

# Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

June 2013, Number 225

## SDHS Night at the Fair

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On the Cover: Preliminary drawing of our Fair garden

# SPECIAL EVENT: *SDHS Night at the Fair Gardens* Plus 2013 Horticulturist of the Year Presentation

**Monday, June 24, 5:30 – 7:45 PM, Award Ceremony 6:00PM**

**LOCATION: Flower & Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds**

**FREE PARKING! FREE ENTRY for SDHS Members! Guests, \$15**

Enjoy a **private night** at the San Diego County Fair's Flower & Garden Show! The Fair will be closed to the public, and SDHS members and guests can stroll at leisure around the outdoor garden show displays and meet some of the talented designers. This event replaces our regular June meeting.

**No-host bar with beer, wine, sodas and water.**

At 6 p.m., at the Flower & Garden Show Stage, President Jim Bishop will present the Horticulturist of the Year Award to Brad Monroe. Brad was the creator and (for over 30 years) the Program Coordinator of the Ornamental Horticulture department at Cuyamaca College.

**Free to members; \$15 for guests (cash or check only; no credit cards).**



**Parking instructions:** Enter the main parking lot off Jimmy Durante Blvd. (the 2nd driveway on the right if you turned left at Via de la Valle). Continue on the main parking lot road and park near the main Fair entrance (near the big Don Diego statue). Follow the signs to enter the Flower & Garden Show south of the main entrance. There is a map of the Fair at [www.sdfair.com/index.php?fuseaction=maps.map](http://www.sdfair.com/index.php?fuseaction=maps.map).

## ▼ SDHS SPONSOR

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Paul Ecke Jr  
**Flower & Garden Show**  
**2013 STAGE SCHEDULE**  
at the San Diego County Fair

June 8

- 11:30 **Junk to Treasure**, Floral Designer - *Sam Chiem*
- 1:00 **Growing Roses the Easy Way**, The Rose Doctors - *Diana Kilmer*
- 2:30 **Bonsai Demonstration**, San Diego Bonsai
- 4:00 **Floral Designing Principles**, Leararina's - *Artesia Cook*

June 9 - *Oratorical Contest*

- 4:00 **The California Native Landscape**, California's Own Native Landscape Design - *Greg Rubin*

June 11

- 11:30 **Spots of Color Where You Live**, Weidner's Gardens - *Evelyn Weidner*
- 1:00 **Propagating Staghorn Ferns**, UCCE Master Gardener - *Charles Robinson*
- 2:30 **Botany for Kids**, Coastal Sage Gardening - *John Noble*
- 4:00 **Orchids for Your Back Yard**, San Diego Orchid Society - *Charley Fouquette*

June 12

- 11:30 **Growing and Using Medicinal Herbs**, Herbalist - *Carole Brown*
- 1:00 **Cultivating African Violets**, African Violets - *Barbara Conrad*
- 2:30 **Attracting Hummingbirds and Butterflies to Your Garden**, UCCE Master Gardener - *Marcia VanLoy*
- 4:00 **Fruit Trees: Selection, Care and Pruning**, UCCE Master Gardener - *John Marsh*

June 13

- 11:30 **Succulent Bridal Bouquet: Construction and Care**, Embellishment - *Dawn Stone*
- 1:00 **Supermarket Bouquets**, Dos Gringos/ Sunflowerbuy.com - *Suzy Long*
- 2:30 **Freshen Your Home with Color and Light**, Art Collectors Galleries - *Valerie Chao*
- 4:00 **Monarch Mania**, CHIRP - *Maureen Austin*

June 14

- 11:30 **Floral Designs from Your Garden**, Darlene's Studio - *Darlene Karinen*
- 1:00 **Rose Care Made Easy**, Green Star - *Pete Philan*
- 2:30 **Drip Irrigation**, DIG - *Rita Robles*
- 4:00 **The California Native Landscape**, California's Own Native Landscape Design - *Greg Rubin*

June 16

- 11:30 **Let Worms Eat Your Garbage and Improve Your Soil**, Vermicompost - *Shelley Grossman*
- 1:00 **Trees for Health**, Herbalist - *Charlotte Tenney*
- 2:30 **Fool Proof Plants**, - *Kathryn Taylor*
- 4:00 **Landscapes—San Diego Style**, SD County Xeriscape Council - *Jan Tubiolo*

June 18

- 11:30 **From Designing to Weddings**, Trendee's - *Noemi Garcia*
- 1:00 **Succulent Floral Arranging**, Floral Fantasies by Jacquie - *Jacquelyn Kilpatrick*
- 2:30 **Processes in the Rose Garden**, - *Jeanne Skinner*
- 4:00 **G-Force Bouquets at Play!** Jamie Wynn Floral - *Jamie Kales*

June 19

- 11:30 **30 Great Drought Tolerant Plants**, Great Gardens Landscape Design - *Doug Kalal*
- 1:00 **Above and Beyond Well Known Begonias**, San Diego Begonia Societies - *Chuck Ades*
- 2:30 **Begonia Culture**, San Diego Begonia Societies - *Dean Turney*
- 4:00 **Indoor Begonias**, San Diego Begonia Societies - *Ingeborg Foo*

June 20

- 11:30 **Supermarket Bouquets**, Dos Gringos/ Sunflowerbuy.com - *Suzy Long*
- 1:00 **Earth Friendly Gardens**, UCCE Master Gardener - *Cindy Sparks*
- 2:30 **Beautiful Ways to Reuse**, Floral Designer - *Chris Nordfelt*
- 4:00 **Fruit Trees for the Landscape**, Cedros Gardens - *Mia McCarville*

June 21

- 11:30 **Edible Landscapes**, UCCE Master Gardener - *Cindy Sparks*
- 1:00 **Floral Designs from Your Garden**, Floral Designer - *Darlene Hill Karinen*
- 2:30 **Trees Make Cents**, Certified Arborist/Master Gardener - *Robin Rivet*
- 4:00 **Organic Farming at Wild Willow Farm** - Paul Maschka



Paul Ecke Jr

# Flower & Garden Show 2013 STAGE SCHEDULE at the San Diego County Fair

June 22

- 11:30 **A Growing Passion**, Plant Soup, Inc. - *Nan Sterman*
- 1:00 **Attracting Hummingbirds and Butterflies to Your Garden**, UCCE Master Gardener - *Marcia VanLoy*
- 2:30 **Improve Your Soil**, Agri-Service - *Sharon May*
- 4:00 **Benefits and Care of Trees**, Certified Arborist - *Gabe Mitchell*

June 23 - *4th Annual Floral Design Contest*

June 25

- 11:30 **ABCs of Plants**, - *Kathryn Taylor*
- 1:00 **Botany for Kids**, Coastal Sage Gardens - *John Noble*
- 2:30 **Planting Almost Anything in Succulents**, Urban Edens - *Don and Laura Starr*
- 4:00 **The California Native Landscape**, California's Own Native Landscape Design - *Greg Rubin*

June 26

- 11:30 **Go Organic! Whole Food Floral**, Jamie Wynn Floral - *Jamie Kales*
- 1:00 **Succulent Floral Arranging**, Floral Fantasies by Jacquie - *Jacquelyn Kilpatrick*
- 2:30 **Entertaining from the Garden**, Dolezal Design - *Doug Dolezal*
- 4:00 **Fruit Tree Basics**, Certified Arborist - *Gabe Mitchell*

June 27

- 11:30 **Patriotic Corsages for Seniors**, - *Southwest College Floral Students*
- 1:00 **Great Roses for San Diego**, Del Mar Rose Society - *Jerry Littieri*
- 2:30 **Bonsai Demonstration** - San Diego Bonsai
- 4:00 **How to Grow Beautiful Roses**, Del Mar Rose Society - *Kathy Reed McCarthy*

June 28

- 11:30 **The Life of the Honeybee**, San Diego Beekeepers Association - *Don Spangler & Eric Robinson*
- 1:00 **30 Great Drought Tolerant Plants**, Great Gardens Landscape Design - *Doug Kalal*
- 2:30 **Floral Armatures**, Floral Designer - *Sonja Longley*
- 4:00 **Repotting Orchids**, Sunset Valley Orchids - *Fred Clarke*

June 29

- 11:30 **Edible Gardening**, Edible Eden - *Richard Wright*
- 1:00 **Winning Plant Combinations for Southern California Gardeners**, Designs by Shellene - *Shellene Mueller*
- 2:30 **Managing Large Property Landscapes**, Landscape Designer - *Tricia Daley*
- 4:00 **Unique Container Gardening**, Flower Girls - *Bette Childs & Joanie Espy*

June 30 - *My Big Fair Wedding*

July 1

- 11:30 **How to Grow Dahlias**, San Diego County Dahlia Society - *David & Sharon Tooley*
- 1:00 **Organic Fertilizer Secrets**, California Organic Fertilizers, Inc. - *Jim Verner*
- 2:30 **How to Grow Dahlias**, San Diego County Dahlia Society - *Steve Nakamura Max Turner*
- 4:00 **Landscapes—San Diego Style**, SD County Xeriscape Council - *Jan Tubiolo*

July 2

- 11:30 **Butterflies and Accompanying Plants**, The Water Conservation Garden - *Pam Meisner*
- 1:00 **Organic Fertilizers Save Water**, California Organic Fertilizers, Inc. - *Jim Verner*
- 2:30 **Pet Friendly Landscaping**, UCCE Master Gardener - *Judy Macomber*
- 4:00 **Designing with Edibles**, Landscape Designer - *Tricia Daley*

July 3

- 11:30 **Tour of the Gardens – The Best of the Best Plants**, Mary's Garden - *Mary McBride*
- 1:00 **How to Rebloom Orchid Gifts**, Green Star - *Pete Philan*
- 2:30 **Bringing the Outdoors In**, A Beautiful World - *Patti Keyes*
- 4:00 **Irrigation Maintenance**, Landscape Architect - *Steve Sherman*

July 4

- 11:30 - **FLORAL Awards**
- 1:00 **Succulent Bridal Bouquet Construction & Care**, Makiko Floral Design Garden Club - *Makiko Goto-widerman*
- 2:30 **Irrigation Maintenance**, Landscape Architect - *Steve Sherman*
- 4:00 **Introduction to Fermentation** - Paul Maschka

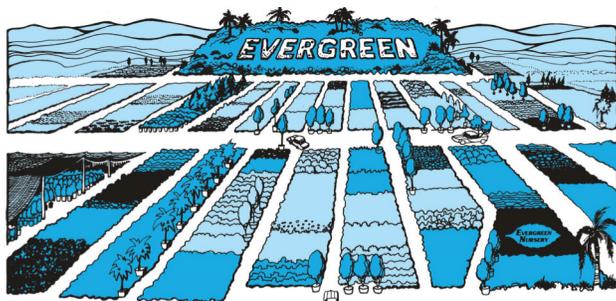
## What's Happening? for JUNE 2013

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

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

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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

## June 1

## The Twilight Garden

Create your own serenity garden with flowers and fragrances. Learn about the different plant choices and how to arrange them in your garden to create that mystical landscape.

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

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

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

### Two Convenient Locations:

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

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

## Events at Public Gardens

❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** contact info on other side  
**June 20, 6:30pm, Summer Solstice Celebration & Labyrinth Walk.**  
See [www.avgardens.org](http://www.avgardens.org) for events & classes.

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** contact info on other side  
**June 1, 9am-1pm, Build Your Own Hydroponic Summer Garden:**  
Learn the principles of the hydroponic wick method. Members \$75, non-members \$90.

**June 1, 1-3:30pm, Gardening From the Ground Up:** learning how to identify your soil type, how to test your soil, and how to improve your soil. Members \$30, non-members \$36.

**June 9, 1-3pm, Members Only Free Plant Clinic Diagnosing Your Plant Problems:** Let our panel of experts help you diagnose what's wrong with your plant. To RSVP call (760) 436-3036 x214.

### ❖ The Water Conservation Garden

contact info on other side

**June 15, 10:30-11:30am, World Heritage Garden Tour:** By visiting selected sites in the Garden, this tour explores a variety of styles found in celebrated gardens. Prepare to explore Australia, as did botanist Joseph Banks, gathering plants for the opening of Kew Gardens in London. Walk through Paris' Tuileries in the company of Gertrude Stein. Let Frida Kahlo guide your selection of colors. No reservations required. Donations are greatly appreciated.

## Events Hosted by SDHS Sponsors:

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

### ❖ Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops

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

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

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

### ❖ City Farmers Nursery Classes

**June 9, 3-4:30pm, Permaculture & Vegetarian Potluck**

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

### ❖ Evergreen Nursery FREE Seminar Each Month

See column at left for details.

### ❖ Grangetto's FREE Workshops

**Growing Herbs, 10am to noon:** Farmer Roy Wilburn will talk about many culinary herbs. Learn the basics of growing, pest control, cutting, much more.

June 1, 1105 W. Mission Ave, Escondido

June 8, 189 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd., Encinitas

June 22, 530 E. Alvarado St., Fallbrook

See insert in MAY newsletter

Info & registration: [www.grangettosgardenclub.com/workshops](http://www.grangettosgardenclub.com/workshops)

### ❖ Sunshine Care FREE Workshop

**June 15, 10:30am, Everything you wanted to know about citrus.**

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

### ❖ Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes

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

	Point Loma, 9am	Poway, 9:30am
June 1	Summer Lawn Care	Growing Giant Pumpkins
June 8	Summer Color	Orchids
June 15	Propagation	TBA
June 22	Veggie Garden Maintenance	TBA
June 29	Cacti & Succulents	TBA

### ❖ Waterwise Botanicals - See MAY newsletter insert!

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

### ❖ Weidners' Gardens classes & workshops

**June 1, 2pm, Designing with Succulents:** Learn how to blend succulents and other low water plants, which succulents grow in summer and which grow in winter, plus how to add blooming color to your succulent plantings.

Details & registration at [www.weidners.com](http://www.weidners.com).

### Next SDHS Meeting

## June 24 - special event

# SDHS Night at the Fair

See inside front cover for details

More garden-related events  
on other side.

## Other Garden-Related Events:

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

◆ **June 5, 6:30pm, Palomar Orchid Society:** Orchid enthusiast and photographer Ron Parsons will speak on "Orchid Miniatures." Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. Info: [www.palomarorchid.org](http://www.palomarorchid.org).

◆ **June, 9, 1:30pm, American Begonia Society:** Monthly meeting at Ades Gish Nursery for a nursery tour and plant sale. 2222 Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos. For info call (760) 815-7014.

◆ **June, 18, 6:30pm, California Native Plant Society:** "Native Plants at the San Diego Botanical Garden," will be examined by Dave Ehrlinger. 6:30 pm. Natives for Novices; 7:30 p.m. Meeting. Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. Info: (760) 434-5033, [www.cnpsd.org](http://www.cnpsd.org).

◆ **June, 19, 7:00pm, San Diego County Cymbidium Society:** Peter Lin on "Orchids Alfresco! Best Orchids to Grow Outdoors." Ecke Bldg., San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Dr. Encinitas. Info: (619) 520-1366, [whartongc@aol.com](mailto:whartongc@aol.com).

◆ **June, 20, 10:30am, Chula Vista Garden Club:** Laura Eubanks of Serenity Gardens Landscape Services will present a "Succulent Extravaganza." Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St., Chula Vista. Info: 619-691-1651

◆ **June 22, 10:00 am, Dos Valles Garden Club Plant Sale:** 28933 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center. Info: [www.dosvallesgardenclub.org](http://www.dosvallesgardenclub.org).

## Garden Shows & Plant Sales

Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

### June 1 (10am - 3pm) – 2 (10am-4pm)

San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Plant Show & Sale  
See their insert in the May newsletter  
Info: (619) 258-9810, [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)

### June 8 – 9 (10am-4pm both days)

San Diego Bromeliad Society Plant Show & Sale  
Info: [www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html)

### June 14 (noon - 4pm) – 15 (10am - 4pm)

Master Gardeners Plant Sale  
Info: [www.mastergardenersd.org](http://www.mastergardenersd.org)

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

## San Diego County Farmers Markets

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

### MONDAY:

Escondido - Welk Village

### TUESDAY:

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

### WEDNESDAY:

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

### THURSDAY:

Chula Vista  
El Cajon  
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](http://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](http://www.avgardens.org) or (760) 945-3954.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Garden TV and Radio Shows:

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

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

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### INSERTS:

San Diego County Fair Flower & Garden Show  
Calendar/Resources/Ongoing Events

## SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

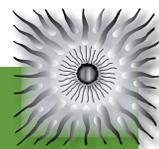
### MEETING SCHEDULE

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

### MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

- June 21** Garden Design and Remodel (FW)
- June 22** New Member Orientation, Mission Hills
- June 29** Featured Garden, Escondido
- July 8** Debra Lee Baldwin on her new book, *Succulents Simplified*
- July 13** Garden Ponds (FW)
- July 27** Overgrown Plants in your Garden (FW)
- August 4** 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)



SAN DIEGO  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY



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

**COVER IMAGE:** Sneak peek at the plan for our Fair display garden. See the garden in person from June 8 to July 4, and read more about it on page 7.

**SPECIAL EVENT: *SDHS Night at the Fair Gardens***  
**Plus 2013 Horticulturist of the Year Presentation**  
**Monday, June 24, 5:30 – 7:45 PM, Award Ceremony 6:00PM**  
**FREE PARKING! FREE ENTRY for SDHS Members! Guests, \$15**

Enjoy a **private night** at the San Diego County Fair's Flower & Garden Show! The SDHS display garden will be the **entrance garden** to the Flower & Garden Show. Our exhibit is sponsored by the San Diego County Water Authority. This event replaces our regular June meeting. Read about our exciting garden on page 7.

See inside front cover for details.



# SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Patty Berg** – Volunteer Coordinator

**Jeff Biletnikoff** – Meeting Room Coordinator

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Past President

**Don Walker** – Past President

**Lucy Warren** – Secretary

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

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

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

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### ☛New Email? New Street Address?

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

## BECOME A SPONSOR!

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

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

## IMPORTANT MEMBER INFORMATION

### Volunteers Wanted for Our Fair Display Garden

SDHS will have the entry garden at the San Diego County Fair – it'll be the FIRST GARDEN people see as they enter from the main gate! 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. The Fair runs from June 8 to July 4. Sign up online at [www.sdhort.org/fairvol](http://www.sdhort.org/fairvol) or, if you can't sign up online, by calling Patty Berg at (760) 815-0625 or emailing her at [volunteer@sdhort.org](mailto:volunteer@sdhort.org). Free admission to the Fair and free parking make this one of the year's best volunteer opportunities!

### September Board Opening: Public Relations Coordinator

Ensure that non-members learn about the exciting things SDHS does by coordinating with our press release writer and events publicist. This is a fun position where you get to know everyone and everything that is going on. Contact Susan Oddo: [soddo@earthlink.net](mailto:soddo@earthlink.net).

### September Board Opening: Secretary

Record and maintain board meeting minutes and other Society documents. Work closely with president and other board members concerning society direction and leadership. Requires familiarity with email and computer editing skills. This interesting position puts you at the center of the action. Contact Jim Bishop: [president@sdhort.org](mailto:president@sdhort.org).

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:susannapagan@gmail.com). ☺

### IS YOUR NAME HERE?

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

Eric Anderson

Don Doerfler

Libby Levine

Diane Bailey

Yvonne Doerfler

Roger Martin

John Beaudry

Linda Fiske

Betsy Markle

Marie Becker

Jennifer Garson

Jerry Markle

Jane Coogan Beer

Margaret Grasel

Mimi Mortensen

Kathryn Bell

Lillian Gutierrez

Sharon Muczynski

Lisa Bellora

Jon Hatch

Marvin Murphy

Kathryn Blankinship

Faith Hoiberg

Tom Sadler

Vero Boyer

Barbara Huntington

Donna Scarfo

Chris Brawner

Joyce James

Nicholas Soroka

Forrest Breese

Donna Johnston-Taylor

Vern Strey

Constanze Christopher

Elizabeth Jones

Pamela Stricker

Susan Clark

Britta Kuhlow

Shelly Sulit

Jenise Deeter

Laura Lefebvre

Laura Tezer

Lori Dekker

Sherrill Leist

Laura Walker

Susan D'Vincent

Patricia Leon

Penelope West



## TO LEARN MORE...

### Learning About Plants

By Susi Torre-Bueno

This month we honor Brad Monroe as our Horticulturist of the Year for his contribution to horticultural education in San Diego. If you'd like to learn more about plants, with or without an eye to becoming a professional in horticulture, check out these three local colleges. Some classes are often offered evenings and weekends. They offer various classes, degrees and certificates in irrigation, floral design, plant propagation, landscape design and maintenance, arboriculture, and much more.

Cuyamaca College in El Cajon continues the Ornamental Horticulture program that Brad started over 30 years ago:  
[www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb](http://www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb)

MiraCosta College in Oceanside extensive Horticulture program includes classes in vineyards/winemaking:  
[www.miracosta.edu/instruction/horticulture/index.html](http://www.miracosta.edu/instruction/horticulture/index.html)

Southwestern College in Chula Vista has had a Landscape and Nursery Technology program since 1975:  
[www2.swccd.edu/4thLevel/index.asp?L3=994](http://www2.swccd.edu/4thLevel/index.asp?L3=994)



## FARM TOUR DAY JUNE 15 RESERVE ASAP

Enjoy a day in the country and get a behind-the-scenes look at how your food and flowers are grown on the Fourth Annual Farm Tour Day in North San Diego County. Guided walking tours led by the farmers themselves will take you through their unique farming operations and showcase a variety of the region's agricultural specialties. Demonstrations, samples, and other fun activities will delight all ages.



This is an exclusive look at a side of San Diego County few people get to see. Participants provide their own transportation. Each tour is focused in a local farming community, with four or five diverse farm stops. Bring a picnic lunch to take advantage of picturesque eating areas on every tour. Featured stops include: dairies, wine grapes, greenhouse growing grounds, succulents, citrus, an avocado packing house and more!

Due to the popularity of the event they expect it to sell out, so reserve ASAP. Tickets are \$25 Adults, \$10 Children ages 6-17 (under 6 free), \$70 Family Package (2 adults and up to 4 children). More info and registration at [www.sdfarmbureau.org](http://www.sdfarmbureau.org).



## FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

The very active spring gardening season is starting to wind down. So far, 2013 has been an odd weather year. I lost a number of plants to the wet and cold weather in January. In February, it hailed for 20 minutes and scarred the leaves of many tender plants and succulents. March was unseasonably dry and only .01 inch of rain fell in April, making it the second driest April on record. May began with a record heat wave and very early fire season, followed by much needed rain showers. Still, conditions seem to have been just right to produce wonderful spring flowers.

Perhaps these are signs of the long talked about climate change? Whatever the reason, even in a good rain year, San Diego gardeners need to be water conscious. Our exhibit at the San Diego County Fair (June 8th through July 4th) will showcase many water saving ideas and plants, but still show how to create a colorfully, livable outdoor space. You can learn more about the garden exhibit on page 5.

Get free entrance to the Fair by volunteering as a "Garden Host" at our exhibit for a few hours in either the morning or afternoon. You can be a part of our biggest outreach to the San Diego community by answering questions for a few hours about our exhibit, water conservation, and the Society, and then head off to enjoy all that the Fair has to offer. A training session for volunteers will be held at our exhibit at 10AM on June 6th. This is 2 days before the Fair opens, so you won't need to worry about parking or crowds. Sign up online at [www.sdhort.org/fairvol](http://www.sdhort.org/fairvol) or, if you can't sign up online, by calling Patty Berg at (760) 815-0625 or emailing her at [volunteer@sdhort.org](mailto:volunteer@sdhort.org).

### June 24: Night at the Fair & Horticulturist of the Year Award

On Monday, June 24th, we will honor Brad Monroe, creator and former Program Coordinator of the Ornamental Horticulture program at Cuyamaca College. [An article about Brad is in our May 2013 newsletter; available online.]

Our event, which takes place at the San Diego County Fair Flower & Garden Show Stage, replaces our normal monthly 2nd Monday meeting for June. The Fair is closed June 24, so not only is parking free, we will also have exclusive use of the outdoor garden exhibit area. There will be a no-host bar to add to the festivities of the evening. For details see inside front cover and page 1.



Our 2012 display garden won 8 awards at the Fair.

Marilyn Guidroz



## THE REAL DIRT ON...

### Archibald Menzies

By Joan Herskowitz

Archibald Menzies (1754-1842) was a Scottish physician, botanist, and naturalist who is remembered for his discovery of new plants during world voyages in the late 1700's. Menzies was born in Weem, Scotland, and, after a basic education, he and his brothers worked as gardeners for Sir Robert Menzies, the clan chief, who was interested in new plants. He later moved to Edinburgh to work in the botanic garden. There, Dr. John Hope, a professor at Edinburgh University, noting his intelligence, encouraged him to study medicine at the university. In 1782, after qualifying as a physician, Menzies entered the Royal Navy. He served at the battle of the Saints in the West Indies, followed by a peacetime stint in Nova Scotia. He collected botanical specimens at these postings and sent seeds to Sir Joseph Banks at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, then Britain's most influential patron of science.



In 1786, on Bank's recommendation, Menzies was appointed physician on board the *Prince of Wales* on a fur-trading expedition around Cape Horn to the Pacific coast of North America and China. He sent back plants collected on route and also brought the ship's crew back in good health, not a small feat in those days. On his return to England in 1789, he attained fame as a botanist and was elected a fellow of the Linnean Society.

In 1790, Menzies was appointed as naturalist to accompany Captain George Vancouver in his voyage around the world on the HMS *Discovery*. He was to investigate the natural history of all the countries visited, and also determine if plants cultivated in Europe were likely to thrive (due to the prospect of sending out settlers). His plant collections were destined for Kew and included dried specimens, seeds, and, when necessary, live plants, which were set out in a glazed frame on the ship's deck. Menzies' work included meticulous journals and skilled botanical drawings. He collected seed whenever possible and in 1795, the final year of the voyage, when served the seeds of the Monkey Puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*) for dessert in Chile, he pocketed some and introduced the tree into British gardens. After his service in the Navy, Menzies practiced medicine in London until his retirement in 1826.

Between 1783 and 1795, Menzies collected at least 400 species from around the world that were new to science, many from the northwest coast of North America. He is commemorated in names of plants he discovered, including shrubs in the Ericaceae (heath family) placed in the genus *Menziesia*, Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*, see the pine cones above), Pacific Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), Campion (*Silene menziesii*), and species of delphinium, ribes, and spirea. Goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*) is a San Diego native that brightens the coastal sage scrub landscape with golden blooms in late summer.

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



## BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

### A World Without Bees

By Allison Benjamin and Brian McCallum

Two recent headlines in the Union Tribune caught my attention. On April 13, the headline read, "Widespread Collapse of Bee Colonies Continues." On May 3, a similar story was headlined, "U.S. Notes Causes for Dramatic Decrease of Honeybees." As I write this review on May 6, NBC Nightly News is covering Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

Most of us are not farming to feed our families, nor seed saving for our gardens, so we may think this is not of much concern... but we all eat. Honeybees pollinate almost 100 food crops in the United States—up to one-third of the American diet—including such things as almonds, avocados, broccoli, onions, blueberries, and other fruits, nuts, and seeds. If the rate of pollination decreases, crop yields decrease. Smaller crops mean higher prices for all of us.

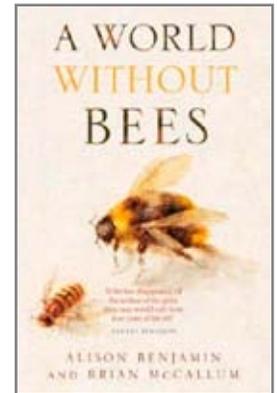
Honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) are not native to North America. The first hives were brought by the Pilgrims to pollinate the European crops they also brought. More that 160 native species of bees and over a thousand native pollinators already lived here. The honeybees that multiplied and adapted to their new home displaced many species.

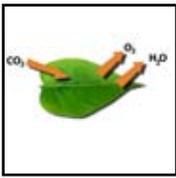
I never gave honeybees much thought except to notice when there seemed to be a lot in my yard. I never realized what an industry they have become. They are called livestock, and there's as much concern with keeping them healthy and active as there is with keeping herds of cattle and flocks of chickens at their profitable best. If anything, the industrialized world of honeybees is even more complex than that of other livestock.

Millions of beehives are trucked all over the United States to service the massive acreages of monocrops that are the center of American agriculture. And in the recent past, these hives have been in trouble. The NBC News reports that the largest beekeeping company in the United States normally expects a 5% loss over a typical winter. During the winter of 2012-13 they lost 42% of their bees to CCD.

*A World Without Bees* is a readable and fascinating look at the world of commercial beekeeping. It can get a little technical at times, but even those sections carried me along because they were well written. Benjamin and McCallum are British beekeepers. They don't try to hide the fact that they have more than an academic interest in what is happening, and they have a certain amount of contempt for the people who are currently deciding where and how much research will be devoted to this problem. The book was published in 2009, but is as fresh as today's headlines.

*A World Without Bees* (ISBN 978-1-60598-065-2), hard bound, is \$26 at your local bookstore. I highly recommend it. ☞





## TREES, PLEASE

### Trees Are Solar-Powered

By Robin Rivet

Trees have maintained a critical planetary balance - eating up carbon and spitting out oxygen for a long, long time. Recent climate changes are largely the result of excess carbon building up in our atmosphere. The coal, oil and tars we use for energy are essentially ancient and dormant carbon deposits from very old trees and organic material trapped underground: basically, a giant compost pile, decaying under pressure for millions of years.

Unlike trees, humans are rather inefficient in how we try to extract that carbon for energy. The fundamental biology and chemistry behind photosynthesis explains that while trees breathe in CO<sub>2</sub> and exhale O<sub>2</sub>, we breathe in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Of course, nothing in science is that simple, (the nitrogen cycle complicates this equation), but the gist is accurate. Leaves use sunlight to convert carbon into sugars, which eventually feed plant roots. The cool thing is that the by-

products of tree respiration are oxygen and water – just what humans need to survive on our planet. So, planting many more trees should be a no-brainer; primarily because their large, woody biomass helps replenish vital ecosystems, and store excess carbon.

Instead, costly brick-and-mortar solutions currently have the front seat for mitigating environmental degradation. Why is this? Expensive technologies such as LED light bulbs, high-tech insulation, and solar-voltaic panels reduce our need for energy-gobbling waste, but they don't sequester carbon. Although we need vigilance on multiple fronts, it makes economic sense to tackle global, environmental problems quickly, and as ecologically as possible. The reality is, there are concerned scientists, researchers, educators and ordinary citizens paying attention; but we need every horticulturist and gardener to increase their awareness, too.

If you haven't already done so, login to the San Diego County Tree Map ([www.sandiegotreemap.org](http://www.sandiegotreemap.org)). See how much carbon your neighborhood trees capture. Through increased citizen-science efforts, there are now over 332,000 county trees entered into that tree database. The math behind the map indicates a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> by

our trees to be a whopping 24,621,928 pounds, and we assume this is still only a small fraction of our county's total.

While it's true that mycorrhizae in soil provide additional interactions for tree vitality, most plant devotees forget that the prime source of energy for healthy vegetation is sunlight. That same sunlight provides over 99 % of the energy supply for all life on earth. At the end of the day, do YOU have enough solar-powered trees?

Here are some useful resources:

EPA: [www.epa.gov/heatisland/mitigation/trees.htm](http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/mitigation/trees.htm)

The Nature Conservancy: <http://tinyurl.com/June-trees>

Animated diagram: <http://tinyurl.com/June-trees2>

NASA: <http://climate.nasa.gov/news/907>

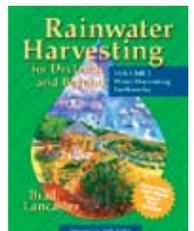
Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, Master Gardener and California Urban Forests Council board member. She welcomes public inquiries: [robin@sandiegotreemap.org](mailto:robin@sandiegotreemap.org).



## RAINWATER HARVESTING WORKSHOP JUNE 29 – 30

The San Diego Sustainable Living Institute has announced they are hosting internationally renowned water harvesting expert and author, Brad Lancaster, for a weekend workshop to train people on the permaculture approach to integrated water harvesting using rainwater and greywater. There is room for about 20 people, so if you're interested you should register ASAP. Details and registration are available at <http://sdsustainable.org/event/rainwater-harvesting-earthworks>.

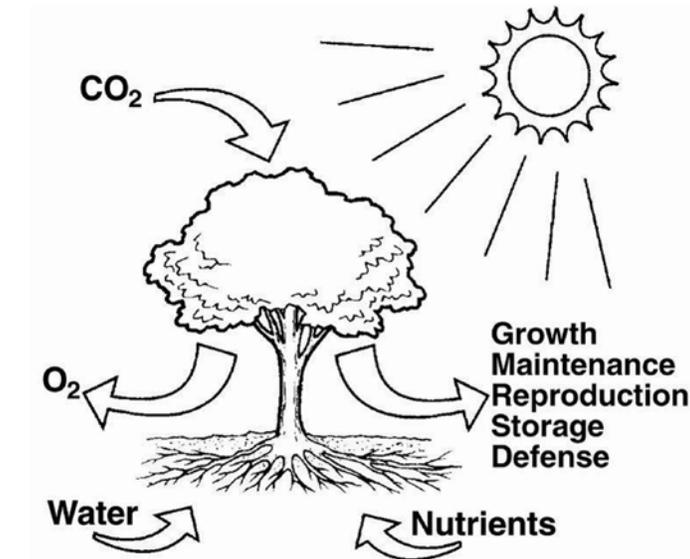
Brad spoke to our group in May 2010 and members can borrow a DVD of his very inspiring talk – pick it up at the video loan table at our monthly meetings. You might also want to read one of his books (available in three volumes) about this important topic, which should be of interest to all members. To learn more visit [www.harvestingrainwater.com](http://www.harvestingrainwater.com).



This 2-day workshop will teach people how to *plant* water back in the landscape to create abundant gardens that not only provide food, but shade, habitat, community, and more using rainwater and greywater! When most people think about rainwater harvesting, the first thing that comes to mind is usually a barrel or a tank. However, there is a far cheaper, more widely applicable, and larger storage capacity method for harvesting rainwater: passive rain gardens or earthworks.

A rain garden or earthwork is a term for sculpting the landscape to direct rainwater to where you need it and away from where you do not. These rain gardens then fill up and accumulate water every time it rains. There is no need to mess with hoses, plumbing parts, or expensive pumps. Just stand back and watch rainwater runoff walkways, driveways, patios, and other hardscapes right to where you need it. In this way you can double or even triple the amount of water that your plants would naturally receive and eliminate erosion at the same time!

Workshop participants will learn everything they need to start harvesting rainwater and greywater. There will be a mix of theory and plenty of hands-on applications as all participants will assess the site and then install passive rainwater and greywater systems.





## GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

By Pat Pawlowski

### Containing Your Wild Natives

To those who love the outdoors, one of life's great pleasures is to frolic about in the wilderness among the feral *Fragarias* and uncontrolled *Monardellas*. If that sounds a trifle dangerous, contain your fears; *Fragarias* are our own native California strawberries (*Fragaria californica*) and *Monardellas* our native mints (*Monardella* spp.). They're good-looking, wildlife-pleasing plants that are docile in nature and will not bite, even if provoked by nuisance species such as telemarketers.

They can easily be domesticated by installing them (like many other of our wild natives) in pots. Why pots?

Well, why not?

For one thing, not everybody lives in rural areas where there is a lot of open space. And even if you do have space, why not bring nature closer to you? A container can sit happily on your patio near a window, where you can see a hummer gently probing a bush snapdragon (*Galvezia speciosa*), up close and personal.

Also, what about that one-of-a-kind, eye-catching urn you acquired near the tomb of Tutankhamun? It probably needs something like graceful unassuming deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) that will enhance, not upstage, it.

And, most importantly, if the police are after you, think how easy it would be to just pick up that pretty lilac verbena (*Verbena lilacina*) in its container and throw it in your van as you make your escape. No time-wasting digging it up; your plant is always ready to go.

So now all you have to do is figure out which wild natives to domesticate. Generally, most succulents accept pot culture, especially dudleyas (*Dudleya* spp.). Since these huddle in confined spaces between rocks, they'll be ecstatic when shoehorned into a pot. (*Dudleya brittonii* is shown above.)

A variety of perennials, such as penstemons and coral bells, will accept pot confinement, as will some slow-growing shrubs, many of which will survive in container captivity for some years. To get a complete list of natives for pots, there are two websites which are especially good: [www.laspillitas.com](http://www.laspillitas.com) (see "Using Native Plants as Container Plants" for wonderful advice); and [www.californianativeplants.com](http://www.californianativeplants.com).

Once you've picked out your native to domesticate (and, of course, you will have considered exposure to sun, shade, Fuller brush salespersons, etc.), another thing to consider is the potting mix, which should be well draining and organic. Succulents will appreciate a cactus-type mixture.

Captive plants need more attention than wild ones. The smaller the pot they are in, the quicker the drying-out is; make sure to check moisture content frequently. Pruning at the right time can keep them looking their best.

So keep in mind that if you can't skip about in the wilderness, bring a bit of the wilderness to you – in a container. It's not exactly like being out in the wild, but it will serve as a reminder of the beauty, mystery, and importance of our native flora.

And remember, of course, to frolic.

Member Pat Pawlowski is a writer/lecturer/garden consultant who is self-contained. 🌿



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Patty Berg,  
Volunteer Coordinator

### Karma in the Garden

There is a generosity of spirit shared by many gardeners that is the single reason that many people find themselves drawn into the world of plants. And no one epitomizes this giving spirit better than volunteer extraordinaire Marcia Van Loy.

Marcia is a Master Gardener who trained with the University of California Cooperative Extension. Their rigorous program requires a major commitment of time spent volunteering for its many public outreach programs. Along the way, she discovered that the kind of gardens that most appealed to her created ideal habitats for birds and butterflies.

Despite an intimidating slope, Marcia began to create such a habitat in her Clairemont backyard. Until one day, just like Jill in the children's rhyme, she came tumbling down the hill. And that was all her husband needed to get moving on a plan to make the slope safer to navigate.

The resulting steps and handrails seem to melt into the background, with the spectacular show of mainly flowering plants taking center stage. Birds accompany the music of a 15-foot waterfall that empties into a large koi pond at the base of the slope. A serene display of water lilies lends a touch of Monet.

The result is a stunning tableau of color, water, footpaths and of course, birds and butterflies by the dozens. SDHS members who took part in a recent workshop given by Marcia were astounded by the fruit of her many years of labor. Even more impressive is how generously she shares it all with the many visitors who come to marvel at the gardens, hoping to learn some of her techniques. No one goes away disappointed.

Marcia's philosophy is that it is important to share and give back to one's community, so volunteering continues to be part of her regular schedule. In retirement, she has been able to continue to develop her vision by working hours that might make the old nine to five look pretty good some days. She and her husband Alan also watch their grandkids a few days a week, yet she always finds time to lend a hand for SDHS, Master Gardeners and other garden-related organizations. In fact, on May 6<sup>th</sup> she taught and hosted two back-to-back free workshops for SDHS members about "Gardening for birds and butterflies, plus gardening on a slope."

Marcia is a popular speaker with an encyclopedic knowledge of backyard wildlife and an unmitigated enthusiasm to share what she's learned. Judging from her amazing garden, it looks like what goes around really does come around. 🌿



A part of Marcia's steep slope



## SEE US AT THE FAIR! 10 QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR GARDEN

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Last month we wrote a bit about our display garden for the Paul Ecke Jr Flower & Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair (open June 8 to July 4). We're very pleased that SDHS member and landscape architect Marty Schmidt, owner of Environs Landscape Architecture, volunteered to design this garden. His design concept won the competition for the entrance garden, marking the first time that we'll occupy this prestigious location. You can see examples of some of Marty's impressive work at [www.environs.us](http://www.environs.us).

Marty's design, **Modern Garden/Planting Modern**, will be seen just to left from the main entrance to the Fair. We're confident that this high visibility location will help bring our message of gardening in harmony with the environment to the over one million expected Fair visitors. Additionally, our display garden is being sponsored by the San Diego County Water Authority ([www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org); see their ad on page 21), and we thank them for their support.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Marty in mid-May and we talked about his concept for the garden and how it fits with the garden show theme of Arcades of Color. Here's 10 questions we discussed and his replies are an interesting insight into a very creative imagination.

### **Q. Can you explain about your design process and why you selected the various elements of the garden design?**

A. The name of the garden is a play on words, with the "Modern" being in mirror-image positions. I am striving for a mid-Century modern garden ("Modern Garden"). So... we're focusing on getting away from the kinds of plants and maintenance we saw in the 50s, 60s and 70s – no more sheared hedges, lawns and poodled shrubs. I consider what we *can* do to benefit the region as a whole using regionally-appropriate plants as opposed to just putting "something green" out there in the yard.

The "Planting Modern" tries to get across the important concepts of water conservation and sustainability. When designing or adding plants to a garden we should be looking to replace what is there now with plants that require with less water and less fertilizer, and which also produce less yard waste. We strive to use California-friendly plants. Within California there are many microclimates and climate zones, so there is not a one-size-fits-all selection of plant materials. When I say to use "regionally appropriate" plants, this would vary even with San Diego County depending on location, wind exposure, etc., as there can be extreme differences depending on your location. My plan is to use material to perform well in the climate and soil for each garden. Also, I have made the fence from Trex lumber, and used recycled glass in the fire pit area, as these are both re-purposed materials.

The idea is that this can be *anybody's* backyard. The details would need to change to match the architectural style of your house. I am showing what a typical background plan can provide use areas to be outside and creating a desirable space to relax.

### **Q. Tell me about the plant colors and species you've selected for the garden, and what makes them "modern"?**

A. I broke down the garden into three spaces and within those spaces are different color ranges. The first space you'll encounter has sparkling yellows, oranges and reds. I am looking to grab people's attention to attract them into the garden exhibit area and to show them something really bright and vibrant. Within the second area of patio seating, which includes a dining area, lounges and chairs, I went for calmer colors. Here the colors are greens, blue-greens, gray, lavender and white; an elegant and relaxing color palette. I want people to walk into the inset area to read the signs that we'll have explaining the garden, and also scan the QR codes to get additional information. There is a six-foot high fence in the garden to limit your view of the Fair clutter. Around the backside of the garden is a very low-key narrow strip of landscape showcasing filler, perimeter and edging plants. These colors continue the subtle colors of the seating area. This area shows what you could do in a small side yard.

What makes the use of these plants modern is how I went about selecting the plants, with an eye to spacing them so they grow to their full size without excessive pruning to manipulate the plant shapes and sizes. The plants you choose for your garden should just naturally grow to the size you want to reduce maintenance. This is the modern view: to use plants appropriately. If you select and group the plants correctly you should be able to let your garden grow without excessive fussing. When I worked in L.A. years ago they'd plant large hibiscus on two-foot centers for an "instant garden." While this looks great to start with, for the rest of its life it is a maintenance chore. People still put large shrubs and trees, like Hollywood juniper, right against the house where very soon they'll outgrow the space. Sadly, people just didn't understand back then what the plant wanted to be and didn't locate them correctly, and this continues today when people don't know enough about their plant selections and aren't given appropriate advice. In Loma Portal, where I live now, these Hollywood junipers are eating up the windows and require constant maintenance. It's important to take final size and form into consideration.

### **Q. How does your garden design make use of low-water plants?**

A. The entirety of the garden has low-water use plants. The only exception is where a riparian condition would occur, and we used native riparian plants there. If a plant you love doesn't want to thrive here you need to go in with your eyes open and recognize you'll need more water in some cases. We're promoting water-thrifty plants throughout.

### **Q. There's some hardscape in your design, too, so it's not just a space with plants in it. How does the hardscape reflect the Arcades of Color theme?**

A. I imagined this garden is adjacent to a mid-Century modern house, which was all about minimalism. Therefore, I selected gray for much of the hardscape color palette. The grays are typical for Mid-Century modern homes and allow the plant materials to "pop off" them. I want the hardscape to be benign. There is a two-tone gray used for the block wall, which is built from the most appropriate modular split-face stone block available to us. The decomposed granite (DG) is grey. The stepping stones are blue-grey cut stone. In the dry streambed you'll see the soft colors of Arizona river cobble, which relates to the xeric plants used there.

In keeping with the sustainable premise also I tried to source local material. A big part of sustainability is achieved by minimizing the energy footprint: by *not* shipping something from China, as excessive movement of materials isn't sustainable. Here, I was looking to get

*Continued on page 10*



## PLANTS FOR STAMPS

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Wouldn't it be great to be able to swap your extra plants or cuttings for other plants you'd like to try... and for practically free? For about 15 years I've been swapping plants with gardeners all over the U.S., all for the cost of postage. It's fun, easy, and a fine way to get new plants.

I list the plants I have and the plants I'm looking for on the websites below. Someone reads my lists and makes me an offer, or vice versa. We work out the details, an agreement is reached, and plants are swapped through the mail. A few days later – *voilà!* – lovely new plants delivered to your door. Try it – you'll enjoy it!

### Plant Swap Websites

[www.davesgarden.com](http://www.davesgarden.com) (DG) – my member page: [Susi\\_So\\_Callif](#)

[www.gardenweb.com](http://www.gardenweb.com) (GW) – my member page: [susi\\_so\\_calif](#)

I trade plants at both of these websites. Joining is easy, and membership is free. Each has plant swap areas (called “communities” at DG and “forums” at GW) where members list the plants they have to trade and also the ones they want. There are also discussion areas and plant info on both, and you can post photos of your plants and garden, ask questions, and keep track of the plants you have.

### Working Out the Details

To initiate a swap, I check out the lists of plants being offered. I contact them through the website (you can also provide them with your email address) listing what I have to offer in exchange for what they have. The idea is to work out a fair trade for exactly the plants you want. It will take a number of back-and-forth posts (and prevent misunderstanding and disappointment), by taking time to work out ALL the details: names and quantities of plants, plus shipping method and date.

For example, if I have common bulbs and they have something rare, I might offer them more of my bulbs. If I'm swapping cuttings I'll mention if they are already rooted or not (mine never are) and ask about theirs. I want to be positive I'm getting the plant I expect, so I ask the scientific name if they didn't provide it. (Once I got a grass when I was expecting a vine because they had the same common name!) I also tell them to ship any plants bare-root so they don't unknowingly send me any of their soil-borne insects or pests.

Eventually we work out the number of plants we'll be swapping (“I'll send you 15 *Watsonia borbonica* 'Snow Queen' bulbs and 8 cuttings of *Aeonium* 'Zwartkop' in exchange for 5 *Amaryllis* 'Appleblossom' bulbs and 6 *Narcissus* 'Avalanche' bulbs”). We agree upon a method of shipment. This is almost always Priority Mail, which usually takes 2-3 days to arrive.

Selecting a shipping date is important. You don't want your plants to arrive just as you leave for vacation, and you don't want to send your plants unless they'll be home to receive them. I always check the day before I pack and ship my box to make sure the agreed-upon date is still fine.

## How to Pack Your Plants

To succeed in shipping plants you need to prepare and pack them carefully. I prefer to ship bulbs and succulent cuttings since they don't need much coddling. I remove any soil (to reduce weight and avoid sharing pests), and wrap appropriately. I tape on a plant marker and pack them snugly in a sturdy cardboard box. I try to give generous amounts of plants and, if I have extra space in the box, I might tuck in a small freebie.

To prepare **plants** for shipping:

1. Remove as much of the dirt as possible.
2. Wrap the roots in a damp paper towel.
3. Wrap aluminum foil completely around the damp paper.
4. Put that bundle inside a plastic bag (a baggie is fine for small plants). Do NOT put the leaves inside the plastic or they can rot.
5. Tape the plastic bag closed as tightly as possible. The idea is to keep the roots damp (but not wet) and to keep the stems and leaves dry.
6. Tape a plant marker to the bundle. You can re-use old plant markers or write on the blade of a plastic knife. Some folks cut up old aluminum blinds to make plant markers. Print the name of the plant in permanent ink marker or #2 pencil.

To pack **non-succulent cuttings** do 1 through 6, with the bottom 1/3 to 1/2 of the cutting treated like roots. Remove most of the leaves from cuttings.

To pack **succulent cuttings**, whose cut ends should be allowed to dry, wrap them in dry newspaper, tape, and affix a plant marker. Don't remove the leaves.

To pack **bulbs**, remove the dirt and, if they're dormant, wrap in dry newspaper, tape closed and attach the marker. If they're not dormant, do 1 through 6, keeping the bulb inside the damp paper and the leaves above it.

To prepare **seeds**, put them in an envelope, and label it with the scientific name and date harvested (if you know it). If sending seeds along with other plants, put the seeds in a sealed baggie so they don't get damp. If sending only seeds, wrap them with thin bubble-wrap and use a manila or padded envelope to mail them in.

## How to Ship Your Plants

When thinking about the size of my plants I also consider about the size of the box. If I know I'll need a larger box I can send longer cuttings, for example. Pack the plants snugly to minimize potential damage during shipping; fill leftover space with plastic peanuts or crumpled newspaper. Include a list of all the plants you're sending, a list of what you're expecting, and your address and the ship to address.

You can get free Priority Mail boxes at the post office. These come in standard sizes for convenient flat-rate shipping, or use your own sturdy cardboard box. If your package will be lightweight it might be less expensive to use your own box (rather than the flat-rate box), depending on the exact weight and distance it will travel. To learn more go to [www.usps.com/ship/priority-mail.htm](http://www.usps.com/ship/priority-mail.htm)?. You automatically get free on-line tracking with this service, so you can send the tracking number that is on your post office receipt to the person you're swapping with so they know when to expect the package.

Many times I can fit all my items in a small flat-rate Priority Mail box (the size of a cassette tape: 8-5/8" × 5-3/8" × 1-5/8"), and the shipping is only \$5.80 to anywhere in the U.S. The next larger size box is \$12.35 and comes in both square and rectangular formats. These are very sturdy boxes, and self-sealing to boot.

*Continued on page 10*



## 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.*

### Valley of Heart's Delight

The Santa Clara Valley stretches about 30 miles from the San Francisco peninsula in the north to the town of Hollister in the south. It sits atop some of the most productive farmland in the world. Decades before it gained international fame as "Silicon Valley," it was known as the "Valley of Heart's Delight." You can view a 1948 promotional film at [http://archive.org/details/valley\\_of\\_hearts\\_delight](http://archive.org/details/valley_of_hearts_delight).

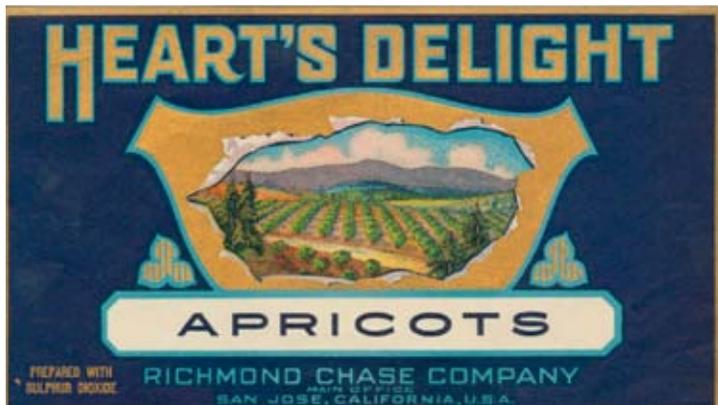
With a high concentration of farms and orchards, and as long as your heart's delight included a healthy dose of stone fruits, the moniker was mostly true. Until 1960, the valley was the largest canning and fruit producing area in the world.

By the late 1970's, it had been mostly urbanized, with tract homes and cookie-cutter office buildings. Still, there were remnants of its agricultural past. As one entered the valley from the south on Highway 101 there were numerous fruit stands offering amazing deals on under- and oversized fruits and vegetables. I wondered what someone would do with 100 bell peppers or a 5-pound head of cauliflower for a \$1.

Gilroy, in the southern part of the valley, is still known as the "Garlic Capital of the World," but today has been eclipsed by China's production. Gilroy also produced a lot of basil, oregano and tomatoes, and when passing through on the highway it was impossible not to think of Italian food. Large trucks overloaded with ripe tomatoes left tomato juice stains on the freeway as they delivered mountains of tomatoes to the canneries in San Jose.

At the San Jose airport, California State Historic Landmark 945 marked the spot where, in 1853, the first successful hive of honeybees was imported into California. Mariani Fruit Packing was still headquartered in Cupertino and had not yet relocated its large processing and fruit drying operation to Vacaville, California. Once on the way to Monterey, we noticed mile after mile of railroad cars along the freeway loaded with large, lumpy looking sugar beets. Could these have inspired the author of the "Invasion of the Body Snatchers?"

Santa Clara, however, was most famous for its apricot, prune, plum, and cherry orchards. Most of the people that had grown up in the valley hated apricots. They had picked the fruit during their summer jobs and eaten one too many fruits. I, however, had never eaten a fresh apricot and thought they were the most wonderful things I'd ever tasted. (The image is from a classic packing crate label.)



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Likewise, I'd only tasted fresh cherries a few times. There were a few cherry orchards that remained. When the fruit was ripe, you could drive through and purchase paper bags of cherries that had just been picked. Cupertino still has an annual Cherry Festival.

Near Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, I discovered a family-owned market, Imahara's, that had the freshest and most perfect produce I've ever seen. They had baseball-sized peaches that perfumed the house and dripped juice everywhere when you bit into them. The sweet and shiny strawberries were sold by size and ripeness. When the owners realized that I was grilling the sashimi tuna, they refused to sell it to me.

In 1980, a major infestation of *Ceratitis capitata*, the Mediterranean fruit fly, was discovered in the Bay Area. By 1981, when ground spraying, releasing sterile male flies and collecting fruit from backyards failed to control the fly, Governor Jerry Brown authorized nightly aerial spraying by a fleet of helicopters of malathion mixed with molasses. The controversy over the spraying led to the Governor's chief of staff drinking a glass of malathion at a press conference. The California National Guard set up checkpoints and confiscated tons of fruit. The pest was eradicated. However, by then I was frequently traveling for work and was surprised to return home after a week-long trip to find my car parked in an airport lot covered with layers of a sticky goo that made it nearly impossible to see out of the windshield. That Halloween in San Francisco, there were almost as many Mediterranean fruit fly costumes as men in drag or leather.

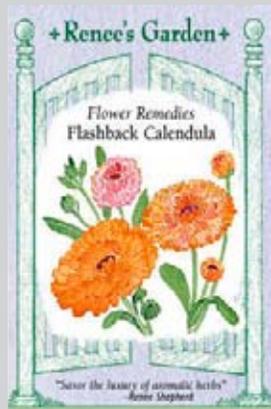
Jim Bishop is President of San Diego Horticultural Society and a Garden Designer. ☞

## PLEASE EAT THE FLOWERS

Looking for a fun way to dress up a salad? Want to get your grandkids to eat more from the garden? Wishing you had a simple but elegant item to make for a potluck lunch? Our sponsor Renee's Seeds has the perfect solution – edible flowers! It's not too late to start some of these from seeds now, and to plan for future floral treats. Renee's seeds (like the calendula pictured here) are sold in many local nurseries and online.

For links to Renee's articles about flowers (edible and otherwise) go to [www.reneesgarden.com/articles/flowers.html](http://www.reneesgarden.com/articles/flowers.html). Click on the third item (Edible Flowers pdf) to find a wealth of recipes and growing tips (there's more to munch on than just rose petals and nasturtium buds).

Each month, Renee's sends out an informative e-newsletter, and it's always full of helpful info. To subscribe (and/or to check out her seed offerings) go to [www.reneesgarden.com](http://www.reneesgarden.com) and click on the link at the lower right. ☺



## ■ Plants for Stamps Continued from page 8

### When You Receive Your Plants

Check daily when you're expecting plants, as they can get quite hot inside a metal mailbox or left in the sun on your porch. As soon as you get your package, open it and inspect the plants carefully, removing any insects that might have hitched a ride. Prepare cuttings immediately and pot up small plants in 4" pots until they're sturdy enough to go into the garden. Succulents can get planted directly in the garden.

Let the person you traded with know when you received your package. Tell them you're pleased with the trade (if you are) and let them know about any problems (missing plants, etc.). Sometimes the best solution to a missing plant (or whatever) is to let them know it's okay not to replace it, as the additional postage for them to send you one plant is significant. Put positive feedback (if appropriate) for them on the website, and hope they do the same for you. ☺

## ■ The Fair Continued from page 7

locally-sourced materials with the least amount of energy expended to get them to the Fair. This also means they're readily available to local homeowners. The DG is from a Riverside quarry, and the boulders were quarried in San Marcos.

### Q. What elements of the hardscape enable the garden to use less water or to capture rainwater?

A. We have a dry streambed with a rainwater retention area. This is a nice small-scale demonstration of contouring the site to direct the water, slow it down, and allow the retention area to infiltrate water into the soil. The DG is porous for the same reason. The inert patio materials also promote water retention and infiltration.

### Q. What about the design is helpful to homeowners with small garden spaces?

A. Because people who live in town houses, condos and new subdivisions have smaller and smaller lots, people now have small space gardens. What can you do to create desirable small space gardens? As a landscape architect I find it challenging to design a beautiful small space compared to a large garden, because every decision is much more important. This garden has a 1000 square foot total area, and so is comparable to what many people have. I'm trying to show them how to create privacy, lounging areas, and dining space in this small footprint.

### Q. Are there elements of this garden that can be installed on a modest budget by the homeowner?

A. All of this is intended to be achievable on a modest budget. The plant material can be purchased small so it's easy to bring into a small space. This garden is very do-able for the do-it-yourselfer. You could use a five-gallon tree and it'll grow fast and reward your patience in a few years. You can use umbrellas to add shade while you wait for your trees to mature. A large boxed tree could cost thousands for purchase and installation, but while this is nice for instant looks you can't get it into the average small garden without the huge expense of hiring a crane.

### Q. Do you think this garden will appeal to people with children or grandchildren?

A. Gardens like this without lawns can be lots more interesting for

*Continued on page 17*

San Diego Horticultural Society

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The advertisement features a close-up photograph of tall, green succulent stems with small, pinkish-red flowers. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it asks 'got antisiphilitica?'. Below that, it states 'DURABLE EUPHORBIA ANTISYPHILITICA: 1-GALS. only \$3.90!\*'. A smaller line of text says '\*REGULARLY \$5.90. NO LIVIT. OFFER GOOD WHILE SUPPLIES LAST OR UNTIL JUNE 30, 2013.' Below that, it says 'Five acres of beautiful and unusual succulents, many now on sale!'. The main text reads 'SERRA GARDENS LANDSCAPE SUCCULENTS 760-990-4762'. A quote from 'San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles Magazine' describes it as 'One of San Diego County's finest nurseries.' At the bottom, it provides the address '897 Quail Hill Road, Fallbrook. Entrance off Santa Margarita Drive.' and operating hours: 'Open weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Closed Sundays.' The website 'WWW.SERRAGARDENS.COM · WWW.CACTI.COM' is listed at the very bottom.

## 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:**

Lyle (Chip) Arnold	Jamie Higgins	Susan Pellerito
Carolyn Brindeiro	Victoria Lea	Anthony Ross
Bruce Cobble Dick	Elisabeth Matthys	Rheta Schoeneman
James Cothrine	Christopher Milligan	John Spohr
Andrea Fincham	Dennis Mudd	
Jon Hatch	Sandra Parish	

## HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

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

Jim Bishop (2)	Irina Gronborg (1)	Tandy Pfost (1)
Barbara Bolton (1)	Heather Hazen (1)	Sally Sandler (1)
Gigi Dearmas-Lopatriello (1)	Su Kraus (1)	Sue & Dick Streeper (1)
Bryan Diaz (1)	Claudia Kuepper (1)	Julia Swanson (1)
Dave Ericson (1)	Vince Lazaneo (1)	Pat Venolia (1)
Carla Gilbert (1)	Mike Masterson (1)	Lucy Warren (1)

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<b>Anderson's La Costa Nursery</b>	<b>Evergreen Nursery</b>	Multiflora Enterprises	Sterling Tours
Aristocrat Landscape, Installation & Maintenance	Glorious Gardens Landscape	Nature Designs Landscaping	<b>St. Madeleine Sophie's Center</b>
<b>Barrels &amp; Branches</b>	<b>Grangetto's Farm &amp; Garden Supply</b>	Ornamental Gardens By Lisa	<b>Sunshine Care</b>
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<b>Cedros Gardens</b>	<b>KRC Rock</b>	Revive Landscape Design	The Worms' Way
City Farmers Nursery	Legoland California	<b>San Diego County Water Authority</b>	Tree of Life Nursery
<b>Coastal Sage Gardening</b>	Mariposa Landscape and Tree Service	<i>San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles</i>	<b>Walter Andersen Nursery</b>
Columbine Landscape	Mark Lauman, Agricultural Sales & Consulting	<b>Serra Gardens Landscape Succulents Solana Succulents</b>	Weidners' Gardens
<b>Cuyamaca College</b>			<b>Pat Welsh</b>
Davy Tree Expert Company			Waterwise Botanicals
			Westward Expos

## LIFE MEMBERS \*Horticulturist of the Year

*Chuck Ades (2008)	*Steve Brigham (2009)	*Jane Minshall (2006)	Gerald D. Stewart
*Walter Andersen (2002)	Laurie Connable	*Brad Monroe (2013)	*Susi Torre-Bueno (2012) & Jose Torre-Bueno
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper	Julian & Leslie Duval	*Bill Nelson (2007)	*Don Walker (2005) & Dorothy Walker
*Bruce & Sharon Asakawa (2010)	*Edgar Engert (2000)	Tina & Andy Rathbone	Lucy Warren
Gladys T. Baird	Jim Farley	*Jon Rebman (2011)	*Evelyn Weidner (2001)
Debra Lee Baldwin	Sue & Charles Fouquette	Peggy Ruzich	*Pat Welsh (2003)
	Penelope Hlavac	San Diego Home/Gardens Lifestyle	Betty Wheeler
	Debbie & Richard Johnson		
	*Vince Lazaneo (2004)		

## MEMBER DONATIONS IN 2013:

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

## DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

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

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

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

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## A Garden Reconstruction Bill Teague's Legacy

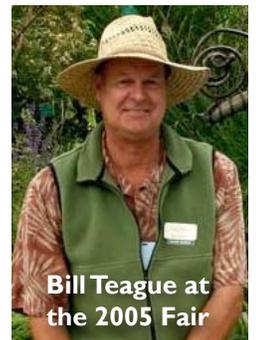
By Dave Ehrlinger

When the San Diego Botanic Garden's Seeds of Wonder Children's Garden opened ten years ago, in April 2003, one of its key features and main architectural elements was missing: the bamboo entry gazebo near the entrance.

The late Bill Teague, a SDBG horticulturist, resolved to build this structure, which was designed by the children's garden landscape architect, Bruce Dugmore, and sited among clumps of three species of bamboos. Bill was also a founder of the San Diego Horticultural Society, a longtime board member, and active in all its activities.

Bill was a longtime bamboo aficionado and was one of the founders of the American Bamboo Society. At "Quail Gardens," as SDBG was previously called, he had earlier been involved in the planting and design of the Bamboo Garden. Bill loved the nuances of bamboo craftsmanship and carefully devised ways and means of utilizing bamboo for the project. For the gazebo, he mainly harvested the Garden's picturesque grove of vivax bamboo (*Phyllostachys vivax*).

Bamboo structures, however, only last so long, and in the past year or so it was clear that Bill's structure needed replacement. His grandson Kevin, a junior at Irvine's Northwood High School and member of Boy Scout troop 606, decided to rebuild the bamboo gazebo as an Eagle Scout project. Kevin, the son of Chris and Marilyn Teague, came down on weekends to work on the construction, and brought lengths of bamboo back home to Irvine. There, he and fellow scouts cut and fabricated panels which were then brought back down to Encinitas to assemble and install on site. While down here, Kevin and his parents often visited his



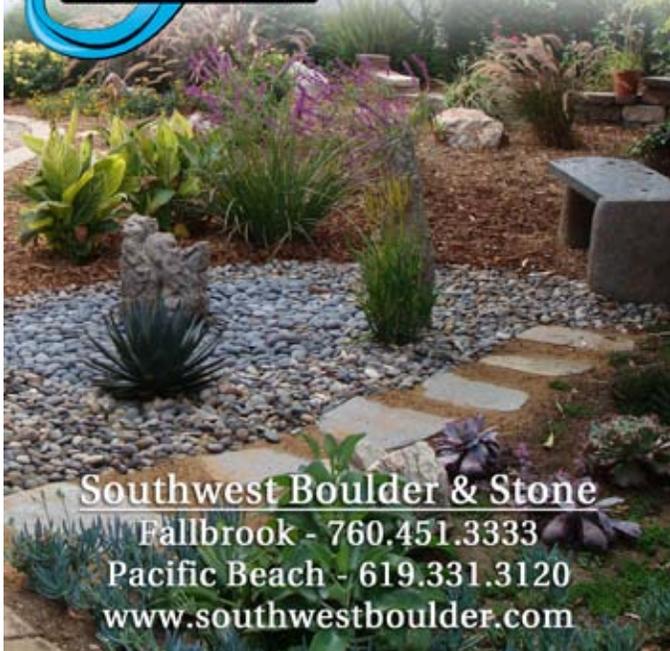
Bill Teague at the 2005 Fair

Continued on page 12

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■ SDBG Continued from page 11

grandmother, Linda, at her Del Mar home. Family friend Paul Addison provided expert consultation on the project's metal framework.

For many years Bill Teague was a main cog in the Horticultural Society's San Diego County Fair garden display, working with a great crew of volunteers and often in tandem with SDBG and its display garden. During this year's Fair season, it is fitting to recognize Bill, and his grandson Kevin, for their efforts and craftsmanship. Bill's legacy lives on!

To honor Bill's memory and encourage the next generation of horticulturists, there is a scholarship fund that supports interns at the Garden. Donations are welcome. Checks should be made out to the San Diego Botanic Garden and noted for the Bill Teague Scholarship Fund. 🌿

Kevin and the rebuilt bamboo gazebo.



Chris Teague

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## 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 June was:

What winter- and spring-blooming bulbs did really well for you this year and where did you get them?

**Jackie McGee** has a carefree reliable favorite: Every year I am delighted by the great show of flowers I get from the Ipheion bulbs I planted many, many years ago. I bought them from Buena Creek Gardens where they were growing, and they just dug up a shovel full for me. They have spread all over and every year they come up, bloom, and when finished blooming they gradually disappear until the next year. Absolutely maintenance free. Their lovely blue color is a delight in my garden.

**Chuck Carroll** said: The only winter and spring blooming bulbs that did really well for me this year in my yard in Carlsbad were amaryllis, watsonia and gladiolus.

**Willa Gupta** doesn't have much luck with bulbs: I live in South Laguna. Somehow, I have NO luck with bulbs. Some Freesias did come up. A neighbor had a great flush of dark purple tulips. I've done the fridge treatment of tulips, etc.: only got minimal blooms. I got 10 iris (from Garden Life); only 2 made a bloom. Phooey. Right now my roses are great. And I got lots of cactus blooms.

**Charlotte Getz** has a variety of bulbs: Bulbs that did well for me were daffodils, freesias, hyacinths and watsonias. My bulbs came from Master Gardener seminars when we sold bulbs to the public. They have been in the ground for two years now, so I will divide them for next year's planting after they finish blooming.

**Debra Lee Baldwin's** success story is babiana: *Babiana stricta* (baboon flower) has naturalized in my garden. It's a garbanzo-bean-sized bulb native to South Africa with blue-purple flowers on 12-inch stalks. Fifteen years ago, I started with a dozen dry babiana plants, which a friend had uprooted (babiana can get weedy). I harvested the baby bulbs that had formed at the base of each flower stalk, then planted them without amending the soil in a part of the garden that receives no irrigation. Every summer after that, I harvested baby bulbs and replanted them where I wanted more. Babiana, which blooms in April, is lovely contrasted with ice plant, *Bulbine frutescens*, California poppies and gazanias.

**Kathy Esty** got her bulbs at our meeting: The VERY BEST bulbs I ever had I won as one of the door prizes at a HORT meeting. They are *Babiana* 'Brilliant Blue'. They came from Willow Creek Gardens. Every spring, they have these wonderful blue flowers... and at the end of their bloom, I simply move them in my "nursery" until next year. I really do nothing at all and each year they bloom better and better.

**Heather Callaghan** loves narcissus: When I first moved here, I went to a seminar given by Pat Welsh. She talked about Tazetta narcissus. I ordered them from Brent and Becky's catalog. The best ones for me were Falconet and Avalanche. I now have a huge swath of them. I move them, and I usually cut the foliage off too early, and still they just keep on coming back and blooming. Sometimes they are a bit early – around Christmas – but this year they were Spring bloomers. Love them.

**Vivian Blackstone** has three favorites: Daffodils and freesias (red/orange), ordered from Brecks. Double bearded iris, yellow and purple, were received from a friend and now I constantly give away and subdivide them.

**Wanda Bass** likes her Amaryllis: These are in the ground from previous Christmas gifts and are now blooming in season. They are gorgeous!



Debra Lee Baldwin

Debra Lee Baldwin's  
*babiana*

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**Linda Bresler** has snowflakes: I had planted *Leucojum aestivum* (Snowflake) a few years ago among my succulents. They come up reliably every spring and look lovely blooming among my echeverias, etc. They are not too tall and don't overpower the smaller plants. *Leucojum* are not difficult to find at nurseries or from bulb vendors.

**Andy Maycen** has an exotic bulb: Okay, I know I'm in Hawaii so my remarks are probably going to fall on deaf ears, but we have had great luck with *Eucrosia* sp. (see photo).



Andy Maycen's eucrosia

Andy Maycen

**Barb Huntington** has TOO MANY bulbs: I am overrun with paperwhites (narcissus). They bloom like crazy, but would like to give away a bunch of them.

**Su Kraus** grew up with bulbs: Spring bulbs remind me of my English origins where the spring bulbs are fantastic. I have slowly been recreating that look using California native *Iris* and the native *Tritelia laxa*, along pathways, under oaks, in my patio (basically anywhere I can poke them in!) I have the purple-blue *Iris douglasiana* and the hybrid 'Canyon Snow' (white with a yellow center), as well as the Pacific Coast Hybrid in shades of purple. Since I grow them here at the nursery I got them straight from my growing grounds at Moosa Creek Nursery! [A SDHS sponsor, visit www.moosacreeknursery.com.] By the way, there was also a very good bloom of the *Dicholostema capitata* (Blue Dicks) this year. They sprung up on numerous banks around my house and in the nursery.

**Helen Miyahira** is another member happy with her babiana: My *Babiana stricta* did amazingly well a few weeks ago. I've had them three years and have they ever multiplied. Got the bulbs at one of the Master Gardener Seminars.

**Lori Kilmer's** bulbs honor shooting victims: I planted 2100 daffodils in honor of the Sandy Hook Shooting victims. They did really well. I got them at Home Depot in the bulk bags. Some were from Costco as well. I plant lots of bulbs, amaryllis, Dutch iris, and ranunculus, and they all did great.

**Susi Torre-Bueno** had help from the @#\$\$%! squirrels: I grow a LOT of bulbs and most of them did great this year. Before listing them here, I need to share how the devious squirrels have "helped" me by replanting some of my iris. In 2008 I planted 100 bulbs *each* of five colors of Dutch Iris in one area of my labyrinth. They put on a fabulous show for the first two years. I noticed about two years ago that less than 500 bulbs were coming up in this area, and at first I thought I had somehow lost about a third of them. Last year, I noticed these missing bulbs popping up all over the garden in groups of 1-3 bulbs, always with one color iris per group. I have figured out, and I'm pretty sure this is true, that our @#\$\$%^&\* squirrels must have dug some up and replanted them elsewhere, probably meaning to come back and eat them at some point. The single bulbs they have planted here and there have slowly multiplied in some cases into small clusters of bulbs. Now it's kind of a game to see where the stray bulbs pop up each year. So far they seem to be only on my property and not in my next-door neighbor's yard.

The winter and spring bulbs that are very successful for me are:

*Anomatheca laxa* (from friends)

*Babiana stricta* (from friends)

*Cyrtanthus brachyscyphus*

(Dobo Lily – from Plant Play Nursery, Carlsbad)

Dutch Iris (from our sponsor [www.easytogrowbulbs.com](http://www.easytogrowbulbs.com))

Re-blooming bearded Iris (from friends)

Narcissus –paperwhites and other daffodils come up reliably every year (from our sponsor Green Thumb Nursery, San Marcos)

*Scilla peruviana* ([www.easytogrowbulbs.com](http://www.easytogrowbulbs.com))

Watsonia (from friends, also U.C. Riverside fall plant sales)

**Linda Espino** also has success with paperwhites and freesias: I have lots of paperwhites and freesias (different colors, in pots) from Mary McBride (purchased at SDHS meetings), Cedros Gardens (a SDHS sponsor), and Trader Joe's. I had daffodils spring up over a two months in all different shapes and colors. I have some Japanese orchids in bloom now (early May) in the garden. Got them at both Home Depot and from the great auctions for orchids that the local clubs have twice a year. I have some scented garlic from Mary McBride, Aztec red lilies from the farmers market couple that sell herbs, veggies etc. at the Hillcrest farmers' market. Also, snowdrops someone gave me years ago are still blooming.

**Cassidy Rowland** also recommends paperwhites: In a holdover from living on Cape Cod for a number of years until recently, I forced paperwhites and other narcissus for the first holiday season we were here. I usually buy my bulbs in early fall at a plant nursery (I think these were from El Plantio, in Escondido). To my delight, in January many of the same flowers came up in our backyard in locations other than where I had planted the leftover bulbs. I was happy to know the yard had a head start on providing me flowers for my home. Since that first winter, the bulbs and their lovely scented flowers have spread and continue to delight us and our home every winter. I highly recommend this treat to all.

**Nancy Mueller** has bulbs in Fallbrook: In the fall of 2011, we planted blue, white, and pink *Hyacinthoides hispanica* from Brent and Becky's Bulbs. All three colors came back again this spring, with the blue dominating.

**Carol Costarakis** is another with a re-blooming Christmas bulb: I have amaryllis saved from Christmas forcing; they pop right up in the garden with those grand big blooms. Bravo!

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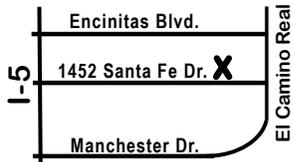
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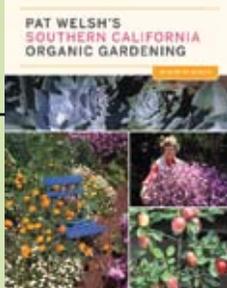


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**Louise Anderson** also has happy paperwhites: My paperwhites were especially prolific this year. Guess there was a lot of reproduction going on. Don't remember where I got them, but they are obviously enjoying my front yard meadow.

**Liz Woodward** has snowflakes planted with her roses: Bulbs are like garden magic, popping up out of a bleak garden in late winter to give you a great show in the spring. One of my favorites is *Leucojum*, commonly called Summer Snowflakes, and it reminds me of the Lily-of-the-Valley of my childhood. I have planted *Leucojums* at the base of all of my Iceberg Roses. A couple of weeks after the roses have been pruned back in January and are looking despoiled, out pops up my *Leucojums* to add their bright white flowers to my garden. By the time the Summer Snowflakes are ready to die back, my roses have taken off in all their glory. Another favorite is *Babiana*, which blooms from late winter through the spring with a profusion of purple, pink and white blooms. They are very drought tolerant and multiply freely. I get all of my bulbs at the San Diego Botanic Garden's annual Fall Plant Sale, which takes place every year over the third weekend in October (put it in your calendar and come early for the best selection). Incidentally, October is probably the optimal time to plant your spring bulbs so the timing is just right.

**Barbara Strona** had mixed results this year: My daffodils were disappointing. I planted them a week apart so I never got the burst of color I usually get. Freesias also were not so prolific that I was anxious for them to be finished. *Watsonia* have been very rewarding.

**Carol Wilson** is another member enjoying amaryllis: Our red amaryllis from Christmases past have returned with beautiful blossoms each spring. They reproduce to the point that we have more than 20 in blossom now, the first week in May. Some of the flowers measure 7 inches across. What a delight for very little work; my kind of gardening.

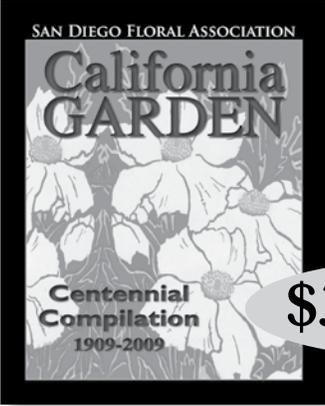
Other bulbs which members brought into our meetings from December 2012 through April 2013:

- Bletilla striata* CHINESE GROUND ORCHID
- Bulbinella cauda-felis*
- Bulbinella latifolia* var. *dolertica*
- Bulbinella nutans*
- Chasmanthe floribunda* var. *duckittii* YELLOW CHASMANTHE
- Gladiolus splendens*
- Haemanthus albiflos* PAINTBRUSH, BLOOD LILY
- Hyacinthus* cv. HYACINTH
- Iris unguicularis* WINTER IRIS, ALGERIAN IRIS
- Ixia rapunculoides* CORN LILY
- Lachenalia aloides* CAPE COWSLIP
- Lachenalia aloides* var. *quadricolor*
- Leucocoryne ixioides* GLORY-OF-THE-SUN
- Scilla hughii*
- Sparaxis tricolor* HARLEQUIN FLOWER

**The question for July is:**

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

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




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■ **The Fair** Continued from page 10

youngsters because they can see plants up close and get engaged at a young age, especially if the garden has edible plants. I am including potted blueberries and other fruits because they're sustainable and edible.

**Q. Why do you think the average homeowner will find this garden both aesthetically appealing and practical?**

A. The biased answer is because I designed it that way! I tried to put myself in someone else's shoes and think about what would be a beautiful Mid-Century Modern garden and came up with this design. The visual and practicality were two of the foremost aspects of this design. The plant material selection shines against this subtle and simple background.

**Q. Finally, do you think that we're going to see more gardens at the Fair this year featuring plants that don't need a lot of water? Are you seeing more gardens like this around San Diego neighborhoods and businesses?**

Yes, I assume we will see more water conserving gardens at the Fair this year. If you're not doing this kind of garden you're not going with where the momentum is. And yes, I *am* seeing lawns getting torn out and high-water use gardens being removed, more so in residences than businesses, however. For businesses this change needs to be owner-driven, as removal and replacement of a large landscape is not a low-budget option. I'm promoting taking your highest water use area and improving that first, and channel those savings into improving other areas over time.

**Some plants that will be used:**

The plants below were all generously supplied by Mountain States Wholesale Nursery; excellent photos and descriptions are available at [www.mswm.com](http://www.mswm.com). Most will be available for sale at the end of the Fair; to purchase plants(s) visit our website [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org). [Many more plants will be used, but the exact list wasn't available as we went to press.]

- Acacia stenophylla*
- Aloe 'Blue Elf'
- Aloe striata*
- Bauhinia macranthera*
- Buddleja marrubifolia*
- Dichondra argentea*
- Eremophila hygrophana* 'Blue Bells'
- Euphorbia rigida*
- Hesperaloe parviflora* Brakelights ['Perpa'] PP21,729
- Hesperaloe parviflora* 'Yellow'
- Lonicera x americana* 'Pam's Pink'
- Malephora lutea*
- Parkinsonia* 'Desert Museum'
- Pedilanthus macrocarpus*
- Portulacaria afra* 'Minima'
- Salvia clevelandii*
- Simmondsia chinensis*
- Tecoma* 'Solar Flare'
- Yucca rostrata*

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## MAY 2013 PLANT DISPLAY

By Sue Fouquette & Susi Torre-Bueno

### What is the Plant Display?

Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and put them in blue bottles on our display tables. What a great way to see what plants grow well in our area. EVERYONE is invited to participate. All plants are welcome. Write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with your plant(s).

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

#### ***Albuca clanwilliamigloria*** (Hyacinthaceae)

West Cape of South Africa

How can you not love a bulb with flower stalks over six feet tall and a last name like this one has? (It is found near the town of Clan William in the Olifants River Valley and west to Eland's Bay.) The nodding, 1' long, golden yellow flowers appear on very tall leafless stems from late winter to spring, and the bulb blooms best when planted in the ground. Since it is native to a winter-rainfall area it should be grown in sandy soil with good drainage where it gets no summer water. [A good book on South African bulbs is *The Color Encyclopedia of Cape Bulbs*, by Manning, Goldblatt and Snijman.] (Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 5/13) – S.T.B.

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#### ***Dendrobium hodgkinsonii*** (Orchidaceae) New Guinea

A rare yellow-flowered orchid, the 6-year old specimen displayed was grown from seed allowed out of Port Moresby, New Guinea. In the wild it is found in forests in Papua, New Guinea. Here, it is grown outdoors in El Cajon in 50% shade; grown dry in the winter. [See images at [www.flickr.com/photos/rosim/8660994878/in/photostream/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/rosim/8660994878/in/photostream/)] (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/13) – S.T.B.

#### ***Iris 'Clarence'*** REBLOOMING BEARDED IRIS (Iridaceae)

Horticultural Hybrid

This plant might just be the best five bucks I ever spent! A lovely iris, it gets about 2-1/2'-3' tall, is reblooming (about 3-5 times a year (spring through late summer), and fragrant. The large flowers are compelling from a distance, with pale lilac flaring standards, and ruffled, violet-blue falls with white centers and large white beards. The rhizome sends up several flower stalks each time it blooms, and each one bears a number of buds, so you get a lot of showy flowers. First introduced in 1991, this reliable rebloomer has won many awards worldwide since then, for good reason. Grow it in full sun with moderate to low water. It multiplies readily and is easy to divide and share with friends. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 5/13) – S.T.B.

#### ***Sambucus nigra*** BLACK ELDERBERRY (Adoxaceae) Europe, North Africa, Asia

This deciduous shrub or tree can grow to thirty feet tall and wide in full sun to light shade. It has nearly black divided leaves. In spring, the scented, white, flat-topped flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Later in the year the dark purple to black fruit is enjoyed by birds, and also cooked and enjoyed by people (although they are poisonous if not fully ripe). In the wild it grows in both wet and dry locations; here we can grow it with modest water. There are several subspecies and cultivars available, including a popular one called S. 'Black Lace' which has very dark lacy foliage and pink flowers. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/13) – S.F. & S.T.B.

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

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

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the May newsletter was *Calliandra evidencephylla* FINGERPRINT DUSTER.

Allium ampeloprasum WILD LEEK (Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 5/13)

3 *Cerinth major* 'Purpurascens' HONEYWORT (Barb Patterson, Solana Beach, 5/13)

3 *Cerinth minor* 'Purpurascens' HONEYCHILD (Plant Lover, Solana Beach, 5/13)

*Correa* 'Dusky Bells' (Jo Casterline, Poway, 5/13)

*Gladiolus* sp. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 5/13)

*Grevillea* 'Peaches and Cream' (Jo Casterline, Poway, 5/13)

*Hippeastrum* cv. AMARYLLIS (Sue Nelson, Encinitas, 5/13)

*Iris* cv. (grows in water) (Susan Morse, Vista, 5/13)

*Iris* cv. (Jo Casterline, Poway, 5/13)

3 *Ocimum* 'African Blue' (*O.* 'Dark Opal' x *O. kilimandscharicum*) (Susanna Pagan, San Marcos, 5/13)

*Rhamnus crocea* SPINY REDBERRY (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 5/13)

*Sarcochilus* 'Melba' (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/13) 🌿



## MAY MEETING REPORT

By Susi Torre-Bueno

When you purchase plants at a nursery do you ever wonder about the people behind the plants, the stories of how those particular plants were selected, or the myriad intertwined connections of the business of selling plants? Having worked for about four years in the nursery business myself (for Steve Brigham, at Buena Creek Gardens – best job I ever had), I know there are lots of fascinating stories out there. Our May speaker, John Schoustra, shared a number of his anecdotes with us.

John's had years of experience with growing plants, starting as a young child with creating a "marigold farm with G. I. Joes," and building a greenhouse at age 13. By the time he was in junior high school he was doing some professional landscaping. After getting his degree in landscape architecture he began large-scale growing of plants in order to have interesting species on hand for the projects he designed, as far fewer choices were available in the trade 40 years ago.

At one point many years ago he purchased (and then dug up and relocated) about 170,000 daylilies from "anarchists who loved plants but not people," and who hated dealing with the public. Soon he was helping other designers by providing them with plants for their landscaping needs. And yes, the rumors are true, he did help Barbra Streisand select flower colors to match her home's interior hues.

One of the important programs that John was a founder of was the All-American Daylily Selection Council, which starting in 1985 began a stringent testing program of daylilies. Of the over 50,000 daylilies varieties available, they were searching for cultivars with "at least an A- rating in at least five of the USDA climate zones." They set their criteria high and since then have been testing plants for about 50 traits, a daunting task but one which allows home gardeners to find those daylilies which perform best in their locale.

For John, however, of prime importance is finding those plants (not just daylilies) that "are an A+ in this part of the country." This goal led to the start of his "dumpster diving breeder programs." In other words, he's looking for plants that were rejected in other parts of the country but which do great in the California areas he serves. (He mentioned that about 80% of daylilies and 90% of bearded iris do not perform well in Southern California.) Among the winners in this program is the re-blooming agapanthus that he generously donated for our Silent Auction: *Agapanthus* 'Sky Blue', which blooms 2-3 times as long as most agapanthus, and sporadically during the rest of the year. This search for exceptional plants also led John to find more re-blooming daylilies, 500 types of pelargoniums, clivia, iris and amaryllis. His website has excellent photos and descriptions of these plants: [www.greenwoodgarden.com](http://www.greenwoodgarden.com).

One way that plants, especially those used for annual color, find their way into your local big box store is because buyers from Home Depot, Lowe's, etc. attend the annual "Pack Trials" where they see the newest plants available from wholesale growers. The elaborate plant displays at these trade shows cost upwards of \$100,000 per show, and there are shows held at several California locations (and elsewhere). The most recent one near us was in April in Vista, where acres of production greenhouses were temporarily turned into floral showcases with thousands of specially grown plants on display. How important are these shows? Well, an order from Home Depot could mean that one grower will be supplying six million geranium plants!

As you can imagine, these very special buyers are therefore "treated like rock stars." Contrast this sort of buying power with the fact that "about 60% of nurseries in Southern California have gone out of business in the last three years."

Providing these mass-produced plants, which are mostly annuals, on this magnitude is totally different than producing the low-volume "horticultural plants" that most of us grow. Cuttings are made all over the world in countries near the equator where there is equal day length all year, and shipped out in vast quantities. This makes "growing for color more like a factory" operation than a plant nursery. These production workers can be paid double what they're likely to earn in other agricultural jobs, so the work is highly sought after. In parts of Africa, for example, most of the people doing such work are women, and their income has changed the social dynamic in small villages, where men used to be the only wage earners.

The wholesale garden world has also been affected by places like Disneyland and the Las Vegas casinos. They buy plants in enormous quantities, and replace their plants many times during the year so they are always at their peak of performance. Celebrities and millionaires who see those plants want them for their home gardens, so this creates high demand from people for whom money is truly no object. We heard about John's adventures shipping 5-gallon potted daylilies to a Saudi prince, who had hired California landscape architects (who had designed some Las Vegas resorts) to create this look for his desert home. It involved the charter of a special plane!

Thanks, John, for giving us an insider's view of the wholesale nursery trade. Greenwood Gardens nursery is open to the public on Saturdays in April through June, so hurry on up to Somis (it's only three hours away) if you'd like to see his exceptional plants in person. Members can borrow the video of John's talk (which includes his amusing comments about the "Rose Mahal" and French champagne) at the video loan table at our meetings.

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