados (the tree that came up from a discarded seed is full of avocados I can't get with the longest picker), kumquats (vast quantities), moon and stars watermelon, but I don't see any apricots. Also: fava beans, soy beans, artichokes (went past perfection while I was on vacation), many kinds of basil, marjoram, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, (sing along), kohlrabi, fennel (finishing up), onions, garlic, leeks, plus probably other stuff as I plant way too much and don't space adequately. Tonight's dinner included squash, big (but still tender) pea pods, beans, carrot, and basil from the garden and the give away bag I put out in front is gone.

Paula Suttle tried several things with mixed results: I planted English Peas (from a Von's store package) and I got a small harvest, but very sweet. I used to plant them up a cloth net, but these were bush peas so it was simpler. Also, chamomile is doing well. I'm growing Early Girl and Big Boy tomatoes. They are not wonderful yet, but I've done my best and given them all day sun, which is becoming harder to do in my Poway garden. I grew just about 20 bush peas, mostly as an experiment to see if they would work and they were wonderful. However, they only gave 3 pods to a plant and I was used to growing long vines of them in Allied Gardens. I have mints and sages but am not a tea drinker: I grow them for my older children who are! My problem is we inherited 8 raised veggie beds put in by former owners and the neighbors' eucalyptus trees make them useless. I have a wish to make this, my favorite feature of *Let's Talk Plants*, more helpful by having everyone say where they live. Then if they experience success or failure it will help to know if they have the same climate.

Susan Oddo is letting other farmers do some of her planting: I am planting fewer vegetables with all the farmers' markets nearby that sell wonderful organic, field-ripened product. We'll use less water, have more variety over a longer period of time, and contribute to the sustainability of our local farmers. I'll always have heirloom tomatoes, though. This year I took off all bottom growth and espaliered our six tomato plants vertically so the fruit is easy to see and pick. Also, this lets me find critters before they can do too much damage. Biggest problem is finding tall enough stakes. Next year I think I'll do a combination of horizontal and vertical espalier. The plants are doing fine with fairly aggressive removal of a lot of the non-producing leaf stems that block the sunlight from the fruit. I worried that they would suffer, but they are lush, green, healthy and full of tomatoes, so apparently that hasn't affected them at all.

Cassidy Rowland planted a good variety of things: We have planted the usual suspects: tomatoes (heirloom brandywine, Cherokee purple, amana orange, green zebra, and stupice) and peppers (jalapeno, banana, Fresno, and other sweet ones). We have potatoes, cukes, zukes, melons, kale and kohlrabi. And, of course, lots of herbs. Also in the yard are avos and citrus. They are all growing; tomatoes have fruit but are not ready yet. Can't hurry Mother Nature, although I would love a Cherokee purple tomato and jack cheese sandwich for lunch!

Diana Downey has a lot in her raised beds: Tomatoes, basil, watermelon, peppers, sunflowers, Swiss chard, lettuce mix (mesclun),

strawberries. All are doing pretty well, really. Some of the lettuce mix has gone to seed, but I keep cutting that off. Tomatoes are forming nicely, and I got a couple of waves of planting in so we shouldn't be inundated. Pics of our new veggie garden are here: <http://tinyurl.com/dianeveg>.

Robin Hansen provided this extensive list: Tomatoes have heavy powdery mildew and some blossom drop, but am/will be getting fruit. I am pretty coastal, so the powdery mildew is always a problem. Fava Beans are always bullet-proof (except the rabbits discovered them!). Lettuces have been bountiful, no problems. Carrots are coming along nicely. Radishes did very well; need to re-seed. Chard is doing great. Kale just okay, some aphid trouble. Brussels Sprouts have massive aphids (I am organic). Bush and climbing beans are coming along nicely. Cucumbers also coming along nicely; picked the first ones (mini-whites) in early June. Various herbs: all but Tarragon doing very well. Dwarf mandarin oranges got infested by neighboring hibiscus whitefly and snails, but hoping it will set its fruit and recover completely. Strawberries are doing ok. Eggplant should be getting fruit any time now. Artichoke is doing ok. Blueberries are doing well

Lisa Bellora has been very busy: I have 3 different kinds of tomatoes, two different sweet peppers, two different kinds of cucumbers, Swiss chard, yellow summer squash, zucchini, orange beets, carrots, sweet basil, oregano, Japanese eggplant, strawberries, blueberries, butternut squash, cantaloupe, and watermelon (along with other dwarf fruit trees). The tomatoes got put in the ground early and are 4' high at least and loaded with green tomatoes. The eggplant actually was from last year and overwintered (in Rancho Penasquitos). I have peppers forming, although some of the leaves are being eaten probably by snails/slugs. The beets are just coming up. I am harvesting small yellow squash. I finally got some bird netting over the berries so I am eating them instead of the birds! This was all due to the inspiration of Pat Welsh at the recent Master Gardener conference. I have a small backyard and some of these plants I only have one or two of, but that is all you need for a small family. It is a joy to go out every morning and see what is going on in the garden!

Chip Milligan will probable re-think how he uses compost tea: I was looking forward to tasting my first home-grown celery! It was beautiful, very green and leafy. When I bit into it, yech! It was so bad I had to spit it out. I think that I should not have poured my home-made compost tea directly on it, as it has help and fish emulsion (as well as molasses and my own compost). However, I also grew cilantro, spinach, zucchini, Swiss chard and Swiss kale, all of which tasted fantastic. They are all still doing well, except that I am out of spinach.

Robin Rowland has been busy planting: squash, melons, cucumbers, tomatoes, basil, peppers (6 varieties), eggplant, kale (I know, winter plant), marjoram, thyme, savory, and we still have 2 square feet to do more, always more!

Katherine Nowak is going hydroponic: This year I am growing tomatoes hydroponically in a hydroponic garden I made at a class at San Diego Botanic Garden and they are doing beautifully. I will never grow tomatoes in the ground again.

Anne Murphy is growing a cornucopia of goodies: I have tomatoes, zucchini, cantaloupe, kale, broccoli, Brussels sprouts and artichokes (last year's artichoke died but left me three offsets) in the veggie bed. Cherry tomatoes are almost ready. Zucchini doing as expected, and I started giving them away; the rest of the squash family doing well. I usually replace the perennial chard once a year, but this year decided to continue with the gorgeous ones from last year. Broccoli did well, Brussels sprouts only so-so, last one is about done. This year I have added lemon verbena and stevia to herb collection.

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Nants Gordon and Barb Potts are tending a nice variety: heirloom and cherry tomatoes, eggplant and peppers (in greenhouse on the coast), winter and summer squash, chard and kale, lettuce, carrots, fresh beans, artichokes, asparagus (soooo bountiful this year), lots of basil, and perennial herbs, rutabagas, turnips, beets, onion... everything we like.

Jan Tucker is off and running with a big list: I am a newbie in your society and a newbie to gardening. It's my third year. I started an organic gardening meetup group in Temecula Valley in April and we have 55 members already! In my garden this summer I have the following veggies and herbs (and notes to tell you how they are doing). Many are heirloom. Most are organic:

Russian Kale (Ragged Jack): Planted this last fall. It is as big as a tree. The leaves are beautifully tender. It has thousands of aphids, and the ladybugs didn't cooperate this year. I soak them and then wash them thoroughly.

Broccoli: From last fall. Still producing! I must have had nine heads from the one plant that made it. Others were eaten by pill bugs.

Chard: Beautiful as ever. Some from fall, some new plantings from seed planted indoors in Feb.

Sugar Snap peas: The ones on the northeast side of the garden grew tall and thin. I thought they would be better than the ones on the southwest side that grew so slowly. But the latter are bushier and are producing far more. However, they look strange this year. They are very bumpy: I can see each pea inside the shell. They look like knuckles.

Zucchini (two kinds): The first ones didn't come up, I think because the sprayer wasn't functioning. I changed to drip and planted more last week.

Cucumbers (Market More): The first ones didn't come up at all so I planted more last week. Last year we had a bumper crop and made lots of awesome gazpacho!

Kale: The ones I planted from seed don't look very good. The little seedlings look mangey. I got a nice seedling from a local farmer and it looks great. I guess I didn't treat my seedlings very well.

Eggplant: It's very small right now but promising

Tomatoes (2 indeterminate and 1 determinate): All have blossoms. One of the indeterminate ones had 1 very low fruit, which I cut off. I am trimming them very well.

Bell Peppers: Still very small. Just grew a bit over the weekend.

Bush Beans (Blue Lake): Growing VERY slowly, still small seedlings.

Bean Contender: Growing better and they have blossoms

Napa (? maybe not Napa) Carrots: Growing so slowly!

Yellow Onions: From last fall. A few of them are giants. I let them flower.

Garlic: Planted last November. They're almost ready. Had to fight black aphids most of the time they were growing. They dwindled a lot because I hosed them off with water pretty often.

Lettuce (merlot, butter head, romaine and other): All doing superbly

Strawberries: Very low yield. This is their 2nd or 3rd summer.

Broccoli: Tried a spring crop that didn't go anywhere. The leaves of the seedlings looked chewed and brown.

Mustard greens: Ate the first ones today. They started to bolt already. Covered them with shade cloth. Lots of aphids like the kale, but very good.

Beets: Lovely. My best plant always.

Radishes: No issues.

Spinach: Looking good.

Tarragon: Its Third summer. Looks lovely. Had cut it all the way back. I love this in my omelettes!

Mint: Third summer. Lots of aphids, but smells as wonderful as ever. Think "sun tea."

Oregano: Third summer. Lush and beautiful.

Chives: Second summer. It was hiding under the parsley last year and looked so weak and small. I pulled the parsley out and it is now 2 feet tall and proud.

Dill: Planted this year from a starter. It's growing like crazy. Hung some up to dry today. It has several colors, didn't expect that.

Basil: From seed. Not going anywhere yet. Same thing last year but it turned out great.

Cilantro: Going nowhere from seed. We'll see if it does.

Marsha Bode is having good luck in Vista: I have been concentrating more on my vegetable garden this year and have had great success with many herbs purchased from SDHS sponsor Pearson's Garden and Herb Farm in Vista. They have a multitude of unusual herbs and all are very healthy. Since I have a lot of bare ground and no worries about mints becoming invasive I have planted (in the ground) Apple Mint, Peppermint, Spearmint, and Silver Mint. Also from Pearson's are African Blue Basil and Nutmeg Bush, which I bought just because they sounded interesting. For vegetables I planted zucchini, yellow crook neck squash, red onions, lemon grass, sugar snap peas, and tomatoes (of course). Nothing especially unusual, but for once I planted them at the correct time and have already had a good harvest. Lettuce mix in a long planter box did well until the recent hot days. I also have lots of blackberries, boysenberries, and blueberries. I'm thinking it might have been a mistake to give the blackberries and boysenberries part of the vegetable garden, so this issue will have to be faced in the fall, when I think I will transplant them to their own larger spot.

More replies will appear in the August newsletter.

The question for August is:

How do you label the plants in your garden?

Send your reply by July 5 to newsletter@sdhort.org.

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uncommon specimens.

Our award for Best Youth Garden went to **El Capitan FFA**, whose handsome garden was designed with a good selection of drought tolerant plants. Their large sign included a very helpful color-coded page with a paragraph of information about each plant. They won this award in 2011 and 2012, too!



Jeff Moore's design showcases succulent foliage



El Capitan FFA garden



Tea house in the San Diego Botanic Garden winner featuring native plants

The **Bonita Organic Garden Club** (www.sweetwatervalleyca.org/BOGC.html) won the award for Best Expression of Garden Education with their appealing-to-children display of edibles, including some in fun containers. There were signs with useful information about the benefits of organic gardening.

The Best Planted Container award winner was in an exceptionally lovely pavilion garden designed by Jason Dobbie for **Allen Landscape** in Oceanside (www.allenlandscape.com). The specially-built wooden container acted as an area divider, and was planted with succulents in vertical panels on four sides and also on the top.



Allen Landscape's garden features a large container planted with succulents

Our Don & Dorothy Walker Award for Most Outstanding Exhibit went to **San Diego Botanic Garden** (www.sdbgarden.org). Their outstanding "California Fusion" entry was an Asian-inspired garden done entirely with California native plants. It was designed by Greg Rubin (whose book on California native plants was the topic of our April meeting), and installed by SDBG volunteers. The beautiful

landscape includes a tea house on stilts, wooden bridge pathway, raked gravel, and custom ceramic art by SDHS member Laird Plumleigh. Plants were supplied by SDHS sponsor nurseries, too. Pride of place inside the charming tea house is given to a lemonadeberry bonsai plant on loan from bonsai master Phil Tackill. You can see fascinating photos of the installation process from start to finish on the Facebook page for California's Own Native Landscape Design. SDBG volunteers Peter and Margaret Jones led the team in producing a marvelous garden. Our judges felt this garden shows people that California native plants do not need to be restricted to native-only casual gardens but can be used successfully for a variety of styles. ☘



Bonita Organic Garden Club edible garden appeals to kids

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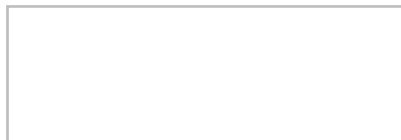
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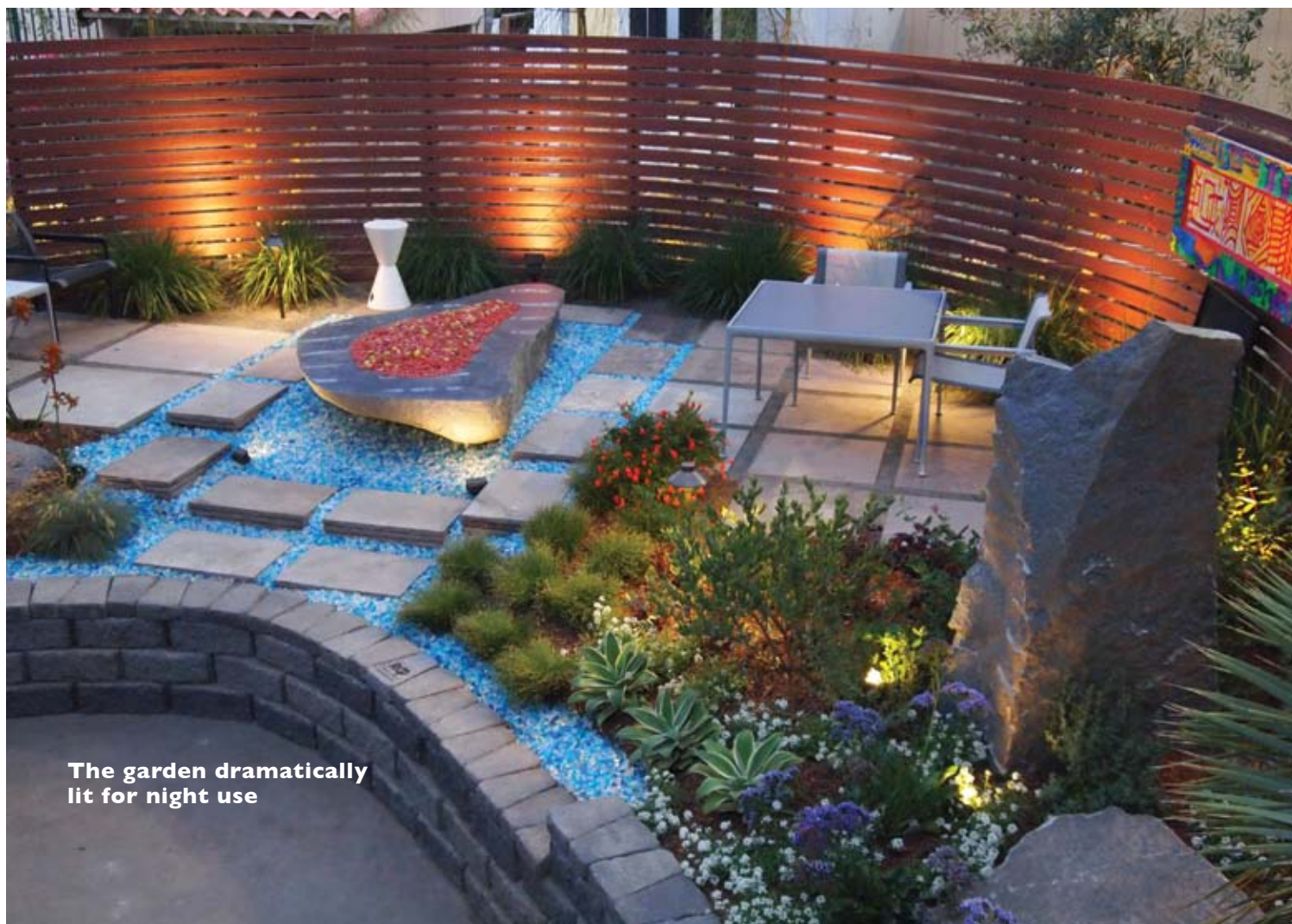


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