Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

December 2014, Number 243

Centennial Celebrations
PAGES 1 & 7

On the Balboa Park Lily Pond

VICTORY GARDENS ON CAMP PENDLETON
PAGE 5

HEDGES FOR EDGES
PAGE 6

OUR RECENT ANT INVASION
PAGE 8

GARDEN OF LIGHTS
PAGE 11
Centennial Celebration: Our 2nd Balboa Park Planting Day a Success (see page 7)

Some of our marvelous volunteers

Ready for planting

Some very colorful foliage plants were added

After planting - wait till this fills in!

GREEN THUMB SUPER GARDEN CENTERS
1019 W. San Marcos Blvd. • 760-744-3822
(Off the 78 Frwy. near Via Vera Cruz)
• CALIFORNIA NURSERY PROFESSIONALS ON STAFF
• HOME OF THE NURSERY EXPERTS • GROWER DIRECT
www.supergarden.com
Now on Facebook

When in doubt, let them make their own choice with a GREEN THUMB GIFT CARD!

WITH THIS VALUABLE Coupon
$10.00 OFF Any Purchase of $60.00 or More!

• Must present printed coupon to cashier at time of purchase
• Not valid with any sale items or with other coupons or offers
• Offer does not include Soil, Gift Certificates, or Department 56
• Not valid with previous purchases • Limit 1 coupon per household
• Coupon expires 1/31/2015 at 6 p.m.

SDHS SPONSOR

Jim Bishop (2)

Chris Dryer (2)

Jim Bishop (2)

Chris Dryer (2)

Jim Bishop (2)

Chris Dryer (2)

Jim Bishop (2)

Chris Dryer (2)
**Cuyamaca College**  
**Ornamental Horticulture**  
**********  
**Spring 2015 Class Schedule**  
**January 26 — June 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Num</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Xeriscape - Water Conservation</td>
<td>Schultz</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>2:00 to 3:50 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Xeriscape - Water Conservation</td>
<td>Rottke</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>5:00 to 6:50 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Floral Design 1</td>
<td>Citrowske</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4:00 to 9:40 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Special Occasion Floral</td>
<td>Citrowske</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>4:00 to 9:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Fundamentals of O.H.</td>
<td>Faulstich</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11:00 to 4:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Fundamentals of O.H.</td>
<td>Schultz</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>5:00 to 7:05 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturdays 1/31 - 2/21 - 3/7 - 3/21 - 4/11 - 5/2 - 5/16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>8:00 am to 3:45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>Plant Propagation</td>
<td>Palafox</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>7:15 to 9:20 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturdays 2/7 - 2/28 - 3/14 - 4/4 - 4/18 - 5/9 - 5/23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>8:00 am to 3:45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>Plant Pest Control</td>
<td>Schultz</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>10:00 am to 2:50 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>Soils</td>
<td>Kotnik</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>5:00 to 7:10 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Saturdays 2/7 - 2/28 - 3/14 - 4/4 - 4/18 - 5/9 - 5/23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>8:00 am to 3:45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170</td>
<td>Plant Materials: Trees and Shrubs</td>
<td>Whitney</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>4:00 to 6:50 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This class meets at Balboa Park for 12 of the class sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>172</td>
<td>Beginning Landscape Design</td>
<td>Holladay</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>4:10 to 9:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>174</td>
<td>Turf and Ground Cover Management</td>
<td>Spardy</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>5:00 to 7:10 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Saturdays 2/7 - 2/28 - 3/14 - 4/4 - 4/18 - 5/9 - 5/23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>8:00 am to 3:45 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>180</td>
<td>Plant Materials: Annuals and Perennials</td>
<td>Rottke</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>1:00 to 3:50 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>Introduction to CADD</td>
<td>Sumek</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>12:00 to 3:10 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Additional 2 hours per week via the internet</td>
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<tr>
<td>220</td>
<td>Landscape Construction/Concrete &amp; Masonry</td>
<td>Ratynski</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>7:00 to 9:05 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturdays 1/31 - 2/21 - 3/7 - 3/21 - 4/11 - 5/2 - 5/16</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>8:00 am to 3:45 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>235</td>
<td>Principles of Landscape Irrigation</td>
<td>Conger</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>5:00 to 8:50 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>238</td>
<td>Irrigation System Design</td>
<td>Groot</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>4:00 to 8:50 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>260</td>
<td>Arboriculture</td>
<td>Rottke</td>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>5:00 to 7:05 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Saturdays 1/31 - 2/21 - 3/7 - 3/21 - 4/11 - 5/2 - 5/16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>8:00 am to 3:45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>290</td>
<td>Cooperative Work Experience</td>
<td>Palafox</td>
<td>Hours to be arranged</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For additional information call 619.660.4023 or visit the Ornamental Horticulture website

Required orientation Friday Jan. 23 at 5:00 pm
Come learn about growing with Us!

Ornamental Horticulture Department Orientation

All are welcome, including new and continuing students.

Wednesday, January 21 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Cuyamaca College - Room M-111.
900 Rancho San Diego Parkway - El Cajon

Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture Award Winning Program in Sustainable Urban Landscapes

2012 State Board of Governors Sustainability Award
2013 Green California Leadership Award

Save the Date!

Sustainable Turf and Landscape Seminar
Thursday, March 5, 2015
www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb
**Poinsettia Sale Hours at the Horticulture Sales Nursery:**
Every Mon., Wed. & Fri., 11/12–12/23, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (or until sold out)

**Poinsettia Varieties & Pot Sizes:**
- 4" Red, White & Pink
- 6" Red, White & Other Varieties (Maroon, Cinnamon Star, Red Glitter, White Glitter, Sparkling Punch)
- 8" Square Decorative Pot
- Mixed Poinsettia & Foliage Planters

**Quantity Discounts:**
- 10% discount for quantities of 10 or more
- 15% discount for quantities of 50 or more

Payable by cash or check only.

For ordering or more information please contact:
Horticulture Sales Nursery
760.795.6615
hortmail@miracosta.edu

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**Spring 2015**
miracosta.edu/hort

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**Horticulture Associate Degree or Certificate Program**
At MiraCosta College, you can earn an associate degree or a certificate in a variety of programs including irrigation technology, landscape architecture, landscape management, nursery production, wine technology and more. Some certificates take as little as two semesters to complete!

To receive a spring course schedule with complete details and enrollment information, call 760.795.6615. For more information about MiraCosta College’s Horticulture Program, call Claire Ehrlinger at 760.795.6704.

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**Spring classes at MiraCosta College start January 20**
Community colleges are still California’s best buy in higher education. Enroll now! See back for courses offered this spring.

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**Holiday Poinsettia Sale**
Premium quality Poinsettias grown by the MiraCosta College Horticulture Department

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Payable by cash or check only.

For ordering or more information please contact:
Horticulture Sales Nursery
760.757.2121, x6994 or hortmail@miracosta.edu

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**Horticulture Department Open House**
Monday, January 5, 2015, 5–7 PM
MiraCosta College Horticulture Building
Room 7051
Parking available in lots 7A and 4C, no permit required.
Join us for our Open House and find out how our program can get your life moving in a new direction. Come meet our professors; tour our facility; and learn about career, internship and scholarship opportunities. Everyone is welcome, including prospective and current students!
For more information contact Jason Kubrock, 760.757.2121, x6482 or jkubrock@miracosta.edu

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**Holiday Poinsettia Sale**
Premium quality Poinsettias grown by the MiraCosta College Horticulture Department

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**Horticulture Department & Plant Sales Nursery**
MiraCosta College, Oceanside Campus
1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056
Parking available in Lot-7A
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class #</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Room #</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HORTICULTURE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>HORT 110 Introduction to Sustainable Horticulture</td>
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<tr>
<td>This course introduces sustainable horticulture principles and practices in gardening, landscaping, nursery management, and floriculture. Students are required to attend field labs and field trips. CSU</td>
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<td><strong>OCEANSIDE CAMPUS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2058</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>9:30am-2:20pm</td>
<td>ALLISON M</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>OC7053</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HOT 115 Soil Science</strong></td>
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<td>This course examines the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil with an emphasis on solving issues related to fertility, salinity, pH, high calcium, specific toxicities, and physical problems. Students are required to participate in field labs and trips. CSU; UC</td>
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<td><strong>OCEANSIDE CAMPUS</strong></td>
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<td>9:30am-2:20pm</td>
<td>ALLISON M</td>
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<td><strong>HOT 116 Plant Science</strong></td>
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<td>This course covers the basic principles of plant science pertaining to food and ornamental plants and addresses plant taxonomy and nomenclature. Students are required to attend field labs and field trips. CSU; UC</td>
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<td><strong>OCEANSIDE CAMPUS</strong></td>
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<td>2062</td>
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<td>KINNON C</td>
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<td>ONLINE</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+3 hours weekly online.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HOT 117 Plant Identification: Trees, Shrubs, and Vines</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>This course covers the identification, growth habits, culture, and ornamental use of plants found in Southern California landscapes. It emphasizes botanical and common names, plant family relationships, and environmental adaptations. Students are required to attend field trips both on and off campus. CSU; UC</td>
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<td><strong>OCEANSIDE CAMPUS</strong></td>
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<td>2066</td>
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<td>1:00pm-3:50pm</td>
<td>EHRLINGER C</td>
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<td>+2 hours weekly online.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HOT 127 Landscape Design</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>This introduction to landscape design covers the principles and process of design, drafting, hand drawn graphics, and presentation methods. Projects emphasize residential and small commercial sites. Students are required to attend field trips. CSU; UC</td>
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<td><strong>OCEANSIDE CAMPUS</strong></td>
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<td>OC7051</td>
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<td><strong>HOT 134 Plant Pest Control</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Students examine common pests of ornamental plants in Southern California (weeds, insects, and diseases). The course emphasizes diagnosis, control, laws and regulations, and preparation for state licensing exams or continuing education. CSU</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OCEANSIDE CAMPUS</strong></td>
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<td>2070</td>
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<td>5:00pm-9:50pm</td>
<td>KINNON C</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>OC7053</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OC=Oceanside Campus

♦ Repeatable course
Mandatory conservation measures include:

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

Local rules vary. Find restrictions in effect in your community at whenindrought.org.
Garden of Lights

December 6 – 23 & 26 – 30

Horse-drawn Wagon Rides,
Snow on Selected Nights,
Holiday Crafts,
Marshmallow Roasting,
Santa, Live Music,
Hot Mulled Wine, Cocoa

The Garden of Lights is presented by the County of San Diego

San Diego BOTANIC GARDEN

SDBGarden.org
This month we welcome local historian Nancy Carol Carter, whose research focus is on horticulture in the San Diego region. With Balboa Park’s centennial celebration next year, her timely presentation will cover the background and development of this jewel of our city. Nancy says, “So many people are unfamiliar with the dramatic early history of Balboa Park; I like to tell this story because it still has relevance as we consider the future of our Park.”

When San Diego farsightedly set aside 1,400 acres of pueblo land for a park in 1868, the city did not establish a park commission, earmark funding, create a plan of park development or hire a single gardener. Lack of development nearly doomed the very existence of “City Park” in this story because it still has relevance as we consider the future of our Park.

Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/$15. Parking is free.

Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (619) 296-9215

Nancy Carol Carter has published in Pacific Horticulture, California Garden, Eden, and the Journal of San Diego History on such topics as Balboa Park, Kate Sessions and other influential horticulturists. She is the retired Director of the Legal Research Center and Professor of Law at the University of San Diego, and now an active volunteer; serving as Historian of the Mission Hills Garden Club, Treasurer of the San Diego Floral Association, Associate Editor of California Garden and Vice President of the California Garden and Landscape History Society. She is a member of the Horticulture Committee of the Friends of Balboa Park and the Projects Committee of the Balboa Park Conservancy.

For more information see page 3.
Volunteers Needed

Spring Garden Tour:

1. Volunteer Coordinator – we need someone to coordinate the volunteers for the Spring Garden Tour. This is a great position for someone who loves gardens, likes working with people, is comfortable using simple technology, and can help out in the winter and spring.

2. Logistics Coordinator – like any major event, the Spring Garden Tour’s success depends on the details! We’re looking for someone to help with all the “little things” that go into making for a smooth Garden Tour. If you have good organizational skills and can give some time at the end of March and beginning of April, this would be the perfect position for you.

Please contact Susan Starr, Garden Tour Chair, at susanstarr1@gmail.com to join the team.

Board Opening: Volunteer Coordinator

Our current Volunteer Coordinator’s term ends this year; so we are looking for someone to fill that position. The primary commitment is organizing and scheduling volunteers for the events and community outreach we do on an ongoing basis. It’s a great opportunity for anyone who enjoys people, plants, and creative collaboration. Time commitment averages 3-4 hours per month. Basic computer skills and good communication skills are all that is needed. Doesn’t that sound like YOU? A team of two would also work great for this position. Patty Berg, current Volunteer Coordinator, will provide training, encouragement and help for an easy transition. For info, contact her at PattyJ Berg@gmail.com or (760) 815-0625.

Tech Support Help at Meetings:

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

Newsletter Advertising Manager Needed

Here’s a fun opportunity for members who like to work with local garden businesses and clubs: we need a detail-oriented person to be our newsletter advertising manager. This takes only 1-2 hours per month, and you’ll be working with current advertisers, plus potential advertisers. For details contact Susi Torre-Bueno at 760-295-2173 or storrebueno@cox.net.

Newsletter Back Issues:

For members interested in learning about the SDHS’s financial status, including our balance sheet, income and expenses, it’s now easy to do so. The link for the 2013 Include and Expenses is: https://sdhort.wildapricot.org/Financial-Reports. To view it, you need to be logged into the website as a current member.
Let’s Talk Plants!  December 2014, No. 243

To Learn More...
1915 Exposition
By Ava Torre-Bueno

Politics is ALWAYS the same! Here’s a quick but nasty history of the 1915 Exposition: sandiegohistory.org/journal/90winter/expo.htm

But these articles are less contentious: balboapark.org/info/history sandiegohistory.org/journal/90fall/amero.htm

For all kinds of pictures of the Exposition see this excellent site: http://tinyurl.com/Decmore1

This particular piece of boosterism (http://tinyurl.com/Decmore2) confirms the inexorable march of global heating: “Temperatures of 90 degrees or over occur on an average less than twice a year. Average summer temperature, 68; winter, 60. Normal rainfall is 10.00 inches, and thunder storms are of extremely rare occurrence. Nature has smiled in its kindliest mood upon this favored spot, and bestowed upon it these almost perfect climatic conditions that make for the comfort, zest and joy of life obtainable nowhere else.”

**2015 Spring Garden Tour:**
Two Tantalizing Gardens
By Jeannine Romero & Susan Starr

This month we begin detailed descriptions of our annual garden tour: Gardens Then and Now. If you’d like to volunteer, see page 2.

Our April 11, 2015, Spring Garden Tour, Gardens Then and Now, celebrates the centennial of the Panama Exhibition in Balboa Park. In honor of the centennial, we will be featuring gardens in the neighborhoods surrounding the Park. Many of our gardens will be in historic homes and some will have landscapes originally designed by famous San Diego landscapers.

Marston Hills will be one of the stops on the tour. This older residential community borders the north edge of the park. Two of the gardens on the tour actually end at the park boundary, which runs along the bottom of their terraced gardens. One was literally buried in jade when purchased by the current owner, who stripped back the jade to uncover landscaping dating from the 1930s; the other landscape was originally designed by Milton Sessions, Kate Sessions’ nephew.

The garden designed by Sessions belongs to an Andalusian style house designed by Frank Hurlburt in 1933; it is now a designated historical landmark. The current owners maintain a meticulous garden, with a large fountain serving as the focal point. Overall, the garden has a Zen-like ambiance. Several peaceful sitting areas with serene views are strategically placed throughout the terraced garden, and the overall effect inspires meditative visits. Asked which spot is his personal favorite, the owner responded, “It depends on my mood.” The garden currently includes agaves, cypress, palms, a loquat tree and a large holly that flanks the entrance to a courtyard

Our Second Holiday Marketplace was a Great Success!

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Continued on page 6

From the Board
By Jim Bishop

This Month Kicks off the Balboa Park Centennial Celebration

The celebration starts with a special December Nights on December 5 & 6. We kick off our Celebration on December 8 with speaker Nancy Carol Carter and her talk on the history of Balboa Park.

Other celebration events not to miss in 2015 are:
- April 11th – Our annual garden tour: Gardens Then and Now
- April 13th – A special SDHS meeting at the Balboa Park Natural History Museum (theNAT). Members and guests will be able to tour the theNAT’s newest exhibit, Coast to Cactus in Southern California, before and after a presentation by Jon Rebman, theNAT’s Curator of the Botany. Jon was also our 2011 Horticulturalist of the Year honoree. Jon will share the museum’s remarkable history documenting San Diego County flora for more than 100 years.
- May 9th – Balboa Park celebrates the Garden Party of the Century. More details to follow.
- June 5th – July 5th – The San Diego County Fair Flower & Garden Show exhibits will honor the gardens of Balboa Park.

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Great Success!

Our Second Holiday Marketplace was a Great Success!

This Holiday Marketplace brings together the best of the San Diego horticultural community. Special thanks to the committee of volunteers that helped pull it all together. Sam Seat was in charge of the event. Susan Morse helped organize the exhibitors. Susanna Pagan put together the flyers, press releases and map of the room. Susi Torre-Bueno helped with promotion via the newsletter. Roy Wilburn organized the mini-demos. Mary James organized the author’s corner. Patty Berg and Susanna Pagan created the signs. Patty also recruited and organized the volunteers. Carol Lane was in charge of vendor check-ins. Jeff Biletnikoff helped with room setup and also vendor unloading. Dannie McLaughlin arranged for the food and beverage service with the Fairgrounds. Nancy Woodard and her team did the check-in of the attendees. Jim Bishop set up the website and email announcements.

We had nearly 60 vendors selling a wide variety of plants, ceramics, garden art, books, and much more. There were free plants, useful information from a number of non-profit groups, and four excellent mini-demos. Best of all, we received many compliments both from the vendors and the hundreds of people who attended. Our thanks to all of you for your participation and enthusiasm. For more about this event see page 19.

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The Real Dirt On...

The White House Garden
By Donna Tierney

The development of the gardens surrounding the White House has been evolutionary, with most every President participating. George Washington purchased the land for what is now the south lawn from a tobacco planter named Davy Burns, and his dream was to create a botanical garden.

As the first President to occupy the White House, John Adams ordered the planting of a kitchen garden to support the food needs of the his family, staff, and visitors. Large portions of the White House were still under construction, and very little landscaping had been completed. The residence was primarily surrounded by clay pits, brick firing kilns, and swampland.

When Thomas Jefferson became President, he completely redesigned the garden and started the tradition of planting trees. Jefferson also chose the locations for the flower garden, fences and walls. Though it is no longer standing, Jefferson built an arc of triumph on the southeast corner of the grounds.

President James Monroe increased tree planting on the White House grounds, and hired Charles Bizet, the first White House gardener. When John Quincy Adams followed Monroe into office in 1825, he replaced Bizet with John Ousley, who remained the White House gardener for the next 30 years. An avid gardener, Adams was the first President to develop the flower gardens that Jefferson had designed, and was also the first to plant ornamental trees.

During the 1830s, President Andrew Jackson hired several laborers to assist the White House gardener. During Jackson’s term, elm, maple, and sycamore trees were planted for the first time. Jackson had an orangery built to accommodate indoor, year-round gardening.

In order to commemorate the Nation’s Centennial in 1876, President Rutherford Hayes began the tradition of planting commemorative trees. Today, there are more than three dozen commemorative trees that have been planted by successive Presidents.

In 1902, Edith Roosevelt worked with White House gardener, Henry Pfister, to transform the West Garden into a colonial garden. Later, the first wife of Woodrow Wilson replaced Mrs. Roosevelt’s colonial garden with a rose garden. The West Garden has been known as the Rose Garden ever since. Also, in 1913, Mrs. Wilson hired landscape designer Beatrix Farrand to plan the east side of the garden. During WWI, President Wilson kept a flock of sheep at the White House as a symbol of support to the troops. The flock earned $52,823 for the Red Cross.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt commissioned famed landscape designer Henry Bacon to redesign the garden and start the tradition of planting trees.

I ordered this book from a catalog because its dust jacket was so appealing. (That, and because it had a recommendation from Michael Pollan, one of my favorite authors.) I had to look at the jacket several times before I realized what I was seeing. It was an aerial view of a green field with some random curving lines cut through it.

The book turned out to be something special when I finally received it. Maxwell MacKenzie is a well-known architectural photographer, now residing in Washington, D.C. He grew up in rural Minnesota, and developed an eye for both the beauty of nature and of man-made objects.

He decided to learn to fly. After much searching, he settled on learning on what he describes as “a rudimentary flying machine – known as a powered parachute.” And the reason for that choice? He could steer it with his feet while he used his hands to hold his cameras. Made sense to him.

And I’m glad, because he’s produced a spectacular book. The first picture in the book is MacKenzie flying his bright multi-colored powered parachute and giving the reader a big wave. We’re in for a good trip.

The book includes 96 pages of color photos of growing things, plus quotes from poems selected by his long-suffering wife, artist Rebecca Cross. The first quote gives the philosophy that led MacKenzie to make these beautiful pictures. It’s from Philebus by Plato:

What I am saying is not directly obvious. I must try to make it clear. I will try to speak of the beauty of shapes... straight lines and curves and the shapes made from them... These are not beautiful for any particular reason or purpose, as other things are, but are always by their very nature beautiful and give pleasure of their own, quite free from the itch of desire, and colors of this kind are beautiful to and give a similar pleasure.

Not all the pictures have those random curves that appeared on the dust jacket, but some do. I puzzled over how and why a farmer could have made those patterns. I think I solved the puzzle when I noticed that in the acknowledgments, MacKenzie thanks someone for “mowers.” So he helped nature a little bit.

He has two other books in print: Abandonings, published in 1995, and American Ruins: Ghosts on the Landscape, published in 1999. You can check out all three books at his website www.maxwellmackenzie.com. His books are available on line or can be ordered by your local bookstore.

Note: The independent bookstore Mysterious Galaxy has moved to a new location in Clairemont, with more room and better parking. Check them out...#
Volunteer Spotlight
Victory Gardens on Camp Pendleton – A “No Brainer!”
By Patty Berg, Volunteer Coordinator

Back in October, when we were looking for help with the Volunteer Appreciation Party, Paul Kelly answered the call. Along with a handful of enthusiastic first-year members, he pitched in to set up the tables, chairs, and canopies as we all gushed over the stunning gardens where the party would be held the next day. Somewhere in the conversation, Paul mentioned a surprising fact: he is not now and has never been a gardener!

For someone who has never grown anything himself, Paul sure knows a lot about it. For example, Paul says that gardening can reduce food expenses and help people feel connected. It can engage the whole family and strengthen relationships. He also notes that gardening improves health and wellness and promotes better nutrition and environmental awareness. And that it fosters friendly interaction among neighbors.

How does a non-gardener know all this? Because Paul has authored a proposal to bring a pilot community vegetable garden to the Marine Corps families living on Camp Pendleton. And it is that simple idea: a victory garden right on the base, which he calls a “no brainer” that could help feed the families of our local servicemen and women.

A retired real estate attorney from Montrose, Pennsylvania, Paul now lives in Oceanside and loves it. He is a member of the Camp Pendleton Rotary Club and has joined SDHS in hopes of meeting folks who may be interested in supporting the community gardens project he envisions for the base. He already has several interested community groups standing by as the proposal moves from desk to desk on the base.

If you have some experience with community gardens, or otherwise have expertise to share, please give Paul a call at (607) 760-9572. Gardener or not, anyone who understands the true nature of growing things as well as Paul does will always be welcome at SDHS.
Let's Talk Plants!
December 2014, No. 243

**Going Wild With Natives**
**Hedges for Edges**
By Pat Pawlowski

A wall, high or low, can be a good thing. Maybe you want some peace and quiet and a little privacy while you read your National Enquirer; maybe you want to block out the neighbors' giant animatronic garden gnomes; maybe you want a “line of demarcation” between you and the neighbors to announce to the world that your garden is gnome-free.

A wooden fence or stucco wall would work, but those are sort of stark, so you might need something to liven it up—a gnome, perhaps?

But wait. Instead, how about a beautiful living wall of green? And, decorating the living wall, how about your own version of animatronic gnomes: songbirds. They hop, they flutter, they sing their heads off—in addition to gobbling insects that might gobble your plants if they get the chance.

Hey, can a gnome do that?

But California native plants can; some kinds make wonderful hedges. There are many varieties to choose from, and it’s impossible to include them all here. So, here’s just a few:

- Mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*) - great if you want a tall but narrow hedge
- Lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*) - amenable to pruning
- Sugarbush (*Rhus ovata*) - survives toastly inland summers
- Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*) - handsome berries
- Hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*) - decorative cherries
- Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos spp.*) - tiny applelike fruits and beautiful reddish bark
- Quail bush (*Atriplex lentiformis* ssp. *breweri*) - soft silvery leaves
- All of the above are evergreen, attract birds and other wildlife, and are drought-tolerant.

There are so many more choices, depending on what your situation is, so it’s best to visit a native plant nursery like Las Pilitas Nursery (www.laspilitas.com), and/or Tree of Life Nursery (www.californianativeplants.com). Also, the California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter (www.cnppsd.org) is a good place to do some research; they meet the third Tuesday of every month, and their selection of native plant books for sale is awesome.

Speaking of awesome: how about hedgerows? Always popular in Great Britain, a hedgerow is a line of shrubs and/or trees that includes an understory of subshrubs and/or perennials with flowers that provide nectar and pollen to native bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Some understory plants are:

- California aster (*Aster chilensis*) - lilac daisylike flowers for butterflies
- California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) - luminescent orange flowers
- Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*) - spreading groundcover
- Narrowleaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) - Yes, yes, yes! Host for Monarch butterflies!
- Pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*) - Host for Virginia Lady butterflies

- Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) - fernlike leaves, flowers for beneficial insects

The above is only a sampling. Travel (remember the traveling gnome?) to a native plant nursery to see for yourself. They’ll help you select your green wildlife-friendly wall and achieve your own version of animatronic ecstasy.

Member Pat Pawlowski is a writer/lecturer/garden consultant who, at age 5, was frightened by a gnome in Philadelphia.

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**Garden Tour** Continued from page 3

patio. Cairns decorate graves of the owners’ pets.

One of the most dramatic sculptural elements is a striking example of the much-maligned Brazilian pepper tree. Although this tree recently lost most of its leaves from fungal disease, a stunning branch formation remains. The garden also includes a variety of other sculptural elements, as well as garden art collected on travels to Asian countries, including Cambodia.

At the entrance to the garden there is an iron gate, a reproduction of a sculpture of Buddha from Angkor Wat, and an oversized eucalyptus tree. The tree is old enough to have been planted by Milton Sessions himself, although that is undocumented. The tree is underplanted with jade, one of the few plants that will grow under eucalyptus. Although jade can be invasive, it appears to be under control, and the current owners have even opted to plant it under another tree in the terraced garden. The jade, frequently valued as a container or houseplant, is known for its extremely low water and light requirements.

In contrast, at another Marston Hills garden on the tour, “jade” is most definitely a four-letter word. When the current owners bought their property on in Marston Hills 20 years ago, the hillside canyon was covered in jade and trees. Removing the jade revealed beautiful old stone walls dating from the 1930s, and a path leading down the hill to Balboa Park below. The garden still has evidence of jade; the owner notes that while she can control the jade, it is unlikely that it can ever be permanently removed.

This canyon garden contains a large gazebo where the yogini of 25 years practices and a waterfall and pond surrounded by a large and unusual concrete serpent. Another snake, the “serpent of wisdom,” is carved on the door in the yoga wall.

The home was built by a Mexican physician who eventually swapped it for a home in Mexico owned by the former Mexican President, Pascual Ortiz Rubio. President Rubio was quite shaken by an attempt on his life, and moved from Mexico to San Diego. Visitors to the bottom of the canyon will see a guard house dating from this era that remains on the property.

Another garden feature is a carved, 30-foot Monterey Pine. When this tree died, from disease, the owners had the totem-pole styled trunk hand-carved and then covered in lime. The garden also features roses, hibiscus, palms, guavas, and productive banana trees.

One area, out of sight of most visitors, has chemical-free plantings used by the gardener to feed animals at the Zoo. The front doors of the home are flanked by large begonias, mature camellias, and a floss silk tree.

Be sure to join us on April 15, 2015 to see these and other wonderful gardens.
**SDHS Fundraising For The Balboa Park Restoration Project**

We are raising funds to restore the gardens adjacent to the lily pond in Balboa Park. Our goal is to raise $10,000 to help complete this pilot project in 2014. Visit www.sdhort.org for information on making donations. You can also donate at meetings and other events. Every contribution is very welcome. As of November 14 we have raised $6434. This includes $1224 donated by our sponsor Garden Design magazine, which represents $12 per new magazine subscription by SDHS members. **Thank you to these generous donors:**

- $1000+  
  Ellen Merrewether  
  Garden Design magazine
- $750  
  Scott Borden
- $210  
  Bruce & Myra Cobbedick
- $50-100  
  Geneva Belice
  Linda Canada  
  (in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Edgar D. Canada)
  Dinah & Scott Carl
  Kathy and Abby Esty
  Fidelity Charitable
  Dinah Dodds
  Ed Fitzgerald
  (in memory of Eva Fitzgerald)
  Anne Fletcher
  Bill Homyak & Meredith Sinclair
  Christina Ivany
  Gabrielle Ivany
  Patricia Leon
  Frank & Katherine Mannen
  Ellen McGrath-Thorpe
  Kathleen McKee
  Mary Lou Meagher
  Susan Morse
  Jane Morton
  Wendy Nash
  Leslee
  Newton-Reed
  Princess Norman
- $10 - $24:
  Gwenn Adams
  Janet Ahrens
  Jeannie Akin
  John Beaudry
  Landscape Design
  Sandy Burlen
  Molly Cadranel
  Chuck & Barbara Carroll
  Blythe Doane
  Cynthia Essary
  Doris Gannon
  Suzi Heap
  Trisha Kolasinski
  Brenda Kueneman
  Barbara Lee-Jenkins
  Jen-Jen Lin
  Nita McCollough
  Else Ottesen
  Katie Pelszek
  Cassidy Rowland
  Peggy Ruzich
  Don Schultz
  Cindy Stewart
  Bonnie Struzik
  Renee Valley
  Salim Walji
  Don Winans

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**Centennial Celebration In Balboa Park**

**Planting of Casa de Prado**

By Jim Bishop

We are proud to be part of the Centennial Celebration. In September, our volunteers completed the planting of the gardens adjacent to the Lily Pond around the Timken Museum. We returned on October 28th to plant the north and west sides of Casa de Prado. Landscape Architect Chris Drayer created the planting plan. Landscape Architect Cindy Benoit assisted Chris, and also helped acquire the plants and schedule the planting. Society Treasurer Sam Seat arranged for the plant deliveries to the park nursery. Twenty-nine volunteers showed up to help with the October planting. While Chris worked to help place the plants, volunteers weeded and cleaned up the planting we had done the previous month around the Timken Museum. The Borden Family arranged for a contractor to provide power tools, workers and assistance in digging the planting holes. Much of the area was heavily compacted, and full of palm tree roots that required a special jack hammer shovel to dig through. We were able to complete all of the planting in one day, as well as get the plants watered in, and we even installed a layer of mulch.

Hats off and a round of applause to our hard working volunteers: Kathy Ascher, Cindy Benoit, Jeff Biletnikoff, Jim Bishop, Scott Borden, Joan Braunstein, Bruce Cobbedick, Carolyn Dossett, Joann Dossett, Chris Drayer, Alice Dukelow, Dave Ehrlinger, Coni Fiss, Ann Heck, John Kramer, Linda Lawley, James Lucatore, David Lubs, Donna Mallen, Rachele Melious, Catherine Morley, Jaime Ramirez, Jorge Robles, Sam Seat, Marcy Singer, Else Karin Sjostrand Ottesen, Susan Starr, and Ed Thielicke.

Be sure and check out the plantings the next time you visit the park. They will take a few months to fill in, but we could already tell a difference in one month. Look for some weeding parties to help maintain the area in future months. More photos are on the inside front cover...✿
Editor’s note: The question for the Sharing Secrets column in November (about dealing with ants) generated so many replies that we continue the responses this month. At the top of page 14 learn how you can add your ant story to the Sharing Secrets section of our website. Thanks to everyone who replied.

Inexpensive Traps
By Ava Torre-Bueno

I mix ½ cup of diatomaceous earth (pool filter powder) with a bit of corn syrup and a little water to make a thick but somewhat runny paste, which I keep covered in the fridge. When I get an ant invasion, I track it to its origin and, re-mixing my paste, I pour it in a semi-circle around where the ants are coming in so they have to cross it. Most stop and eat it right there and take it back to the colony. The paste slices up their little feet and they dehydrate. The paste they take back to the colony kills off the rest of the ants there, as well as making the eggs die. Mean, but effective. It takes a week of replenhishing the paste, or at least putting a little water on it every day to keep it edible, for the nest to die off completely. The major benefit of this method is that it is not toxic to you, your children, or your pets.

Boy, did you ask the right person
By Jackie Seidman

I maintain 2 vegetable gardens in North County, ORGANICALLY. Both have huge problems with ants. Well, let’s see, what did I do first! ‘Second’! ‘Third’! Terro Ant Bait Stations: no luck. Amdro Ant Bait stations: no luck.

Research, research… this looks promising. Ordered 5 pounds of boric acid. Wow, that is a lot of that white powder. Ant Bait #1: Boric Acid, water and sugar boiled into a syrup, put into small rectangular baby food containers with a small square cut out of the top to let the ants in. Set in ground so lip of container is just at ground level. NO GO! Ant Bait #2: Peanut butter, boric acid and sugar made into a paste, put inside small rectangular baby food containers with a small square cut out of the top to let the ants in. Set like the liquid one. NO Luck. Ant Bait #3: Peanut Butter Balls: Tried making small balls out of the PB paste and setting out on the ground in and around the ant parades. That did not work either.

AntPro Bait Dispenser and Ant Pro bait. This is the first product I tried that even remotely interested the ants. This has had some amount of success. The bait stations get empty, so I assume the ants are consuming it. I move the bait stations to different parts of the garden as I see large conga lines of ants. It might take years at this rate.

Diatomaceous Earth. New white powder. Good thing I am not trying to bring this stuff on an airplane. I have had some success with this product as well. I use it in conjunction with the Ant Pro Bait stations.

At the time of my writing this, the ants still rule! If anyone has something new to add I’d love to talk to them.

Ants!!!
By J.B. Riekstins

I live on a rather large hill that is so infested and attractive to ants that it is hard to believe that it is not actually an anthill masquerading as a foothill. There are coyote trails that one can see from the vantage point of many of our windows, and if you look hard enough you can also see ant trails. On either side of our drive are little 10-12, even 15-lane ant freeways that automatically go into overdrive with the beginning of each ant season. I have only found two products that have worked for ant control. I say control because we live between two empty lots, one on each side of us, at the end of a canyon, and this gives about five acres of ants access to our property, and they adore our compost pile, which is appropriately huge.

One product is TERRO ANT DUST, which I use sparingly because I believe it is toxic to bees; bees die with even the slightest whiff of it. So it is used to draw a ring around the pets’ food dishes. Ants love even empty food dishes, and I try to use it for emergency “ants are in the house” situations. Spiders that breach the house are also subject to getting TERROed. There are little white blobs of the powdery stuff in the rough-sawn cedar beams that the ants love to enter on, and it is ever so difficult to vacuum that clean at the end of ant season, so it looks like someone has had one heck of a party with the white powdery stuff.

What I use mostly is a homemade concoction of 1 cup of cane sugar, 1 tablespoon of borax, and 1/2 cup of water. Bring to a boil, stir occasionally, and after the mix is well blended, totally dissolved, and the liquid is clear, it has boiled enough. Do not boil so hard as to run it over—that would really foul up the burner. When it is clear, and while it is still very hot, add 1-2 tablespoons of grape jelly, or 1 tablespoon of creamy peanut butter (Jif works well). Whisk in well. I have little chicken feeder type dispensers that animals cannot get into, along with being safe for small children, but you can use a jar with lots of holes punched in the lid(s) and place these near the ant trails. I find that the holes should be large, the containers do better in at least partial shade, and it helps if a little of the ant concoction is dribbled over the lid, or if on a solid surface, on that.

Some ant nests get totally eradicated within 5-10 days with only one application, but others need several refills. I move the applicators (I have four) around from time to time. In the last 4-5 years this has kept ant invasions in the house down to maybe once a year; usually when I am out of town and my husband is doing (not) the sink, stove and counter clean ups.

There are areas where the ants never seem to get totally eradicated, but these are coming over the wall from the canyon or from neighbors’ homes, and I tend to think that these are not all coming from one nest. YouTube has many of these recipes; this is one that worked best for my situation, and when one can eliminate an 8- to 15-lane freeway of ants coming onto ones’ property, even in just one direction, I will call that a success.
Still More Ant Stories:

**Sue Lasbury:** We seem to live on an enormous anthill. We refuse to have the Orkin Man spray at our house, so what do we do in the garden? We have found a wonderful device and if you use it correctly it will remove the ants in a specific problem area of your garden: Terro Liquid Ant Baits. We use their small household baits in the garden and the house with complete success. The active ingredient is Borax, but the key to its success is the yummy sweet stuff mixed in with the Borax. We learned about the Borax/sweetener concoction when I was training to be a Master Gardener. However, my recipe never worked as well as the one produced by Terro. The key is to identify the ant nests causing the most havoc, e.g. ants working with scale and aphids. Put the bait close to the nest, but remove it after a week. By this time the yummy stuff has reached the queen and her nest is history. Just so you know, I have no stock in or affiliation with the Terro folks. Let me know how it works for you.

**Linda Johnson:** Using Terro Liquid Ant Baits as soon as ants appeared worked fairly well for the initial invasion (ants disappeared in a day or two). However, they would reappear in other parts of house later, so I just used the bait again. At this time they are gone. However, I am staying cautiously optimistic!

**Suzanne Sorger:** I look to see where their coming into the house and sprinkle baby powder across their path or trail. It stops them in their tracks.

**Sue Fouquette:** I don’t notice that granular ant killer lessens the great number of ants that come out of potted plants, climb in our banana trees, crawl up my jeans, to my head, and bite me. They are so irritating, it causes me to swear a lot while watering. Sure hope a member has the cure.

**Susan Morse:** I have heard that Vista is the Ant Capital of San Diego County. If it isn’t, I do not want to live where ants are worse than Vista. I got the following recipe from Loren Nancarrow about 15 years ago. It has been successful for me, but it often takes 48-72 hours to stop the invasion in the house. Use 1 tablespoon of borax, with 1 tablespoon of white granulated sugar, mixed in with 1/3 cup boiling water and stir until all crystals are dissolved. I put about 1 tablespoon of the dissolved liquid in plastic lids saved from containers, such as cottage cheese, etc. I place several of these in the area where the ants are accumulating or transiting. I will occasionally spray diluted Orange TKO on the ants directly. (Windex on kitchen counters would work, too, but the Orange TKO does not harm the wooden floors, it smells pleasant and the ants die.) The spray is only a temporary measure. Supposedly, the ants take the boric acid solution back to the nest and that stops the invasion. My vet said the dogs could walk through boric acid powder, then lick their paws and NOT be harmed. I’ve not had a pet emergency related to anything to do with the boric acid/sugar/boiling water mixture, despite the CAUTION warnings on the label of the Boric Acid. At the first sighting of scouting ants, I attack with my remedies. If the scout trails are eliminated, it often thwarts any further insurrection.

**Sheila Busch:** After using baits unsuccessfully for a number of years, I resorted to using Termidor. I spray it around the foundation of my house. For my plants, I control sucking insects with horticultural oil; that controls the ants in trees and plants.

**Sharon Swildens:** A friend of mind who has grape vines said he puts a teaspoon of granular borax around his vines to prevent the ants from eating his grapes. I did this last year and it worked, so I sometimes run it in the wood chips along my walkway to eliminate the ants there. I hope it doesn’t kill anything else.

**Susi Torre-Bueno:** This was the worst and longest-lasting ant invasion we’ve had in years. Terro Liquid Ant Bait worked pretty well, although it took a few days. We also used my sister-in-law’s diatomaceous earth, corn syrup and water concoction (see page 8), and that was a help, too, but slowly. I used lots of Windex as well.

**So… What’s the bottom line?**
You’ll need to read all the comments to find what might work best for you, but here’s a short summary. Note that what worked for some people didn’t work for others.

**Home remedies that DID work:**
- diatomaceous earth
- borax
- baby powder
- boric acid
- cayenne
- cinnamon
- cornmeal
- oils of rosemary, mint and orange

**Home remedies that DIDN’T work:**
- Boric Acid, cinnamon sticks

**Commercial products that DID work:**
- Andro granules (outdoors)
- AntPro Bait Dispenser and Ant Pro bait
- Combat roach control bait
- Deet – worked
- Granual ant killer (outdoors)
- Home Defense (outside)
- Kaboom
- Pest Control Company (outdoors) (one company used rosemary oil spray)
- Spray on ants inside – Orange TKO, Windex, window cleaner with ammonia
- Termidor (outside)
- Terro Ant Bait Stations (indoors)
- Terro Ant Dust – worked
- Terro Liquid Ant Bait (for garden use)

**Commercial products that DIDN’T work:**
- Amdro Ant Bait stations
- Orange Guard
- EcoSmart granules (outdoors)
Uncle Harry

A watercolor painting hangs in our T.V. room that everyone has always referred to as “The Sheik.” It was painted by my maternal grandmother’s sister, Bess Hayes, on January 16th, 1896. Family members possess other watercolors she painted. Most are still-lifes of flowers and other objects. I’ve always been curious how living her entire life in semi-rural Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, she chose the sheik as a subject matter. Bess was deaf and grandma said she lost her hearing from infectious meningitis that swept through her senior year high school class. Only Bess and one other student survived the epidemic. I was curious if the story was true, and tried googling everything I could think of, but have not been able to come up with any corroborating stories.

This got me thinking about other relatives, and I remembered that grandma’s brother Harry Price wrote for the paper in Altoona, Pennsylvania. A quick google of him turned up a few interesting things. I’ve always been curious about Harry for a couple of reasons. The year before I was born, Harry passed away, at age 85. To honor his memory, I was given the middle name of Harry. Second, my grandmother, mother, and aunts would frequently say that I was just like Harry. This comment was most frequently made when I mentioned something about nature, plants, or hiking. I never knew exactly what they meant, but figured Harry, too, must have had an interest in anything involving the natural world. They said he loved hiking the Allegheny Mountains of central Pennsylvania.

One of the first things I found online was that Harry was a birder, or at least participated in the Audubon Christmas Census of Birds in 1917 and 1918. He was also concerned about overhunting of birds and other native animals. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, an officer in the Alpine Club, and treasurer of the Pennsylvania Folk Lore Society.

However, the most interesting fact was that he had authored a 1923 booklet entitled “On Adirondack Trails,” reprinted from the Altoona Tribune. It was the account of the trip he took to hike the high peaks of the Adirondack Mountains in New York State. Much to my surprise, there were several copies of the booklet available for purchase online, so I ordered one.

In September of 1922, Harry Price, Harry McGraw, and Harry Kinch of central Pennsylvania traveled to Lake Placid, New York, and met Scott Wood, “a six-foot product of the Adirondacks” and Tom Ladd, a “young man of iron nerve, muscles like steel and as sure footed as mountain goats,” for a week-long hike to the top of 5 of the 42 “very high peaks” of the Adirondacks. The highest peak on their hike was Mount Marcy, at 5344 feet, the tallest of the Adirondacks. Harry notes that at the time only 14 of the peaks had trails, and many had no record of being climbed.

Much of the story is about the hike, the natural scenery, the mountains, the valleys, the rivers, the rocks, and birds. He compared the vast and untouched evergreen forests to the already heavily logged deciduous forests of the frequently clear-cut Allegheny Mountains of Pennsylvania. The most detailed description of plants in the booklet is:

“Much to our surprise, was found growing from a small spit in the rock, a lone bluet, the humble little blue flower looking very much out of place on the great pyramid of stone. Wild flowers grow in great profusion in the valleys in spring and summer. We saw gentian blooming in the lowlands and found Labrador tea and modest little cloud berry. One thing that particularly attracts the attention of the traveler in these mountains is the size and beauty of the mountain ash, that grows much larger in this section, the branches being covered with great masses of red berries that glow from the walls of verdure like sheets of flame. A sprig of plant known as strawberry blight, was found the first day of our visit near Lake Placid. The stem of this plant is covered with red berries that resemble wild strawberries on short peduncles. It is very rare.”

One other thing of note: Harry never married. However, with nearly ever mention of Harry Price, I also found mention of Harry A. McGraw. Mr. McGraw was a “lover of the out-of-doors…with a special emphasis on birds.” I believe they would have called the two Harrys committed bachelors, or life-time companions. My 93 year old aunt says you never saw one without the other.

Today, I am in possession of Uncle Harry’s shaving mug, the recently acquired booklet of the Adirondack hike, and his love of nature and the out-of-doors.

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

Carin Bunney  Sherry Hannon  Grace Swanson
Laura Crenshaw  Robert & Leilani Hartman  Penny & Darren Wiemer
Jeanne Green  Doloras Menagh
Donna Griffin

Hort Bucks are GREAT!
Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2014; 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.

Welcome New Members
Gladys T. Baird  Asakawa (2010)
*Bruce & Sharon
Walter Andersen (2002)
Life Members
Horticulturist of the Year
*Chuck Ades (2008)
*Walter Andersen (2002)
Norm Applebaum &
Barbara Roper
*Bruce & Sharon
Asakawa (2010)
Gladys T. Baird
Debra Lee Baldwin
*Steve Brigham (2009)
Laure Connable
*Julian (2014) & Leslie Duval
*Edgar Engert (2000)
Jim Farley
Sue & Charles Fouquette
Penelope Hlavac
Joyce James
Debbie & Richard Johnson
*Susi Torre-Bueno (2012)
& Jose Torre-Bueno
Dorothy Walker
Lucy Warren
*Evelyn Weidner (2001)
*Pat Welsh (2003)
Betty Wheeler

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Pat Welsh
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Revive Landscape Design
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Serra Gardens
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Solana Succulents
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Sunshine Gardens
The Wishing Tree Company
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Weidner's Gardens
Waterwise Botanicals
Westward Expos

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(see ads for more discounts)
Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co.
(www.briggstree.com; tell them to look up the “San Diego Hort Society Member” account).
Get a 10% discount at San Diego Botanic Garden on Family/Dual or Individual memberships. Just state you are a current member of SDHS on your membership form. It cannot be done online, so mail it in or bring it to the Garden. Info: skubrock@sdbgarden.org.

What's Up at San Diego Botanic Garden
Experience the Magic of the Spectacular Garden of Lights
December 6-23 & 26-30
5 pm – 9 pm
After the sun goes down in December, the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas is transformed into a dazzling winter wonderland! Bring the family and experience the magic as 100,000 sparkling lights illuminate several spectacular garden areas, including the iconic Lawn Garden, Tropical Rainforest, Waterfall Deck, Undersea Succulent Garden, Eucalyptus Grove, Seeds of Wonder (children’s area), and Bamboo Garden, containing the nation’s largest collection of bamboo.
Join in the fun that includes horse-drawn wagon rides winding through several of the Garden’s enchanting four miles of trails. Enjoy marshmallow roasting, live music, and an assortment of holiday refreshments including hot mulled wine (on select evenings), plus snow (also on select evenings). The holidays wouldn’t be complete without a visit with Santa, who makes a special guest appearance at the Garden again this year.
For more information, visit the Garden’s website at SDBGarden.org/lights.htm.
Bunya Bunya cone

like New York, Gingkos are capable of producing aerial roots during times of extreme erosion, and can re-sprout from lignotubers (much like modern day eucalypts), which confirms their ability to survive natural catastrophes, like intense wildfire. Some individual specimens have been documented to be as old as 2,500 years.

Next time you want a cool treat, eat a pine nut.

Interesting Resources:
Cool video: youtube.com/watch?v=VecK2tj8IlI#t=70
pinetum.org/Lovett/pinecones.htm
http://tinyurl.com/Dec-worlds-tallest-tree

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, Tree Risk Assessor and UCCE Master Gardener: robin@sandiegotreemap.org.

Real Dirt Continued from page 4

landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. to redesign the gardens. Today, his plan still serves as the basis for the gardens’ layout.

During the John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson administrations, the Rose Garden and the East Garden were redesigned. The Rose Garden became an outdoor venue for ceremonies, and Lady Bird Johnson dedicated the East Garden to Jacqueline Kennedy. In 1969, Lady Bird Johnson created the first Children’s Garden at the White House. To this day, the South Lawn continues to be used for the annual Easter Egg Roll and other large events, and can accommodate over 1,000 spectators. The Clintons planted a small vegetable garden, but had to put it on the roof of the White House. In 2009, Michelle Obama broke ground for the largest vegetable garden to date on the grounds, placing it on the White House lawn, where over 50 kinds of veggies are cultivated.

Today, the White House garden is the magical culmination of years of contributions from distinguished Presidents, their families, and famed landscaped designers The grounds are maintained 365
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Centennial Events 2015
SAVE THE DATES

Festival of Trees: December 5-6 2014

Botanical Building Tours throughout 2015

Flower Show: May 8-10, 2015

Historic Garden Tour: April 11, 2015

Lecture Forum: The Panama-California Exposition and Cultural Landscape: October 3, 2015

Kate Sessions Birthday Celebration: November 7, 2015

Festival of Trees: December 4-5, 2015

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

The question for December was:
Are you using anything from your garden (veggies, flowers, leaves, twigs) to decorate your house and/or use as holiday gifts?

Marsha Bode: Everyone on my list gets persimmon fruitcake made with persimmons from my very large and prolific Hachiya persimmon tree. When they first open their gift, lots of fruitcake jokes follow, but once they take a bite all preconceptions fly out the window. I use dried fruit from Frazier Farms or Sprouts instead of the sugary bits in the plastic tubs. It takes a while to chop everything by hand, but it is worth it. A basket with fruitcake, lime marmalade, orange marmalade and plum/apple jam along with some fresh persimmons for color will be offered in the Silent Auction at the November fund raising luncheon for the Vista Garden Club.

Candace Kohl: I grow lots of Protea family plants, Grevillea, Leucadendron, Banksia, etc. These provide wonderfully interesting and long-lasting greenery. I am sometimes in charge of table arrangements for our events at Friends of the International Center at UCSD, and always use some of these materials. I also often use roses grown by one of my local friends. At Thanksgiving, the Del Mar Rose Society has a program called the Thanksgiving of Roses, where we make up bouquets and deliver them to local residents who are housebound or have been identified as needing some cheering up. There are sometimes 30 or so of these bouquets made up, and I contribute buckets of greenery. Holiday time is a special period to share my bounty.

Sue Gutierrez: I used the succulents from my garden, dried their ends, and using spray adhesive attached them to purchased pumpkins. I did these in early October, and they were centerpiece decorations for two parties, and I am planning to use them for Thanksgiving.
Al Myrick: I make palm frond carvings of angels, fish, dolphins, wizards, birds, and so on (whatever is already in the frond and only needs to be carved out).

Joanne Fishman: I decorate with the following from my garden: pines, pinecones, eucalyptus, Leucadendron ‘Safari Sunset’, Grevillea ‘Moonlight’, white ‘Iceberg’ roses, and anything else that looks interesting. Maybe the tangerines and pomegranates will still be around.

Marilyn Wilson: When I prune, I propagate, so I always have plenty of plants to give away. Several of the garden clubs to which I belong have holiday gift swaps, and I am already preparing for those. Of course, I always label my plants so the recipient can look up horticultural requirements (in my fervent hope that the plants will live a long, healthy life).

Vivian Blackstone: I will probably use my holly for an arrangement. I gave my Ikebana friend bamboo cuttings I had, and she was thrilled and made a beautiful arrangement for the front office. Unfortunately, my maple leaves are damaged looking, but I would have used them otherwise.

Connie Forest: I have so many succulents outgrowing their pots that I have decided to use pieces of many of them as a basis for a door decoration. I am using a large oval grape-stick wreath as a base, and simply gluing the succulents to the base after adding Spanish moss. I am adding some fake red berries and a bow, and I think it will be quite nice. I don’t know if the succulents will survive the holidays, but I have more.

Enid Sherman: Ioyon berries dress up candles, make a table more festive and hang out well for a while with succulents. Succulents are fun for table decorations, or glue gunned down on squashes, Styrofoam forms, and plates.

Barb Huntington: I have a huge California Native Holly Berry (Toyon) I use for Christmas decorations on the mantel. I also use pine branches from a very large pine tree my son gave me some years ago as about a 3" plant from the grocery store. I may make some succulent arrangements, as I have lots of extras in the labyrinth.

Robin Rivet: There’s not much collectible from my neglected garden this summer, but I’m always on the lookout for local Bushy Yate; aka Eucalyptus lehmanii (australianseed.com/shop/item/eucalyptus-lehmanii). Of course, those taxonomists have been at it again, and this tree now goes by a new name: Eucalyptus conferruminata: http://selectree.calpoly.edu/treedetail.lasso?id=1489. In any case, this awesome species really has spectacular buds and inflorescence, which then evolve into large woody capsules that appear unworldly. I seek them out around San Diego, where they grow with minimal care along highways, parks, and in odd places. If I didn’t have so many fruit trees, I’d grow this puppy just for its cool decorations. Ironically, from afar the tree has a modest and undistinguished countenance, and only close inspection will shock anyone who casually encounters it. Here’s an image: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus_conferruminata.

Jeannine Romero: Succulents, succulents and more succulents!

Susan Krzywicki: I’ve made a wreath of Torrey Pine boughs that was decorated with mini pumpkins for Halloween, and I will redecorate
Earlier this year I planted a young Japanese maple in my side yard in Old Town. For whatever reason, it did not make it and was completely dead a few months later. I cut off all the branches. My huge pencil euphorbias usually need some shaping, so I prune them and let the cuttings fall to the ground, and try to avoid getting anywhere near the white sap. I let them lay on the ground a few days until they are good and callused over. I then pick them up and use them on top of the wall on the front patio as boughs of evergreens. They can last for up to 6 months. Mix in some round potted cacti and/or succulents, but I wore disposable gloves and kept my hands away from my face while making it.

Jim Bishop: Much to some people’s surprise and sometimes horror, I use Euphorbia tirucalli (Sticks on Fire) the way others use evergreen branches. My huge pencil euphorbias usually need some shaping, so I prune them and let the cuttings fall to the ground, and try to avoid getting anywhere near the white sap. I let them lay on the ground a few days until they are good and callused over. I then pick them up and use them on top of the wall on the front patio as boughs of evergreens. They can last for up to 6 months. Mix in some round potted cacti and/or succulents, but I wore disposable gloves and kept my hands away from my face while making it.

Cathy Tylka: Rosemary and Cleveland sage are both welcomed inside all year long in flower arrangements around the house, or I just let them dry and they’re keepers for a while. My roses are blooming since the rain, so I’m bringing in a few to decorate the room with and they smell so lovely. Also, I do make arrangements for friends and family using my many succulents, and try to remember the rule of thumb: something tall, something full, and something that drapes or hangs over, to make a nice mix.

Joan Braunstein: Earlier this year I planted a young Japanese maple in my side yard in Old Town. For whatever reason, it did not make it and was completely dead a few months later. I cut off all the wilted foliage and was left with an attractive array of twigs from which I plan to hang Christmas ornaments and bird treats.

Susi Torre-Bueno: I make long-lasting foliage arrangements using variegated myrtle (Myrtus communis ‘Variegata’), long stems of rosemary, and stiff upright stems of Cape Rush (Chondropetalum tectorum). These three can look very fine together in a vase for a week or two, and the myrtle and rosemary have lovely scents. To this I’ll sometimes add flowers from aloes (which also last at least a week when cut), which are reliable late fall and winter bloomers. This year I’m also thinking of making small rosemary and bay laurel wreaths or bouquets to give out to my holiday visitors for them to cook with for weeks to come. I have both these herbs in abundance and now is a good time to cut them back.

Deborah Young: Depending on how well it turns out, maybe some homemade apple cider vinegar in cute bottles? Not a recipient-specific gift, but we have a huge, generous lime tree in the front yard and keeping up with the windfalls has always been a bit of a chore. This year, I put a box labeled “Please Help Yourself” out by the street, and all the falls go in there; people come by and take a couple of limes until they’re all gone.
**Mary Lee:** I use dried/dead frowns from my King Palms to make hanging “baskets” for cuttings from my yard: tillandsia, blooms, etc. Vines from my star jasmine bush form the ties that keep the folded frown basket together. And also vine holders for smaller tillies. And I use smaller tillies to put into my collection of conch and other seashells to decorate my home. I also plan on using some dried bamboo cuttings (from lack of watering before our last rain) as holiday gift bow decorations.

**Cindy Sparks:** This year my Kishu tangerine is having an extra big crop. Last year I must have had 1000 fruit, and this year it will be even more. As a result, I’m using Kishu to decorate. In glass bowls, they look great, and if I have some little baggies stashed nearby, when somebody remarks on the fruit I can whip out a baggie, fill it with decorative Kishus, and give it away on the spot. Jeez, it’s worse than zucchini already!

**Susan D’Vincent:** Like many members, my garden provides a lot for the holidays. For decorations, I can find interesting pieces of wood from cut down myoporum trees, which I decorate with juniper and nandina berries. This fall I found nice, big, fat orange rose hips to use as miniature pumpkins, with little faces drawn on with permanent marker. My full-sized pumpkins, which came from the compost as volunteers, will be used to make hazelnut pumpkin cheesecake, a fabulous Cooking Light recipe. Then, for holiday gifts, I will have low sugar jams made from my fruit trees and, also for the first time this year, even prickly pear fruit. Thank you garden, you were good to me this year, even with the drought.

**Tom Biggart:** My wife, Neal, makes incredible jam from the fruit of the jelly palm, *Butia capitata*, which makes wonderful gifts. Should you have this palm in your yard and do not know what to do with all that fruit, just give me a call and I will come and get it!

**Katrin Utt:** I use pine cones that I have collected on my walks through the years. I spray some of them with gold and silver spray paint. They really look festive combined with cedar or fir branches. They also keep for years.

**Diane Bailey:** Pomegranates come to mind first. I have been making some jellies and syrup right now. They make nice gifts. Also, dwarf pomegranates are great in wreaths and bouquets. Regular pomegranates make good centerpieces, bowl decorations, etc. The nice thing about this fruit is that it grows locally with very little water!

**Jane Coogan Beer:** This year I will be pruning my six *Osmanthus heterophyllus* (Goshiki and other variegated selections.) Also known as False Holly, this is the slowest growing shrub, but scattered over my property it gets no care. Thinned from the base, the long pruning are shared with friends and neighbors for table, mantel, door and other decorations. *Elaeagnus pungens* has been in a corner for maybe twelve years, allowed to form ten plus feet of vine growth in both directions. The small inconspicuous flowers perfume a whole room. The olive green leaves with silver bronze reverse give a fall flavor to vases of *Tithonia diversifolia* (giant Mexican sunflower). When this needs pruning, the vines can be used for forming wreaths.

**Lynn Becker:** Last year I used a collection of abalone shells, and small kitchenwares and pots that were in my yard and kitchen, and filled them with succulent cuttings from my containers. I gave them...
Jill Coughlin: Beautiful fall leaves from Feather Acres Nursery in Solana Beach - since all I have is Torrey Pine needles! They also have a spectacular plain fall leaf wreath nice and full; needs nothing else added to it except maybe a burlap bow if you want, and well priced at around $45. Lots of pumpkins: any size, color and shape; large for outside and small for inside. Baby pomegranates, small tangerines, any small long-lasting veggies. Acorns I picked up back East. Baby succulents tucked in here and there. Broken up pieces of the long Brussels sprout logs they sell at this time of year. Orange pyracantha berries, coffee berries; actually any kind of berry or seeds I see on any bushes anywhere (I keep clippers in my car for a little pruning now and then!). Dried poppy pods. At Thanksgiving we usually set a long table at the end of our dining room table so we have a long harvest table. Last year our daughter used small pewter tea sets and other small pewter cups I have and filled them with succulents, berries, pieces of wheat, etc., and set them on leaves scattered all down the table with the berries, veggies, etc. and lots of candles and it looked great.

Ellie Knight: Twisted golden willow. Can spray paint any color, great in floral design live or dry.

The question for January is:
What are the top 3 things on your garden “to do list” for 2015, and why?

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

First Lady Michelle Obama and White House Chefs join children from Bancroft and Tubman Elementary Schools to harvest vegetables during the third annual White House kitchen garden fall harvest Oct. 5, 2011.

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Holiday Marketplace 2014
A great Success!
By Donna Tierney

On a sunny San Diego afternoon, 45 San Diego Horticultural Society volunteers, and a crackerjack team of students from MiraCosta College, scurried all over the Surfside Race Place in Del Mar setting up tables, decorating, and assisting 55 vendors, authors, and exhibitors in offloading their wares in preparation for the 2nd Holiday Marketplace held on November 10. Well before the doors opened at 5PM, shoppers were eagerly standing in line hoping to find the perfect plants and gifts!

The array of goods for sale was intoxicating! On hand were many varieties of plants (cacti, succulents, tropicals, proteas, Australian natives, evergreens and more), one of a kind ceramics and pottery, decorated gourds, fabric crafts, food items, bird houses, garden art, books, hand crafted jewelry, and wreaths. In addition to shopping, customers were also able to talk with local authors Pat Welsh, Lucy Warren, Greg Rubin, Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco, Robyn Foreman and Bonnie Manion. Attendees flocked to educational demonstrations by Pat, Lucy, Robyn, and Roy Wilburn. Additionally, they could obtain expert consultations with landscape designer members of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers.

For those involved in the planning and execution of this fine event, it was so gratifying to see the hundreds of shoppers who packed the exhibit hall. Their arms were loaded with plants and gifts, and there were huge smiles on their faces! Thanks to all of our members, authors, exhibitors, and vendors who made this wonderful event possible! 

MiraCosta College had poinsettias and much more

SDHS Sponsor The Wishing Tree had a very handsome display

SDHS Sponsor Sunshine Care had free veggie starts for all attendees

SDHS Sponsor
What’s your recipe for a perfect vacation? Start with 7 châteaux, 1 Gothic cathedral and over 20 gardens, including Monet’s garden at Giverny. Stay at 4-star hotels in the historic centers of Rouen and Tours, then sweeten with 2 nights at the 5-star Auberge du Jeu de Paume located in lovely Chantilly. Stir in 10 French breakfasts (croissants, café au lait, pain au chocolat), 7 lunches and 3 dinners, of course with local wines. Drop in a dash of French fashion from our charming and knowledgeable English-speaking guide. Put a cherry on top with a day at the International Garden Festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire. Stir well and you have the Pacific Horticulture Society tour, “Gardens of Normandy, Picardie & the Loire Valley.” Limited to just 24 lucky guests, dates are June 15-26. The tour is already half full, why not sign up today?

Other 2015 PacHort tours include the Himalayas in April & Chicago in June. Tours to San Miguel de Allende, Seattle and Japan are full – sorry! On tap for 2016 are South Africa, Costa Rica, New Orleans and more!

SDHS is a Pacific Horticulture Partner. Visit www.pachort.org to learn about tours and subscribe to the highly regarded Pacific Horticulture magazine. A special rate of $24 is available right now by using the discount code SDHS2014.

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What’s Happening? for DECEMBER 2014
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.

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January 3: Landscaping & Maintaining your Garden in Winter
If you love gardening then you love San Diego. We are fortunate enough to be able to be outside in our garden all year long. Lots of people are buried in snow while we are able to do the feeding, planting, and pruning necessary to have that beautiful garden throughout the year. We will discuss all these things and more.

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

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Events at Public Gardens

❖ Alta Vista Gardens  Contact info on other side
See www.avgardens.org for events & classes

❖ San Diego Botanic Garden  Contact info on other side
Dec 6 – 23 and 26 – 30, Garden of Lights: After the sun goes down in December, the Garden is transformed into a dazzling winter wonderland. $14 discounts available; see website.

❖ The Water Conservation Garden
Contact info on other side
Saturdays, 10:30am, Garden Tour: Docent led tour of the Water Conservation Garden. Meet at the main gate at the Garden entrance. No reservations required.
Dec. 6, 9am-1pm, Garden Gift Shop Open House:
Pick up great hostess and holiday gifts, check out new inventory and enjoy surprise discounts

Events Hosted by SDHS Sponsors
Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

❖ Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops
Info: events.barrelsandbranches@gmail.com or (760) 753-2852. See ad on page 17.

❖ Cedros Gardens, Saturday & Sunday FREE classes.

❖ City Farmers Nursery Workshops

❖ Evergreen Nursery: FREE Seminar
See column at left for details.

❖ Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes
Details at www.walterandersen.com; addresses in ad on page 15.
Point Loma, 9am  Poway, 9:30am
Dec. 6 Pruning roses, new varieties  Bird Feeder workshop $25 prepaid
Dec. 13 Pruning stone fruits  Rose pruning
Dec. 20 Pruning apples & cherries  Fruit tree pruning

❖ Weidners’ Gardens classes & workshops
See www.weidners.com or call (760) 436-2194.

Next SDHS Meeting
December 8:
Remembering and Commemorating the 1915 Panama-California Exposition
See page 1 for details

Happy Holidays!

More garden-related events on other side.
Other Garden-Related Events:
Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

Dec. 1, 12:30pm, Palomar District's Floral Design Forum: Get inspired to decorate for the holidays. $15. Shinoda Design Center, 7170 Miramar Rd. Info: www.californiagardenclubs.com/palomardistrict.

Dec. 3 (3-10pm) & 6 (noon-10pm), San Diego Floral Assoc. Festival of Trees: Enjoy the sights and scents of the season. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 101. Info: www.balboapark.org/decembe rnights.


Dec. 6, 10-noon, Solana Center’s Manure Management & Composting Workshop Course: Registration and info: www.solanacenter.org.


For an extensive list of garden club meetings and events, visit www.sdfloral.org/calendar.htm

Resources & Ongoing Events:
ALTA VISTA BOTANIC GARDENS: Open Monday-Friday 7:00-5:00; 10:00-5:00 on weekends. Fee: members/free; non-members/$2. 1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. Info: www.avgardens.org or (760) 945-3954.

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN: (formerly QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS): Open daily 9-5 (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s Day); 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Fee: $14/adults, $10/seniors, $8/kids 3-12; parking $2. Free to members and on the first Tuesday of every month. (760) 436-3036; www.SDBGarden.org.

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


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.


San Diego County Farmers Markets
www.sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farmers-Markets.php