

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

February 2014, Number 233

The Wild World of Succulents

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On the Cover: Endangered Baobab trees in Madagascar



San Diego County Orchid Society
Presents

A Symphony of Orchids

Orchid Show & Sale

March 21 -23, 2014

Friday: 3pm – 7pm

Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Sunday: 10am – 4pm

Admission: \$7

Weekend pass: \$10

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Parking: Free



Scottish Rite Center
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www.sdorchids.com
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LIFESTYLES

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sdhs



SUSTAINABLE TURF & LANDSCAPE *Seminar* Thursday, March 6, 2014

**** 5 of hours of DPR-CEU's have been applied for ****



Nancy Wickus
*Senior Biologist
County of San Diego*



Kara Roskop-Waters
*Senior Biologist
County of San Diego*



Luke Yoder
Head Groundskeeper: Petco Park



Kimberly Gard
Syngenta Corporation



David Phipps
*Golf Course Superintendents
Association of America*



Dr. Joe Vargas
*Plant Pathology Professor
Michigan State University*

\$65.00 registration includes:

- ♦ Seminar and Trade Show
- ♦ Continental Breakfast and Lunch

**Register today on the Ornamental
Horticulture web site (cuyamaca.edu/ohweb)**

**For more information call O.H. Program
Coordinator Don Schultz 619-660-4023**



March 6, 2014 at the Performing Arts Theatre
Cuyamaca College, 900 Rancho San Diego Pkwy, El Cajon, CA 92019

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SPRING

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Largest Plant Sale of the Year!

I Want to Grow That

Plant Food • Amendments & Mulch • Seed & Sod • Veggie & Flower Packs • Garden Tools
• Rainwater Harvesting • Irrigation



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YOUR FAMILY!

grow
ORGANIC

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

PLANTING SPRING VEGGIES
10:00AM-12:00PM

Farmer Roy will help you grow an abundance of fresh veggies this spring. Learn the best soils to use, planting care, feeding, maintenance and more.

**Register
Today!**

STEVE GOTO - GOTOMANIA
10:00AM-12:00PM

Learn from Growing Expert Steve Goto. Learn about the top tomato picks, benefits of soil optimizer, trellis use with tomatoes, diseases, pests, grafted tomato picks and much more!

Create a
Family
Project

Grow Your
Own Healthy
Vegetables

www.granettos.com/events

Planting Spring Veggies

Escondido March 1
Encinitas March 8
Fallbrook March 29
Valley Center April 5

Steve Goto-Gotomania

Escondido March 22

ESCONDIDO
1105 W. Mission Ave
760-745-4671

ENCINITAS
189 S. Rancho Santa Fe
760-944-5777

VALLEY CENTER
29219 Juba Road
760-749-1828

FALLBROOK
530 E. Alvarado St.
760-728-6127

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Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Presented by

The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

February 8, 2014

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Room 101 and Adjacent Patio Area

Casa del Prado

Balboa Park, San Diego



Strange and exotic plants from the far corners of the world gathered together for your viewing amazement!!

Sale of choice specimen plants for the novice and collector as well as handmade stoneware planters and pots!!

Members only shopping from 9 to 10

For additional information visit: www.sdcss.net
Payments now accepted on-line

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SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, lending library, plant display, silent auction
6:45 – 8:30 Announcements, door prizes, speaker

MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

February 1	Companion Gardening with Chickens (FW)
February 22	Featured Garden: Olivewood Gardens (register at www.sdhort.org)
Feb. 28 - March 2	Spring Home/Garden Show (see page 8)
March 10	Tracy Kahn on Tried and True or Brand New: Citrus in Today's Gardens
April 5	Spring Garden Tour (see page 10)
April 14	Fred Roberts on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Native Plants of San Diego County
May 4	Wine Country Garden Tour (see website)
May 12	Phil Bergman on Best Palms for Southern California
June 9	SDHS Night at the Fair



www.sdhort.org

COVER IMAGE: The cover photo is from Madagascar on the road to the Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve from Morondava. The trees are Grandidier's baobabs (*Adansonia grandidieri*), an endangered species. Photographed by February speaker Kelly Griffin. Hear about this and many other interesting plants at our February meeting.

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 10, 2014, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

Speaker: Kelly Griffin on *The Wild World of Succulents: Out of the Wild and Into Gardens*

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

This month we welcome Kelly Griffin, Manager of Succulent Plant Development for Altman Plants, which is the largest producer of succulents in the country. He is also co-owner of Xeric Growers, a wholesale and mail-order succulent nursery. Kelly will present some of the strange, beautiful and wonderful plants (mostly succulent) that he has had the good fortune to see in his travels, sharing his passion to observe plants in the wild in order to understand how they grow, and under what conditions. He will give some insight into the plants and habitats that are not so well known.

Kelly's inclination has been towards agaves, aloes and echeverias, but there are many more plants that have garnered his attention. He has introduced over 100 succulents and created many cultivars. Some of his aloe cultivars include 'Christmas Carol', 'Coral Edge', 'Angelo', 'Pink Blush' and 'Grassy Lassie'. His variegated agaves include 'Blue Glow', 'Sun Glow', and Agave guinegol 'Creme Brulee'. Kelly holds a degree in Applied Physics, but his love of plants led to horticulture as a career. Prior to his current position he was Curator of Xerophytes at Rancho Soledad Nursery, where he was responsible for finding and creating new and different plants that could be utilized in garden settings. He has travelled extensively worldwide documenting plants and collecting seeds for propagation.

For more information visit <http://tinyurl.com/febkelly> and see page 3. Some marvelous succulents have been donated by Oasis Water Efficient Gardens for a Silent Auction, and they have also provided discount coupons for all attendees! 🌵



SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

Cindy Benoit – Member at Large
Patty Berg – Volunteer Coordinator
Jeff Biletnikoff – Meeting Room
Coordinator
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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,
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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; look for
"SDHS Sponsor" above their ads. We thank
them for their support.

EVERETT MEHNER (1928 – 2013)

We are sad to report the passing of longtime member Everett Mehner, who died in December. Everett volunteered to help at our meetings in 2006, serving as the projectionist if the person who ran the projector couldn't attend. He also videotaped our speakers from 2006 to early 2011, providing an important resource for our organization. These were both very important tasks necessary to the smooth running of our meetings, and he was a reliable and much-appreciated volunteer. Everett was involved in many local non-profits, and you can learn more about this fine man at <http://tinyurl.com/febmechner>. He will be missed and remembered fondly.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Spring Home Garden Show – Come Help SDHS and Have Fun!

This year's Spring Home/Garden Show takes place on the weekend of February 28 to March 2 at the fairgrounds in Del Mar. Can you help staff our table? It's an enjoyable few hours talking to folks about SDHS and signing up new members. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Patty Berg at pattyjberg@gmail.com or call 760-815-0625.

Spring Garden Tour Volunteers

Can you lend a hand on April 5th in Olivenhain or Solana Beach? Nine fabulous gardens will be featured on this year's "Surf & Turf" Tour (see page 10). We'll have dozens of assignments for ticket sales, garden docents, parking guides and more. Sign up early and you may be able to select your assignment. Enjoy a special preview tour just for volunteers in the preceding week. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Patty Berg at 760-815-0625 or pattyjberg@gmail.com.

Board Opening: Garden Tour Co-Chair for 2015

We're already in the early planning stages for the 2015 Spring Garden Tour, even though the current year's event is still a few months away. That's because 2015 marks the Centennial Celebration at Balboa Park and we'll be featuring gardens in that area. If you love gardens and have strong organizational skills, consider co-chairing this exciting event. Tasks include identifying the tour area; scheduling the tour date; finding and reviewing tour gardens; and working with homeowners, sponsor(s), and vendors. You'll work with and supervise other volunteers who staff the gardens, create publicity materials, and sell tickets. Requires familiarity with email. Contact Jim Bishop at president@sdhort.org. 🌿

COORDINATE FREE WORKSHOPS



Our free monthly workshops have been a big hit, and we're looking for a member to take over as head of the 6-person committee that organizes them. As coordinator, you'll work with the committee members to schedule workshops and enter the details into our website, etc. This should only take a few hours a month. To discuss the details of this fun task, please contact Susi Torre-Bueno at (760) 295-2173. 🌿

Fruit tree pruning workshop taught by
Patty Berg



FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

Balboa Park Fundraising

As you know, as part of the 2015 Balboa Park Centennial Celebration, the San Diego Horticultural Society is undertaking a major, multi-year project to restore the Balboa Park Lily Pond Gardens. Our restoration will incorporate sustainable, climate appropriate plant varieties introduced in the last 100 years, and honor the original horticulturist of Balboa Park, Kate Sessions, with the theme "What would Kate do today?"

Our design team is busy at work on plans for the Lily Pond Gardens, and our fundraising efforts have begun (see page 6). We are grateful to the many donations we received in December and January, but we still have a long way to go. We need to raise around \$1000 per month to reach our goal for this year. You can donate directly via our website at: www.sdhort.org/Donate and also find instructions there for donating by mail.

The good news is we have a major new fundraising opportunity for the Balboa Park project. We have just completed negotiations with the Left Coast Fund on a matching grant program to support the Lily Pond restoration. The Left Coast Fund (<http://leftcoastfund.org>) provides financial support to select organizations seeking innovative, long-term solutions to problems in the fields of health, education and the environment. The Left Coast Fund is a strong supporter of Wildcoast (<http://wildcoast.net>), a San Diego-based international team that conserves coastal and marine ecosystems and wildlife. World-famous for their work in Baja protecting California Gray Whales and Condors, a number of Wildcoast's projects are right here in the county, including Marine Protected Areas at Swami's, South La Jolla, Pt Loma and the Tijuana River Valley mouth.

Wildcoast's annual fundraising event, the Baja Bash, is scheduled for Saturday evening June 28 at the Coronado Cays Yacht Club. We

have confirmed the following very special arrangement with the Left Coast Fund that allows our members and friends to support both Wildcoast and SDHS, and have fun at the same time: *For every SDHS member (friends & family, too) who purchases a ticket (\$85) and attends the Baja Bash (tickets are transferable if you cannot attend), the Left Coast Fund will donate \$100 to the SDHS Lily Pond Restoration project, up to a maximum grant of \$5000 to the Hort Society. Ticket sales are first-come, first-served, and the event is expected to sell out early.*

This is a great opportunity to support two different organizations, and you can more than double your contribution and have a great time doing it. For more information, including how to buy tickets to the Baja Bash while supporting our Balboa Park Centennial project, visit our website: www.sdhort.org.



Rachel Cobb

Spring Garden Tour

Tickets on sale now! Save \$5 per ticket and skip the ticket line at the tour by purchasing advance tickets for the Spring Garden Tour online at www.sdhort.org. You can learn more about this year's tour on our website and on page 10. Also, be sure and let your garden friends and people at other organizations you are involved with know about the tour. We think our tour is one of the best in county, and you won't want to miss it. Again this year, to encourage carpooling, any vehicle with four or more tour participants will receive a free guest pass to one of our regular meetings! This year, profits from the tour go towards our restoration of the gardens in Balboa Park.

Also, you can volunteer to help sell tickets, check-in attendees and greet and direct people at the gardens. See page 2 for information on how to volunteer. 🌿

TO LEARN MORE...

Plant Hunters

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Plant hunting is and isn't the same as it was 150 years ago. You have to go out in the field, you have to collect and bring back viable specimens, but you can now use GPS and a jeep to get around. Here's an article about what's needed to have a career as a plant hunter:

http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2012_03_30/caredit.a1200037

On the other hand, here's a plant hunter who explains why he'd leave a plant in place without taking seed or fruit: www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/flower/hinkley.html

Here's a British banker who had a nervous breakdown, and was saved by returning to biology and becoming a plant hunter: www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/plants/10459938/The-banker-who-became-a-plant-hunter.html

Some plant hunters are better than others. Most interestingly, this article concludes with the fact that 15% to 30% of plants in the world have not yet been "discovered" by Western science! www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2012-02/01/great-plant-hunters

~~~~~  
Member Ava Torre-Bueno is a psychotherapist in private practice and the organizer of Gardeners 4 Peace. This group of volunteers is helping to create a peaceful, organic, permaculture garden at the San Diego Friends Center. To learn more visit [www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm](http://www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm). 🌿

## THE REAL DIRT ON...

### Pat Welsh

By Carol Buckley

Pat Welsh is a professional horticulturalist and San Diego celebrity known from her segments on TV, six books, and entertaining talks. Her beloved first book—groundbreaking because of its delightful presentation and concentration on our region—now called *Pat Welsh's Southern California Organic Gardening, Month by Month*, has been in print for over twenty years and is available at bookstores everywhere and Amazon.com.



Pat's love of gardens was sown in Yorkshire, England, where she was born in 1929. She moved with her parents, Emerson and Ruth Fisher-Smith, and older brother John, to her grandparents' estate, Hoyle Court, after financial loss took her parents' home. Eventually the family moved to the south of England, where Emerson produced movies, resulting in further financial loss, but Hoyle Court had awakened Pat's passion for gardening:

"Playing in those glorious gardens and others of my youth, surrounded by extraordinary beauty, building miniature moss gardens of my own under the rhododendrons, and watching Viney, the head gardener, fill clay pots with compost in his potting shed or watering flowers and tomatoes in the greenhouses, inoculated my brother John and me forever with the love of gardens and of garden tasks."

After her parents' divorce, Emerson moved to Hollywood to work in the movies. Her mother and stepfather, fashion photographer Geoff Morris, immigrated to the United States in 1936, leaving the children in England. Pat and her brothers followed in 1939. "Carl Jung once wrote that a child who is abandoned by his parents is often adopted by nature," Pat says. "That's what happened to me." The family moved to a farm in Pennsylvania, and as she says, "Our manure spreader, in constant use, resulted in an extremely productive all-organic family farm."

Eventually the family moved to California, where Pat attended Hollywood High and Scripps College. She met her husband, Louis M. Welsh, a Los Angeles lawyer, on a blind date. They moved to San Diego, where he became a judge of the Superior Court, settled in Del Mar, and raised two daughters.

Pat's philosophy of gardening has a touch of theater about it: "I advocate creating a garden of rooms, growing big drifts of drought resistant, easy-to-grow, but colorful plants, building pergolas and arbors, going 'up in the air' with vines and climbing roses, making paths lead to destinations, building two patios—one for summer and one for winter, using color schemes, and placing the swimming pool to one side, not bang smack in the middle of the backyard."

Her knowledge about gardening is inspiring and earthy. When asked about common garden mistakes, she states: "The most common error a gardener can make is growing too many different things instead of choosing a few favorite, colorful and successful

*Continued on page 18*

## BOOK REVIEW

### *Banana: The Fate of the Fruit That Changed the World*

By Dan Koeppel

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

When I first picked up this book, I was looking for information on how to salvage the one poor, non-productive banana plant that is struggling to live in my back yard. I didn't get that, but I did get something more interesting. This is the history of the banana, primarily in the United States, and the facts are lurid enough to make you swear off bananas forever. You may not have to, however, because the bananas we eat may be about to disappear without a replacement.

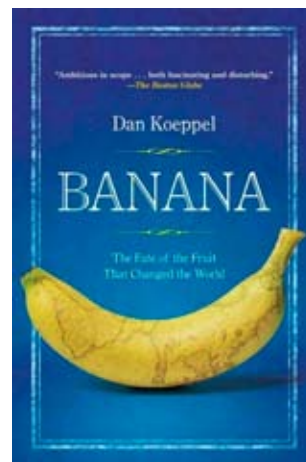
As so many books do, this one starts with a chapter of "gee, wow" facts. Did you know that bananas are a berry and the banana plant is an herb? I didn't. And it's possible that the apple mentioned in Genesis was, in fact, a banana. Bananas originated in Asia, and are one of the oldest plants cultivated by humans. They've been part of our diet for more than seven thousand years.

There are more than a thousand types of bananas in the world, but few of them are edible, and therein lies the problem. The banana we eat, the Cavendish, has succumbed to an incurable virus in most of the world. It's only a matter of time before that virus reaches the Americas. All the Cavendish bananas in the world are clones. They can only grow from cuttings. Remember those tiny black seeds in bananas. They're not viable. Cavendish bananas reproduce only with the help of humans. Like American corn and soybeans, bananas are a monocrop. Any disease that will kill one will kill all.

Some of you may be old enough to remember the banana, named Gros Michel, that we ate before the Cavendish. They were almost completely wiped out by Panama disease after World War II. Now, the Cavendish, developed at the "last minute" and thought to be immune, is dying.

And that's only half the story. The other half has to do with what has been done over the decades so that we can have cheap bananas on our tables and in our lunch boxes. For much of their history, bananas grown in Central and South America and shipped to North America have been cheaper than American-grown apples. How is that possible? Through worker exploitation, corruption of governments, and mass murder, when necessary. I said it is a lurid story, and it is, but it is also one that will fascinate you and make you think about a lot of things that you may not have thought about before. Dan Koeppel has definitely given us something to chew on.

*Banana* is available in paperback (ISBN 978-0-452-29008-2) for \$16. It includes a timeline, a bibliography, and an index. I recommend it to you. 🍌



## TREES, PLEASE

### A True & Sexy Avocado Story

By Robin Rivet

The kitchen was dark green with matching fridge, and there it was on a small plate: pitted and halved lengthwise, staring me in the face. Hours went by, and each time I tried a bite, it tasted more and more like swallowing green lard. Parents have such good intentions.

Hard to believe, but back then I despised avocados. I'm still amazed they're considered a fruit. Not that it would have made any difference, since the taste and texture seemed so gross; but after all, I was only eight years old. Little did I know that one day we would tend five different avocado cultivars at home, with enough seasonal variation to supply a year-round harvest. Adulthood altered my palette to admire their silky texture, distinct mellow flavor and healthful qualities.

Avocados are evergreen, edible, stunning and large; just the sort of tree our region needs to mitigate looming climate change. Originating in southern Mexico, there are three distinct types: Mexican, Guatemalan and West Indian. If it freezes where you live, you'll need to stick to the hardest Mexican cultivars, although some avocado trees can survive temperatures down to about 19 degrees. High elevation varieties withstand colder temperatures, while the lowland types can be so tender they shrivel at the first sign of frost, although some grafts and hybrids moderate these tendencies.

So what about tree sex? During Pre-Columbian times the fruit was considered an aphrodisiac, and the word "avocado" evolved from the Aztec word "ahuacatl," meaning "testicle," ostensibly named for the shape of the fruit. In any case, avocado flowers are finicky about consummation. In fact, their needs are so complicated, that there are still mysteries about how avocado flowers are successfully pollinated. Ironically, although there are both male and female flowers on every tree, there are two different types, referred to as "A" and "B." Believe it or not, A cultivar flowers (like Hass) open in the morning as females, and a day later they change into males by afternoon. B cultivars (like Fuerte) do the opposite; with the males getting up early and becoming female the next day in the afternoon. This discourages self-fertilization, but if you plant both A and B varieties in your backyard, you'll ensure the best fruit production. With a little research, you too can have home-grown avocados all year; just don't force the fruit on your kids.

Useful websites:

<http://ucavo.ucr.edu/AvocadoVarieties/AvocadoVarieties.html>  
[www.californiaavocado.com/fun-avocado-facts](http://www.californiaavocado.com/fun-avocado-facts)  
[www.crfp.org/pubs/ff/avocado.html](http://www.crfp.org/pubs/ff/avocado.html)

Timing of flowering for "A" and "B" flower types.

| Flower-type cultivar | DAY 1   |           | DAY 2   |           |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
|                      | MORNING | AFTERNOON | MORNING | AFTERNOON |
| "A"                  | ♀       |           |         | ♂         |
| "B"                  |         | ♀         | ♂       |           |

Graph courtesy of ANR/UC Riverside -  
M. L. Arpaia, A. E. Fetscher, R. Hofshi

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MASTER GARDENER SPRING SEMINAR

Saturday, March 22, 2014

7:30am to 4:00pm

Registration Check-in Begins at 7:30

Hey, what are you doing on Saturday, March 22nd? Wanna spend the day with Nan Sterman, Debra Baldwin and Pat Welsh? How about Greg Rubin and Lucy Warren? Maybe you'd like to take a workshop on propagation or learn about South African bulbs from Jason Kubrick. Liz Youngflesh will teach you everything she knows about awesome Alstroemerias, and arborist attorney Randall Stamen will advise what you can and can't do concerning your neighbor's complaints about your beautiful trees. Come to the annual University of California Master Gardener Spring Seminar this year and meet a whole host of outstanding horticultural wizards.

We've combed the state and found the best of the best to entertain and enlighten your garden soul. We have 21 classes to choose from at the new County Operations Center in Kearny Mesa, one of the finest venues around. It looks and feels like a college campus. We'll have important demonstrations on irrigation, composting, and a unique hassle-free in the ground method of vermiculture. Our fancy cafe will be open for a morning buffet and delicious offerings at lunch. And to top it all off, we've planned an enormous garden marketplace with a wide range of vendors. The San Diego Horticultural Society will be represented in our non-profit area of participants, along with the San Diego Water Authority. In the midst of all of this will be live music.

The focus of our seminar this year is water conservation, a serious concern that becomes more pressing with each season of drought. Yet, we Master Gardeners are an optimistic lot because we know from experience that abundant, appealing, and attractive gardens are possible when the appropriate water-thrifty plants are selected. This year we have speakers on native plants, succulents, water smart irrigation, drought tolerant plants from Australia, and rainwater harvesting. Indeed, all of our seminar speakers address this essential theme necessary for the success of the responsible SoCal home gardener. And don't forget to stop by our literary tent to meet garden authors. When they aren't in class they will be free to answer your questions and autograph your copy of their book.

You can register on-line at our website: [www.mastergardenerSD.org](http://www.mastergardenerSD.org), or mail in your registration. Our hotline will take any question you might have from 9 am to 3 pm weekdays at (858) 822-6910. If you call after hours, you can leave a message, or e-mail us at [help@mastergardenerSD.org](mailto:help@mastergardenerSD.org). Parking is free and abundant.

So mark your calendars now. That date again is Saturday, March 22nd. Classes tend to fill up rather quickly, so you'll want to register as soon as possible. ☺



Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist, Tree Risk Assessor and UCCE Master Gardener; [robin@sandiegotreemap.org](mailto:robin@sandiegotreemap.org) ☺



# GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

## Say it with Flowers

By Pat Pawlowski

As an Anna hummingbird suddenly appears, I think how beautiful it is; how its head and throat glisten ruby-red in the sunlight. I want to thank the little buzzer for just being there, hovering, sparkling, making my weeding and watering chores seem a lot less boring. But I can't send it an email, can I? And I don't speak Hummingbirdese, either.

So how can I, a garden geek if there ever was one, say how much I appreciate it?

I can say it with flowers, and not just ones that bloom for three seconds and then sink back, waiting for another whole year before they show their little flowery heads again. Instead, here is a list of long bloomers (and I don't mean underwear).

But wait, while I'm at it, why not plant for butterflies and bennies too? Who, you might ask, is Benny, and what does he have to do with it? Actually, it's bennies, short for beneficial insects. This garden geek, you see, is somewhat promiscuous. Little wings: the more the merrier, I say.

So, to wow wildlife, here's a very incomplete list of some of my favorite long-blooming, nectar and pollen-producing native plants:

Alpine cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii* 'Alpine'): Fragrant blue-green shrub offers sage advice and nectar to hummingbirds and butterflies.



Bladderpod

Bladderpod (*Cleome isomeris*): Unlovely name for gray-green shrub with lovely bright yellow tubular flowers, attractive to hummingbirds; also host for Becker's White butterfly.

California aster (*Aster chilensis*): Stubby perennial entices native bees and butterflies.

California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*): Gangly shrub with balls of small white flowers with pink (yes, pink!) pollen, favorite of many kinds of butterflies and

bennies; also host plant for various hairstreak, blue, and metalmark butterfly species.

Desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*): Deciduous willow tree to sit under while hummers hum above your head.

Island bush snapdragon (*Galvezia speciosa*): Evergreen shrub with saucy tubes of lipstick red that lure hummers.

Narrowleaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*): Deciduous perennial with small white flowers and slender leaves that host the incomparable Monarch butterfly, plus offering nectar to other butterflies and bennies.

Seaside daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*): Perennial that draws bennies and petite butterflies.

Woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*): Fuzzy deep blue tubular flowers offer nectar for six whole months to hummers.

Two cousins of California natives are:

Chiapas sage (*Salvia chiapensis*): Evergreen; seemingly blooms forever. Hot pink flowers continuously visited by hummers, which seem to prefer it over many other sages.

Mexican tulip poppy (*Hunnemannia fumariifolia*): Floral cups of gleaming yellow; prodigious pollen producer visited by all kinds of bees.

Wild wings, how do I love thee? Let me count the ways... nah, forget it. Don't try to say it yourself: let your flowering plants say it for you.

Member Pat Pawlowski is a writer/lecturer/garden consultant who obviously thinks flowers are pretty darn important. 🌸

## SDHS FUNDRAISING FOR THE BALBOA PARK RESTORATION PROJECT

As described on pages 3 and 8, 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](http://www.sdhort.org) for information about making donations. You can also donate at meetings and other events. Every contribution is very welcome, and helps us reach our goal. As of January 16th we have raised \$1065.

### Thank you to these generous donors:

#### \$200

Bruce & Myra Cobbledick

#### \$100

Ed Fitzgerald  
(in memory of  
Eva Fitzgerald)  
Bill Homyak and  
Meredith Sinclair  
Wendy Nash  
Princess Norman  
Sam & Terri Seat  
William & Linda Shaw

#### \$70

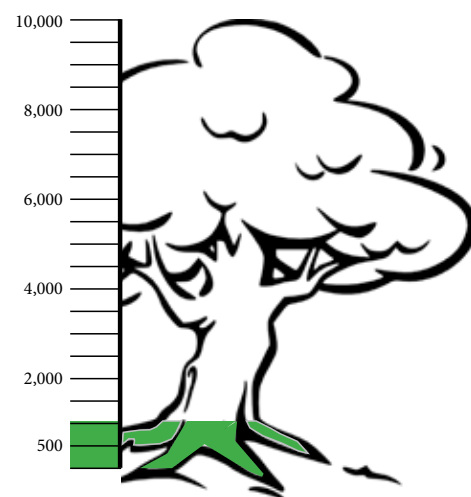
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#### \$10 and above:

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## TREE STEWARD TRAINING GROWS IN SAN DIEGO

A new, non-profit horticultural organization has sprouted in San Diego! Tree San Diego is growing its mission to inspire and empower the people of San Diego County to value, plant and maintain a thriving community forest and tree canopy. It provides countywide education and advocacy to the public and professionals alike, highlighting the value of trees, emphasizing quality tree care and increasing plantings throughout the county. The Tree Steward program is the first public training activity of Tree San Diego.

Trees are disappearing throughout the county. Have you noticed this trend in your neighborhood? As a matter of fact, the City of San Diego has lost its Tree City USA designation from the Arbor Day Foundation! Tree loss is a travesty for sure, they do so much for us yet ask so little in return. They're not just pretty things to look at and comfortable umbrellas to sit under. They have measurable benefits that can be translated into dollars and sense. Their shade reduces energy costs, the urban heat island effect, and water and heat stress of nearby plants. Their canopies improve air quality and reduce **greenhouse gases**. Evergreen tree canopies absorb rainwater and reduce storm water run-off, which in turn stabilizes slopes. They also improve our health, create wildlife habitat, provide open space, increase property values and business income and much, much more. Trees improve our quality of life.

Yet, with all they do for us, trees sometimes get a bad rap. Yes, they can lift pavement. Yes, branches do fall and cause damage and yes, they can interfere with solar panels, pools and more. But all of these "ills" can be avoided with proper tree selection, planting and maintenance. That's why we are introducing Tree Steward training to the greater San Diego area and to the members of the Hort Society in particular!

You are invited to become a Tree Steward! Tree Stewards will

serve as volunteers to advocate, plant and care for trees. Each volunteer will choose a level of involvement after the training which include options like

- assisting municipalities and private groups with Arbor Day and other tree planting events
- educating residents and businesses about tree care
- helping teachers with lessons about tree
- advocating for increasing tree canopy and improving tree care throughout the county or in their own neighborhoods.

Our Tree Steward program is modeled after successful programs in other cities, including Citizen Arborists of Los Angeles, Neighborhood Tree Stewards of Portland, and Citizen Foresters of Washington DC. Join us and help grow San Diego!

An initial one-day training will provide an overview of tree benefits, biology, identification, selection, planting, care, and advocacy for the community forest. Three identical sessions will be offered on different dates and in different parts of the county, each from 8:30 to 3:00 (attend only one):

- Friday, February 21 at the Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon
- Saturday, March 8 at the Girl Scout Program Center at the north edge of Balboa Park
- Sunday, March 23 at San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas

Register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/tree-steward-training-tickets-10028799409>. A \$25 fee includes snacks, beverages, the *San Diego Tree Steward's Handbook* and the beautifully photographed, hardbound tree identification/picture book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates: The Trees of San Diego*. The fee is \$5 for students with proof of enrollment. You may bag your lunch or buy it at the door for \$10.

Tree San Diego is also recruiting board members. Love trees or know someone who does? Come grow with us! For further information see their website ([www.Treesandiego.org](http://www.Treesandiego.org)) or contact Rachele Melious, (858) 354-4158, or Anne Fege at [afege@aol.com](mailto:afege@aol.com). ☘

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Our Twentieth Year: Catch the Volunteer Spirit!

By Patty Berg, Volunteer Coordinator

We take great pride in fulfilling our stated mission: To promote the enjoyment, art, knowledge and public awareness of horticulture throughout the San Diego area. And the way SDHS has done this for the past nineteen years is by participating in the larger community to spread the good word. This year there are many exciting and fun events where your participation ensures that we can continue this proud tradition. See page 2 for our most urgent current needs.

Our spring events are always great fun and much-anticipated. This year's **Spring Home/Garden Show** at the Del Mar Fairgrounds will take place February 28, March 1, and March 2. It's a good opportunity to meet new people and introduce them to SDHS. You also get to enjoy the Show and gather ideas for your own gardens.

Then, on Saturday April 5, we present our **2014 Spring Surf & Turf Garden Tour** in Olivenhain and Solana Beach. Volunteering for this event gets you free admission and a chance to tell all the tour-goers about SDHS, sell our tree book and beautiful gift cards, or perhaps be a docent in one of the featured gardens. We expect to

need close to 60 volunteers and it's certain to be our best ever!

From June 7 to July 6 we'll once again be hosting a display garden at the **Paul Ecke Jr. Flower & Garden Show at the 2014 Del Mar Fair**. Garden Hosts enjoy free admission to the Fair and a great morning or afternoon talking plants with the fairgoers. Many volunteers are regulars for the Fair, and some lifelong friendships have been struck among our members who worked a shift together.

Our June meeting is when we host our annual **Night at the Fair** honoring our Horticulturist of the Year. We get the outdoor Flower & Garden Show all to ourselves! We depend on volunteers to help with set up, check in our members and guests and also serve cake. Yum.

Any of these activities is guaranteed to give you the satisfaction of knowing you have done your share – your "4 for Hort." And they also get you on the guest list for our annual **Volunteer Appreciation Party** in the fall. We're hoping to have the biggest party ever this year in celebration of SDHS's 20th Anniversary. Please be sure to sign up for a volunteer post so you don't miss out. Why not pick an event and get it on your calendar now?

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Patty Berg at [pattyjberg@gmail.com](mailto:pattyjberg@gmail.com) or call 760-815-0625. ☘

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN BALBOA PARK

### What SDHS is Doing

By Linda Shaw

The Friends of Balboa Park have asked the San Diego Horticultural Society to restore and landscape the gardens surrounding the lily pond in Balboa Park, a very big undertaking. This will be a pilot project (projected to be finished by June) to celebrate the 2015 centennial celebration of the Panama-California exposition in the park. How fortunate we are to have two very talented landscape architect member volunteers to head this project up: Cindy Benoit and Chris Drayer. They met at the lily pond on a beautiful sunny day for over three hours spent measuring all the hardscape and the gardens, transferring the existing tall plants and trees onto their drawings. Our job is to design and plant the understory.

Any of you lucky enough to have been to Rancho La Puerta in Tecate will have seen Chris Drayer's planning, design and construction of over 40 gorgeous acres there. He was on site there for a better part of 15 years. He has also designed installations all over the world:



Egypt, Mexico, Costa Rica, and right here in San Diego. Cindy Benoit (at left) has been creating award-winning urban centers, residential and commercial developments and public parks for over 25 years. She also has coordinated the garden show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds and is a SDHS Board member.

We will be working with the park horticulturalist, Mario Llanos, who will approve our plan. He has given us permission to use whatever plants he has in the Park's storage nursery, but they certainly won't begin to fill the requirements needed for this restoration. So, please log on to the San Diego Horticultural Society's web site ([www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org)) to donate toward the project. Parts of the landscaping at Balboa Park are in really sad shape and can certainly use our help. We want the future gardens there to reflect our enthusiastic support and professional expertise. When this project is finished, it will provide the stimulus for others in the community to follow our lead. *JS*



Chris Drayer



## GARDENS, PLANTS, FUN — FOR FREE!

### Spring Home/Garden Show

February 28 to March 2

By Lucy Warren

If you love plants, great garden design, and the chance to learn more about gardening, don't miss the show from Friday, February 28 to Sunday, March 2 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. As an SDHS member you get the absolute best discount for admission. Go to the this special page on the show website to get a free VIP pass for two: <http://springhomegardenshow.com/SDHS>. You'll definitely want to bring your significant other or your best garden buddy.

San Diego Horticultural Society members have a vested interest in the Spring Home/Garden Show because we've made it ours. It is one of our biggest shows for public outreach to share our love of plants. For those who help at the show, SDHS will reimburse your parking. To volunteer, contact Patty Berg at [SDHSVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:SDHSVolunteers@gmail.com).

SDHS also sponsors the judging of the dramatically-lit display gardens designed and created specifically for this show. They are filled with ideas. Garden Masters put their best efforts into creative new ideas for wonderful gardens for the San Diego climate. See the creativity and style of top designers and horticulturists, all in one place.

Our seminar series is always educational, informative and packed full of ideas. The seminars cover a wide range of current gardening interests from sustainable landscaping, natives and succulents, to growing organic fruits and vegetables. The lectures are free for the price of admission. (Now let's see...if you are a member with a VIP pass...that means completely free!)

If you want more personalized information, sign up for the "30 for 30" private low-cost consultations hosted by professionals from the San Diego chapters of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). It costs just \$30 for a private 30-minute consultation, which can be reserved in advance at the show website: <http://springhomegardenshow.com>.

You'll see interesting and unusual plants to tempt your wallet. Top growers and specialty nurseries are all located together, so you can find just the right plants without all the driving. Talk to these people; they have the expertise to share with you about how to make their plants thrive in your garden.

Many of our members especially love to help out at the Spring Home/Garden Show because they get to meet and interact with gardeners from all over San Diego and with other society members. What could be more fun than sharing good times with people with similar interests? Come. Enjoy. The 2014 Spring Home/Garden Show. *JS*

**Spring**  
**HOME/GARDEN SHOW**  
**29TH ANNUAL** SM

**Del Mar Fairgrounds**  
**February 28 – March 2, 2014**



## 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.*

### Right Plant, Wrong Place

In the December newsletter, I wrote about creating the planting beds in the backyard at my former home in Encinitas. I knew about the importance of the “bones” of the garden, and this month I'll tell about the large plants I planted. I was very unfamiliar with most of the plants in San Diego so, I read the *Sunset Western Garden Book* from cover to cover and made mental notes of plants I liked. I went to many nurseries and read a lot of plant labels. I knew that wrong choices can be difficult to fix once plants grow in, and tried to avoid plants that required a lot of maintenance or tended to grow out of scale. I was also aware of the cost of water and the dry climate, so I tried to avoid plants that were big water users. Still, I made many mistakes.

I had plants delivered from Evergreen Nursery, including seven *Eucalyptus camphora* trees for the back slope, selected to block the view of the neighbor's house and also provide shade. However, these quickly provided too much shade and I removed them one by one until there was only one left, which eventually grew into a focal point of the garden. Over the years the garden would mature to look as though the plants and hardscape were spiraling up to this tree on the slope. Unfortunately, the neighbor behind the house, who had removed all of his trees – bless his heart – protested to the Home Owners Association about my tree and my neighbor's trees blocking his view. I lost the battle and had the tree removed when I sold the house. I'm so glad I wasn't there to see the garden without the focal-point tree.

Lower down in the garden, I planted a coral tree, *Erythrina caffra*. I first noticed this tree in the San Diego Airport parking lot. I fell in love with the sturdy structure and lush look of the heart-shaped leaves. Over the years I learned this tree is totally unsuitable for a suburban backyard. I hated the way most coral trees were topped or cut back to large stumps each year, so I left mine alone. I learned fairly soon that the weight of the water-filled branches broke easily and disfigured the tree. Reluctantly, I began an annual maintenance program, and each winter removed much of the new growth... sometimes 20' long branches. Luckily, it was easy to trim.

In the opposite corner of the garden was an existing *Ficus japonica*. This tree is also quite inappropriate for a suburban lot: it never stops growing! I was soon cutting it back eight or more feet every year. The surface roots uplifted everything and were so dense that little could grow under it.

Also on the back slope, I planted ceanothus and *Acacia knipholia*. This ceanothus was a small-leaved variety and didn't provide much of a screen from the neighbors. If it bloomed it was for a very short duration, and the flowers were so small they were barely noticeable. The acacias were quite happy and quickly outgrew the allotted space. I later removed a few and trained the remaining ones into small trees.

I planted three dwarf citrus trees on one side of the yard. However, other than the Myer lemon, they never did well and eventually I removed all save the lemon.

In the middle of the back bed on a small hill, I planted two 15-gallon Birds of Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*). I thought the flowers were so exotic I simply had to grow them. Eventually, they became crowded and bloomed less and I spent hours cleaning out the dead leaves and snails that lived in them.

On the south facing slope, I planted a cute little purple New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*), Orchid Rockrose (*Cistus x purpureus*) and dwarf oleanders. They were all so small at first... imagine my surprise when the Phormiums grew to 9' tall and wide and shaded the rockroses. It became an impossible maintenance task to remove the dead leaves and keep the plants looking good. The rockroses would reach for the sun, but since you were looking up at them, you mostly saw the unattractive underside of the plants. The oleanders never did very well.

During my travels, I had marveled at the spring blooms of the Pride of Madeira (*Echium candicans*) that were planted along the shore in Monterey. However, I knew this plant didn't look good all year, so I planted one in the back corner of the garden. It would bloom beautifully each year, but leave behind a ton of seed that sprouted all over the garden. Nearby on the slope, I planted a plumbago. This freeway-proportioned plant did well and covered the dry slope, and only got a few major haircuts over the years.

As you can see from the list, I chose very few shrubs and, most notable for those of you have seen our current garden, there were no succulents!

~~~~~

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



Garden after planting

Surf & Turf Garden Tour

Join the San Diego Horticultural Society

Saturday, April 5, 9 AM to 4 PM

**Nine Exceptional Private Gardens
in Solana Beach & Olivenhain**



Bob Wigand

We tempted you with two Surf gardens last month, and this month we feature two Turf gardens that will certainly continue to whet your garden touring appetite. The 2014 SDHS *Surf and Turf Garden Tour* promises to be our best tour ever, with nine fabulous gardens in Solana Beach (the surf) and Olivenhain (the turf). Mark Saturday, April 5 on your calendar, and plan on buying tickets early as we sold out last year. Fine artists will display their work in each garden, and over a dozen vendors will tempt you with jewelry, garden arts pottery, birdhouses, and other garden-related merchandise.



Bob Wigand

Many gardens in one is the best way to describe the garden of Dannie and Craig McLaughlin, *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles* garden of the year for 2013. From a formal rose garden at the entrance to the property, to the main patio flanked by wisteria and star jasmine vines, to a succulent garden, to a memory garden filled with fragrant white flowers and featuring a Koi pond, one could easily spend an entire day here. New additions include "Hansel and Gretel Way," which winds through a stand of Juniper and Cypress and features birdhouses, gnomes, and other whimsical garden art; and a butterfly bog surrounded by California native plants. If the garden gods are smiling, the bog will be home to Monarchs and Painted Ladies in time for the tour.



Heather Callaghan

Only twelve years ago, Heather and Morrie Callaghan bought a new home on a former turkey ranch in Encinitas. The New Zealand natives installed 6,000 square feet of grass on their new lot, but you won't see much grass when you tour the garden. What you will see is about 1,000 varieties of plants that replaced all that water-thirsty grass. The garden features engineered drip irrigation, brick trellising, and a backyard designed with the concept of a celtic cross and a stone wall. There are six varieties of blooming *Michelia champaca* trees, a rose garden, and plants native to New Zealand and Australia. Other well-used plants are strawberry trees, espaliered apple trees, pluots, mandarin oranges, and green gage plums.

Advance purchase tickets for members of SDHS are \$20.

Non-member tickets are \$25. Day of tour tickets will be \$25 for all.

Purchase tickets at www.sdhort.org

Save \$5 and buy your tickets early - the 2013 tour sold out!

- Day of tour tickets will be sold starting at 9AM at 1327-1335 La Sobrina Court, Solana Beach 92075
- To encourage carpools, each vehicle with at least 4 people will receive one FREE meeting pass (a \$15 value).

No tickets will be mailed. If you purchase tickets in advance, your map will be e-mailed to you on April 3 and you may begin at any garden. If you purchase day of tour tickets, you will receive a map when you check in at La Sobrina Court.

Questions? Contact tours@sdhortsoc.org or 619-296-9215 ext 5

By purchasing a ticket I understand that I will tour these gardens at my own risk. Host gardens and the San Diego Horticultural Society assume no liability whatsoever. Tour is not handicapped accessible. No pets allowed.



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LIFESTYLES

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:

Lara Belice	Susan Gutierrez	Ellen Preston
Molly Cardranell	Brendan Laurs	Paul Redeker
Jean Emeru	Patricia Leon	Christine Vargas
Meredith Garner	Roberta Lohla	Linda West
Susan Getyina	Katie Ostrander	

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.

Glenea Belice (2)	Suellen Lodge (1)	Scott Spencer (1)
Julie Hasl (2)	Rebecca Moore (1)	
Jenny Hawkins (1)	Stephanie Shigematsu (1)	

SPONSOR MEMBERS (names in bold have ads)

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			Waterwise Botanicals
			Westward Expos

LIFE MEMBERS *Horticulturist of the Year

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

DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

(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.

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

Davey Tree Expert Company offers a 10% discount to SDHS members.

Get a 25% discount at all 5 locations of San Diego Hydroponics & Organics
(www.sdhidroponics.com). ☺



What's Up at

San Diego
BOTANIC
GARDEN

The Best Dog Walk Ever! Second Annual "5K Paw Walk in the Garden!"

For the second time in history, dogs are allowed in the San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG) in Encinitas. The second annual 5K Paw Walk in the Garden will take place on Saturday, February 22. Registration and check in begins at 9:00 AM at 230 Quail Gardens Drive in Encinitas. Two-legged and 4-legged walkers and runners "set paw" on the course at 9:30. Proceeds from the event benefit Rancho Coastal Humane Society and the SDBG.

The 5 kilometer (3.1 mile) course begins in the Hamilton Children's Garden, then weaves through the 37 acre garden. The route winds through California Gardenscapes, South African, Australian, Canary Islands, Bamboo, Subtropical Fruit, Herb, and Mexican Gardens. Following the 5K Paw Walk, dogs and people can mingle while perusing pet products, treats for pets and people, great information for dog lovers, and a few extra fun activities.

This is a great way to bring some of your loves all to one place by bringing your lovable K9 along for a walk in the beautiful gardens you love so much. Following the 5K Paw Walk participants, including dogs, have full access to SDBG until 2:00 PM. Our mission is to inspire people of all ages to connect with plants and nature. We hope that you will take this once a year opportunity and enjoy a great day of connecting in the Garden with your dog(s). Individuals and teams of all ages are welcome and every person registered will receive a 5K Paw Walk T-shirt. To sweeten the deal, groups can register for as little as \$10 a person. So gather your friends and/or family and come as a group. A "Top Dog" prize will be given for the largest team of walkers.

More information about the 5K Paw Walk in the Garden is available at Rancho Coastal Humane Society at 389 Requeza Street, or San Diego Botanic Garden at 230 Quail Gardens Drive in Encinitas.

For updates or to pre-register online for the 2nd Annual 5K Paw Walk, visit www.sdpets.org or www.sdbgarden.org. Online registration closes February 20th. ☺



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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>.

NOW 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 February was:

What plant would you not want to be without, and why?

Linda Chisari: Wouldn't want to be without Sun Camellias: *Camellia hiemalis* 'Shishi Gashira', *Camellia sasanqua* 'Setsugekka', *Camellia sasanqua* 'Yuletide', and *Camellia sasanqua* 'Bonanza'. All are very drought-tolerant in my garden, having been planted 20-25 years ago; they enjoy east or southern exposures (under shade trees) in my coastal garden. I love their informal spreading shapes and the multitude of lovely single or double flowers. They began blooming in late September; it's January 5th today and all are still in full glorious bloom. (The 'Setsugekka's stopped blooming on Jan. 9th!) I mulch all of my beds yearly with 2-3" of well-rotted compost, and I fertilize with a balanced time-release fertilizer around February 1st each year. Other than that, the only other care I give them is a light pruning to keep them in shape.

Marilyn Wilson: FILLERS! I'm a cut flower girl, taking bouquets wherever I go. Every day of the year there is something blooming in my garden. But unless it is a particularly spectacular bloom which can stand alone in a bud vase, I will use a variety of colors, common blooms or exotic specimens together in a bunch. And for that I need filler flowers: feverfew, Australian waxflowers, tiny gomphrena, etc. And, of course, some leatherleaf and maidenhair ferns, and a few boring privets for greenery.

Tammy Schwab: Ohhh, that is a tough question and way too broad! I am going to cheat and start with all succulents for their low water, easy care, and structure. For a particular shrub I really like *Cuphea*, both bat faced (*Cuphea laevis*) and cigar plant (*C. ignea*); they provide big bang for my buck, attract hummingbirds, and continually bloom. Going larger, in terms of trees I am very fond of flowering trees and always have an *Arbutus unedo*.

Susan D'Vincent: Having just brought in another basketful of sweet satsuma mandarins, I can't think of another plant that would top my list of favorite plants. The beauty of satsumas is that their season is winter; when other homegrown fruit is scarce. Our little tree stands up to the frost and doesn't ask for much. Give it some fertilizer, some water; occasionally spray for scale, and it will give you back a lot! It is amazingly prolific, producing loads of tangerines regularly every year. We start eating satsumas in November and keep on going until the end of February. They are delicious little packages that you can grab and eat anytime or just fill that dessert spot after dinner. They've been a great way to lose weight after the holiday excesses.

Meredith French: At first I thought of what native I could give up, but then I thought of my Eureka lemon tree. I have fruit the year around and never have to pay supermarket prices. And then there are the herbs. It kills me when I have to buy a little package for 2-3 bucks. I may let other plants go, but not those.

Cathy Tylka: I love my passionflower 'Donna Brigham' hybrid. It is home for monarch butterflies, requires very little water for a vine, can cover an arch, and has beautiful, bright pink flowers. What's not to love?

Vivian Blackstone: 1) feverfew (make tea for migraines); 2) comfrey (upset stomach or poultice); 3) spearmint (for tea to settle the stomach); 4) basil (add to soups and salads); 5) tomatoes (fresh salad, grow them all year round); 6) lettuce, mizumi and head lettuce; 7) blueberries, blackberries, alpine strawberries, Chandler strawberries.

Robert Foster: Roses, because they smell so good!

Wanda Mallen: Of course, this is an impossible question to answer! The category of plants I wouldn't want to be without is trees. They give structure, grounding, and create a framework to highlight all the other plants. They make a garden look more established, and, of course, create beautiful light shade.

Katrin Utt: My roses! I have about 100, half of them in big pots. I get so much joy growing these beautiful plants.

Gloria Alexanderson: Succulents... easy to grow, easy to propagate, little water, they show color and texture all year round. What's not to like?????

Tandy Pfost: I always grow gardenias wherever I live. They have become a tradition, and my one water-needy indulgence. They take no effort, are disease and bug resistant, and give wonderful flowers throughout the year. They are perfect for the one spot we all have that is partly shady, cool and moist.

Ruth Sewell: My sweet one million cherry tomato vine. Very tasty and reliable, just like Old Faithful.

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Paula Suttle: I would not do without the geranium, because it blooms year round in all sorts of flower and leaf variety (form and color) and doesn't die if you forget it a little. Also, if you fertilize it, it really performs! Another is the milkweed (*Asclepias*), because of the beautiful plant plus seedpods, and it brings caterpillars and butterflies.

Una Marie Pierce: Funny you should ask – it is feverfew. While I have to stay on top of them all the time to weed out the excess, I always let 3 or 4 grow to full size. I just got through rinsing and spinning a batch. I will then hang them up to dry and make a cup of tea with them every morning. I even took a supply of them to India and made the tea every morning. I found feverfew in an herbal book after my cleaning lady told me they were good for arthritis. Who knows if they really help, but it helps me to think they do! I originally bought one in a 4" pot because of the sweet, small, white flowers. They quickly tried to take over my yard. I use the flowers to make small vases to give out to my Meals on Wheels clients. If anyone wants a start or some leaves to try, just let me know.

Don Starr: Italian Flat Leaf Parsley. Good source of vitamins, especially C. Gives good flavor to food. Gives good visual appeal to foods and bouquets. Monarchs like this plant. I love the fresh smell.

Scott Jones: *Ornithostaphylos* (Palo Blanco), and the rest of the "San Diego-lowlands-madrone-squatro-deluxe-group": *Comarostaphylis* (Summer Holly), *Xylococcus* (Mission Manzanita), and *Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *crassifolia* (Del Mar Manzanita, though occurs south, east, and north of Del Mar). Preferred uses are in idealized habitat recreations, as they can be suitable for residential yards, if the architecture and space of the place is stylistically fitting for these plants – or not – it's your choice.

Louise Anderson: I sorely missed my second cherry tree since it was not established enough to pollinate yet. (Royal Lee and Minnie Royal-come as a set.) I'm hoping for a bumper crop this year, since I missed one last year due to death of one tree. Excellent low chill cherries.

Candace Kohl: This is a VERY hard question and my answer would probably depend on what time of year it is. The only kind of plants I don't care for much are those that produce food: fruits and vegetables. My favorite plant is not a plant but a family: the Proteaceae. They are so unique and varied, in or out of flower. I feel very special to have a garden where they are mostly happy. In particular, I enjoy the late winter/spring display of the Pincushions (*Leucospermums*) and I have a number of other special ones, some *Banksias*, some *Proteas*, some *Leucodendrons*, some *Grevillias* and one *Mimetes*.

Sue Lasbury: *Leucodendron* 'Jester' (Variegated Coneflower Hybrid) is my favorite plant in the garden. They are lush and just the right mix of red, yellow and green. My wonderful landscape architect, Chris Dayer, planted one on each side of the walkway leading up to my front door. When I'm working in the front garden I see lots of my neighbors walking by and many of them comment on the Jester. It's such a perfect plant and can easily be used in floral arrangements with other plants, or even alone.

Lisa Rini: It has to be *Gomphrena* 'Itsy-Bitsy'; it has tiny magenta flowers most of the year, changes color with the seasons, can take dry or damp conditions, is loved by bees, has a nice sprawling look yet can be cut back and rebounds within the week, loves pots, but is also happy in the ground... you cannot kill it! Great plant!

Ron Hurov: *Pittosporum resiniferum*. It produces short-chain alkanes, which are a potential plant-based substitute for gasoline.

Bobbi Hirschkoﬀ: My veggie garden. Last year we planted tomatoes in March and had tomatoes until the end of December. We also have acorn and butternut squash in the pantry as I write (early January). We love growing our own: not only does it taste better, but we feel like we're doing something right.

Amelia Lima: Could never do without Agaves! Because of the architectural element and their diversity, they are essential in any Mediterranean Garden.

Sharon Ward: I have two pots of orange mint on each end of my deck garden that I love. Without even touching it, it perfumes the air with the most delicious fragrance, especially in summer when the sun really warms it up. I cut it and muddle it in a pitcher and cover it with filtered water for a refreshing, aromatic beverage. I cut it and cut it and it keeps coming, and I cut it to keep it from reaching over into the pot next to it. I am limited in space, but my orange mint makes up for it.

Nancy Kohrs: Succulents are the best plants to have in California.

Marilyn Guidroz: I recommend the succulent *Aeonium canariense* 'Salad Bowl', which brings me great joy everyday. It is compact, not leggy like the other *Aeoniums*, and looks delicious enough to eat! It compliments a rounded ceramic pot in blue or red, and looks great all year long. If it is planted in the ground it commands a dramatic center stage, and can get much larger than in a pot.

Al Myrick: There are so many that I could not do without: bromeliads, staghorn ferns, native trees, plumerias, cycads, tree aloes, epiphyllums. . . But ok, ok...if they said, "It's your plants or your life!" then I would fall on my trowel before I would let them take my epidendrum orchids. They bloom and thrive all year round with gross neglect. That means no soil (just a ball of coarse palm or leaf mulch), not much water (just soak them and let them drain quickly), and hardly any food (a spray of fish emulsion once or twice a year). They grow anywhere there is light and air circulation. Put them in a tree-branch, in a hanging pot, in a ground pot, in the middle of a staghorn fern. If there is no light, they climb into it. They readily produce offsets ("keikis") after the main bloom finishes; just wind or tie a little sphagnum or Spanish moss around a keiki and soon it will infuse the moss-ball with roots. After they look ready enough, they can be pulled off the stem to begin a new plant. So, they are well worth falling on your trowel over (but don't).

William Skimina: This is a hard one. I thought of our compact *Butia capitata* selection, *Clivia*, *Ensete 'Maurelii'*, but I think the choice is *Acca sellowiana* (Feijoa), because it has nice foliage, showy flowers in the spring, and large quantities of fall fruit with a unique taste. I like the fruit more than any others that you can grow here. Additionally, I never need to spray the plants for any problem, and they tolerate some drought and clay soil. It is a reliable plant.

Susan Krzywicki: Tecate Cypress; it smells heavenly: resinous and fresh. And it is easy to grow! It is native to a very small area from north San Diego County to just below Tecate, Mexico, so growing it in your garden helps to preserve it for future generations. It looks like a fat Italian Cypress. Try some today!

Kay McGrath: I couldn't live without my pomegranate tree! It looks great when it turns color in the fall, and comes out so green for spring. You can prune and shape it anyway you want. The fruit is wonderful, since my variety is 'Wonderful'. When I have enough fruit I make jelly. This year I didn't make jelly, so the birds had a party eating the fruit for a couple of weeks. Of course it is waterwise, too!

Stephen Zolezzi: Tomatoes: they are like blood flowing through my Italian body. Today's problem is do I use grafted tomatoes, buy

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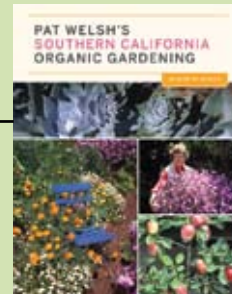
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plants, or start from seed? Then, what types to grow: the selection is never ending, so I look at what I want to do with them: fresh, cooked or preserved. I put in enough variety and number needed to succeed. Then the real work starts to prepare the dirt, cultivate, pest control, pick and process. The best reward is to see my 4-year old granddaughter pluck cherry tomatoes like grapes and smile while the juice runs down her cheeks.

Barbara Clark: My favorite is the Heliotrope plant. It is perennial here and blooms nearly all year, with deep purple clusters of tiny flowers with a sweet delicate fragrance. It can be planted in the ground, or will flourish for years in a mid-sized container in full sun or part shade in warmer areas. Heliotrope reminds me of the local Heliotrope Ragtime Orchestra playing 1920's music. I love them both!

Ida Rigby: The plant I could not want to be without depends on the season. At this very moment, it is a very tall, red emu flower because a hummingbird stands guard over it every day, loves it, and makes quite a scene chasing away intruders... Life in the winter garden.

Bill Knowles: Camellias: they are life's joy, especially this time of year. Everyone should visit The Huntington Gardens and Nuccio's Nursery in the Pasadena area and see a glorious display.

Lisa Bellora: I am currently in love with the Leucadendron, pretty much all of them. I am growing Safari Sunset, Discolor, Pom Pom, Safari Goldstrike, Ebony, and another smaller one. I am also using Winter Red, Summer Red, Jester, and Blush in my designs. They have such beautiful colors, interesting shape and texture, and if planted properly, are maintenance free. Who could ask for more than that?

Steve Brigham: There are thousands of kinds of plants that I would never want to be without! I chose, however, to move away from San Diego, so I've had to get used to not being able to grow subtropicals anymore. Now, 500 miles north on the cool, windblown, salty coast, I've still got hundreds of my favorite plants in my garden. Good thing I like a wide variety of plants! You want me to choose one plant? It's pretty hard for me to imagine a garden of only one plant! But if I had to, it would be Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*). 'Tuscan Blue' is the commonest variety, but there are lots more, all a little different. They're quite handsome and serviceable evergreen shrubs that need little to no watering once established, and have pretty blue flowers. I include rosemary branches in bouquets for their fragrance, which is for "remembrance," according to Shakespeare. And if you cook chicken or turkey, there's no sense in even trying to cook your bird without using fresh rosemary stems!

Jeanne Meadow: I can't imagine my garden without Golden Barrel cacti. This would surprise Steve McDearmon, the designer, as I was adamant about wanting NO cacti in my garden. Now it is a love affair. I have them in every area, including the driveway. While planting my steep driveway with them, one slipped out of the burlap and bounced to the bottom of the hill. It was in perfect condition, so we rolled it back in the burlap and into the position where it is today. These plants are hardy, and add a pop of bright yellow all year; it seems nothing bothers them, from frost to insects. Slow growers, they stay put and don't need grooming.

Steve Harbour: This is a tough call because there are so many plants I would not live without. But I'd choose cacti and succulents. In my early 20's I moved my small cactus collection (about 20 – 25 pieces) to Lake Tahoe, where they survived a cold and snowy winter set beside a wood-burning stove. Then I went back to Southern California for a while before moving again, this time to Sebastopol, in Sonoma County. This was when I began working in nurseries, so my collection

expanded. Then back to San Diego, where many went into the ground for the first time. Five years later we moved to Alpine, so I dug up all the cacti and succulents and moved them to where I currently live. I have somewhere between 500 – 700 cacti and succulent plants now, a few still surviving from my early collection.

The question for March is:

Do you grow any plants because they are especially entertaining or weird? Please describe them, and include your zip code in your reply.

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

JANUARY 2014 PLANT DISPLAY

By 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 next meeting. We thank those people who brought in plants to show to other members.

Buddleja salvifolia SOUTH AFRICAN SAGE WOOD (Buddlejaceae) South Africa

This rangy semi-evergreen shrub has gray-green foliage and small pale lilac flowers in winter – they're not at all showy, but have a delicious sweet scent. It thrives in full sun with moderate to low water, and can grow to 9' tall by 6' wide. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, I/14) – S.T-B.

Cattleya Lew Sykora (Orchidaceae)

This hybrid orchid has large flowers with white petals and sepals; the labellum (lip) is white and strikingly tipped with gold and deep purple. It grows best in bright indirect light and can take cool to hot conditions of 58°F to 85°F. Information supplied by the owner notes that "mature plants MUST dry out between waterings." Six different species contributed to producing this hybrid, with 31% of the genes coming from *C. dowiana* and another 31% from *C. trianae*. (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, I/14) – S.T-B.

Euryops speciosissimus CLANWILLIAM EURYOPS (Asteraceae) South Africa

This fast-growing evergreen shrub grows to 6' tall and about as wide, with threadlike gray-green leaves and 2"-3" wide yellow daisy-type flowers in winter. Over time it develops thick branches, and the bottom part of the plant is bare of leaves. Does well in full sun with moderate to little water. (Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, I/14) – S.T-B.

Rlc. Lyn Evans (Orchidaceae)

The Rlc. Stands for Rhyncholaeliocattleya, a very complex hybrid indeed. The owner provided information about this beautiful orchid which indicated that it has genetic contributions from 16 different species. Grow this beauty in a greenhouse with bright indirect light.

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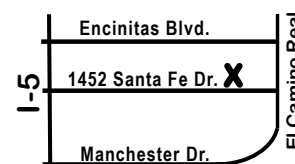
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Janet Ward

Rlc. Lyn Evans (left), *Cattleya* Lew Sykora (center), and *Cattleya* seedling (right)

It likes cool to can take cool to warm conditions of 58°F to 75°F (and up to 85°F at night). Also, "mature plants **MUST** dry out between waterings," and it prefers weekly applications of weak fertilizer. (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/14) – 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 for details on how to order this valuable reference tool.

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the January 2014 newsletter was *Salvia wagneriana* 'Yellow Bracts' **UNDISCOVERED WAGNER'S SAGE**.

Acmena smithii LILLY PILLY (Sheila Busch, Escondido, 1/14)

Aloe rauhii (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/14)

Aloe sp. or cv. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/14)

Cattleya seedling (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/14)

Echeveria cv. or sp. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/14)

Gladiolus priorii (syn. *Homoglossum priorii*)
(Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 1/14)

3 *Heuchera maxima* ISLAND ALUM ROOT
(Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 1/14)

Hippeastrum 'Bearded Dragon' (Lizard Planter, Sun City, 1/14)

Hippeastrum 'Green Dragon' (Sheldon Lisker, Sun City, 1/14)

Kalanchoe sp. or cv. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 1/14)

Penstemon parryi PARRY'S PENSTEMON
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 1/14)

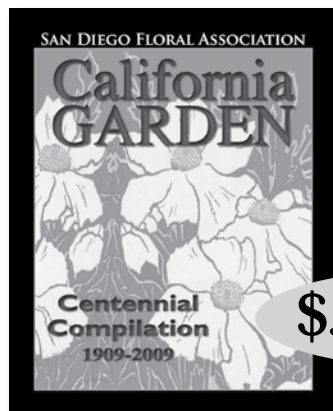
Rossiglossum insleyi (Jim Wright, San Diego, 1/14) 🌿

■ The Dirt On... Continued from page 4

plants and concentrating on growing big drifts of those. A second error is putting plants in the wrong place; for example, trying to grow a bougainvillea in shade or planting a jacaranda tree in a cold wind. And a third error is trying to grow a garden like the one you had back east. A new error that has cropped up now that so many people are growing veggies, is failing to plant with the seasons. It is so easy to pull things out when they're done and plant winter vegetables in fall and winter and summer crops in spring and summer, but instead people cling onto worn out plants long after they're any use."

Pat continues to lecture and write books on gardening. Her artistic works include creation of the ninety-two foot mural outside the Del Mar Public Library. She'll be a presenter at the Master Gardeners seminar in March – see page 5. Her very informative website is www.patwelsh.com. In recognition of her significant contribution to horticulture in San Diego, the SDHS honored Pat as our Horticulturist of the Year in 2003.

Member Carol Buckley is Assistant Librarian at the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library in La Jolla, as well as a freelance writer, editor, and poet. She is an informal student of plants and gardening. 🌿



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JANUARY MEETING REPORT

By Jeannine Romero

The plants of Chile have “great potential” for some of our own gardens in California and, with that, at the January meeting Kathy Musial presented a slide show of flora she photographed and, in some cases, attempted to germinate back at home in Pasadena. Kathy is a founding member of the SDHS and Curator of Living Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. In 2010 and 2011, she traveled to two regions in the northern half of Chile: the semi-desert region known as Norte Chico, and the mediterranean climate zone north of Valparaiso. She authored an article about the flora of Chile for *Pacific Horticulture* magazine in October 2011.

The long, narrow country of Chile, she noted, is comparable in length to the land that extends from south southern Alaska to the tip of Baja California. The climate is cooler than California; temperatures rarely get hot and, Kathy explained, a persistent high pressure belt blocks storms from the north, with little or no rain in the mid latitudes. A thermal inversion layer creates a fog that sits on the lomas (low hills). The mountains are a barrier to the moisture, and the land only five miles from the coast is devoid of plant life.



Alstroemeria sp. and cactus

Slide by slide, Kathy walked us through several national parks in Norte Chico, which is a flowering, semi-desert with less than four inches of rain a year. The colorful flowers can be triggered by as little as a half-inch of rain, and carpet vast areas. She compared Pan de Azucar Parque Nacional to the Anza Borrego desert in California. There are five families of plants: grass, cactus (but no succulents), nolana, daisy and heliotrope. She talked about the common *Copiapoa cinerascens* cacti, and said that heliotropes are “one of the surprises” in Chilean flora. Several species grow in dry desert areas and they are low to medium-sized shrubs. Kathy said there are many geophytes, alstroemerias and nicotianas.

“If you like blue, Chile is a good place to go,” Kathy said, as she showed photos of blue *Nolana* flowers that “you just have to see to believe,” and the “incredible sky blue” of the *Zephyr elegans*. She also showed numerous photographs of yellow bloomers (her favorite color) in the form of *Calandrinia litoralis* and a *Cristaria* species. Talking about the southern end of Norte Chico, Kathy described large expanses of “just sand and dust covered cacti” with lichens.



Phycella cyrtanthoides

At Parque Nacional Llanos de Challe, she reports, fog sits on the lomas for weeks at a time, resulting in more permanent plant cover because of the moisture. She said the *Copiapoa* cactus clumps are as big as five to six feet across. The *Oxalis gigantea* (not the small weedy stuff we are plagued with, which is *Oxalis pes-caprae*) is shrubby, and has been successfully cultivated in California. The famed garra de león (*Leontochir ovallei*) grows in Llanos de Challe.

At the Fray Jorge National Park, Kathy said the hills look remarkably similar to those in California. She described a woodland area with *Griselinia scandens*, which is particular to the rainforest. Bead plants, ferns and mosses cover the ground under the trees and various small vines. The air here is quite humid, but cool like San Francisco.

In the Mediterranean climate zone north of Valparaiso, Chile, Kathy compared the matorral to our chaparral, and showed photographs of *Puya chilensis*, *Echinopsis litoralis*, *Calandrinia grandiflora* (which is very popular in San Diego), and *Lobelia polyhylla*. The *Lobelia* has been grown successfully at Huntington, she said.

Kathy also shared photos of the Chilean fox that visited her group during lunch, and the giant hummingbird, about the size of a robin, which is commonly seen hovering about here.

Thanks, Kathy, for an interesting look at an area with even less rainfall than we’re having! If you missed this talk you can borrow the video of it at the next meeting you attend. 🌿

THANK YOU MEETING DONORS!

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Special thanks to Ken Blackford for giving away 16 *Boophone disticha* plants he grew.



PACIFIC HORTICULTURE TOURS

Pacific Horticulture Society is offering a unique adventure "From Boston to Bar Harbor"

this summer. Among the many included visits is Boston's historic Mount Auburn Cemetery, founded in 1831 as "America's first garden cemetery." With classical monuments set in a rolling landscaped terrain, it marked a distinct break with Colonial-era burying grounds and church-affiliated graveyards and is credited as the beginning of the American public parks and gardens movement. Mount Auburn's collection of over 5,500 trees includes nearly 700 species and varieties. In Maine visit the private garden of Jane Donelon, who has been developing her garden for over 30 years, now overflowing with many uncommon plants including unusual clematis and other vines, a bog garden, a rock garden, a fernery, a white garden, woodland and wildflower paths, hillside and stonewall gardens and more. And just confirmed is an exclusive visit to the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden, a private garden in Seal Harbor, Maine that was built by Mrs. Rockefeller and her husband, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., in the 1920's. The garden was designed by Beatrix Farrand, and blends Eastern and Western landscape traditions in a summer season display. Not to be missed!



SDHS is an affiliate member of the Pacific Horticulture Society, producers of Pacific Horticulture magazine. Tours are operated by SDHS sponsor, Sterling Tours. More info is at www.sterlingtoursltd.com.

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Pay online for dues or events: When paying online you do *not* need a PayPal account. To pay with a Credit Card, click on the "Don't have a PayPal account?" link at the bottom of the payment page and this brings up instructions for paying with a credit card.

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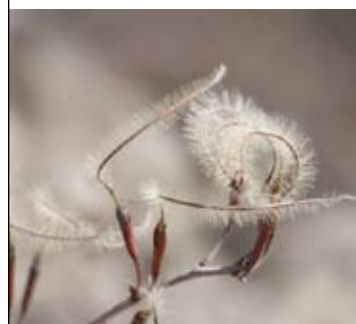
Each fascinating issue has articles on places to visit, unique gardens, plant info, and lots more.

To get this great deal, go to www.pacifichorticulture.org/join and use discount code SDHS2013



**Purchase SDHS
Note Cards
at our meetings
10 cards/\$10**

Last year we had a photo contest for striking images to be used on a set of note cards. The photos used range from succulents to seeds to garden vistas. These lovely cards are blank inside, perfect for gift giving, thank you cards, holiday greeting cards, birthday cards, or any special occasion (or you can frame them). Buy a set (or several) at the next meeting you attend.



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The Fab Fair will kick off the summer of 2014 with a tribute to the British Invasion and music phenomena that began 50 years ago.

"FLOWER POWER" FEATURED THEME GARDEN COMPETITION ENTRIES – Entry Deadline - April 4

- | | |
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| ☆ Amateur Landscape Competitions | ☆ Specimen Orchid Plant Competitions |
| ☆ Student Garden Displays | ☆ Container Plant Competitions |
| ☆ Professional Landscape Competitions | ☆ Speakers / Demonstrators |
| ☆ Garden Club Displays And Information Booths | ☆ Horticultural Information Booths |
| ☆ Bonsai Tray Landscape Competitions | |

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Please contact Garden Coordinator
Cindy Benoit at 858.755.1161 ext. 2462 for details, or e-mail: cbenoit@sdfair.com
For more information visit www.sdfair.com/entry

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**San Diego County Operations Center
Kearny Mesa**

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Check our website at
**[www.mastergardenersd.org/
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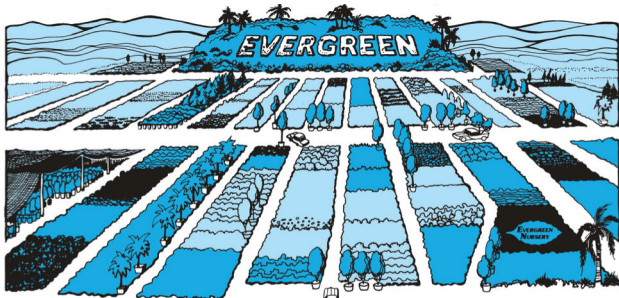
What's Happening? for FEBRUARY 2014

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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Winter Hours - call to confirm

Monday–Saturday 7:30–4:30; Sunday 9:00–4:30

Free Monthly Seminar

First Saturday of every month

Starting at 10am at two locations:

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February 1: Landscaping With Succulents and Natives

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

Each FREE seminar is about 1 hour long. Refreshments will be provided. Seminar attendees will receive a coupon for an instant discount for any purchases made the day of the seminar!

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

www.evergreennursery.com

Send questions and comments to:
info@evergreennursery.com

Three Convenient Locations:

CARMEL VALLEY

13650 Carmel Valley Rd.
(858) 481-0622

OCEANSIDE

3231 Oceanside Blvd.
(760) 754-0340

*****NEW location (limited hours, call first):

EL CAJON

9708 Flinn Springs Rd., (619) 443-0873

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

Feb. 1, 9am-noon, Master Composter Course: Five week course, Saturday mornings through March 1. Priority will be given to residents of the City of Encinitas. See www.solanacenter.org to register.

Feb. 1 (9am-noon) & 8 (9-11am), Succulent Container Creations: Enjoy the tactile quality of clay and have fun with a variety of stamps and other objects to create your own unique textured slab for a succulent container. Members \$65, non-members \$78. Materials fee paid to instructor on the first day: \$25/student. Register by January 24.

Feb. 15, 9-11:30am, Outstanding Trees of San Diego: Members \$20 non-members \$24. Please register by February 7.

Feb. 25, 9am-2pm, Succulent Wreath Class: Make home a beautiful succulent wreath that you make yourself. Register by February 17. Members \$60 non-members \$72.

❖ The Water Conservation Garden

Register at www.thegarden.org; contact info on other side

Feb. 1, 10am-noon, Toss The Turf-Remove Your Lawn: A short course in turf removal, tips for soil evaluation, tuning up your irrigation system. Free.

Feb. 1, 10am-noon, Home Composting Workshop: Learn the basics of composting. To register call the Solana Center at 760-436-7986 x 222, or see www.SolanaCenter.org.

Feb. 8, 10am-noon, How to Hire a Landscape Professional: Learn money saving tips and common pitfalls to avoid. Members Free, Non-Members \$10.

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 and Sunday FREE classes.

Details at www.cedrosgardens.com.

✿ City Farmers Nursery Workshops

See www.cityfarmersnursery.com.

✿ Cuyamaca College - see insert in this issue

March 6, Surf & Turf Landscape Seminar: Register now!

See www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb.

✿ Evergreen Nursery: FREE Seminar Each Month

See column at left for details.

✿ Grangetto's: FREE Workshops begin in March!

See insert in this issue or visit www.grangettosgardenclub.com.

✿ Sunshine Care FREE Seminar Each Month

Feb. 15, 10:30am, Successes and Failures in your fall/Winter Gardens and OMG - Spring is here! We will go over your cool season crops and talk about your spring crops. FREE. Address in ad on page 14. Info: (858) 752-8197 or www.sunshinecare.com.

✿ Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes

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

Point Loma, 9am

Feb. 1 Magnificent Cymbidium Orchids!
Feb. 8 Why Plant Spring Bulbs
Feb. 15 Citrus & Avocado Culture & Care
Feb. 22 Spring Color! Plant Early & Wisely

Poway, 9:30am

Staghorn Ferns
Container Gardening
Fertilizers
Landscaping With Natives

✿ Weidners' Gardens classes & workshops

See www.weidners.com or call (760) 436-2194.

Next SDHS Meeting

February 10:

The Wild World of Succulents

See page 1 for details

More garden-related events on other side.

Free workshops for SDHS members!

Details & registration at www.sdhort.org

Feb. 1, Companion Gardening with Chickens (see page 8)

Learn how to successfully companion garden with chickens, and all that they give back to one's garden.

Other Garden-Related Events:

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

♦ **Feb. 1 (noon-4) & 2 (10-4pm), San Diego Camellia Society Show & Sale:** Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, room 101. Info: 760-942-1919.

♦ **Feb. 1, 1pm, American Begonia Society:** Preserving "heritage" begonias. 6040 Upland St. Info: (619) 262-7535 or Michael@kolzbegonia.com.

♦ **Feb. 4, 6:30pm, San Diego Orchid Society:** Orchids of Bhutan. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, rm 101. Info: www.sdorchids.com.

♦ **Feb. 5, 6:30pm, Palomar Orchid Society:** Paphiopedilum orchids. 1105 La Bonita Dr., San Marcos. See www.palomarorchid.org.

♦ **Feb. 7, noon, Vista Garden Club:** Container growing class & "Hummingbirds – Who Doesn't Love Em!" McClellan Senior Center, 1200 Vale Terrace, Vista. Info: www.vistagardenclub.org.

♦ **Feb. 7, 1pm, Carlsbad Garden Club:** Edibles in your Landscape. 1775 Dove Ln, Carlsbad. See www.carlsbadgardenclub.com.

♦ **Feb. 8 (10am-4pm), Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale:** Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado Room 101. **SEE INSERT in this newsletter.** Info: www.sdcss.net or (858) 382-1797.

♦ **Feb. 9, 1pm, Plumeria Society:** Plumerias and Natives. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101. Info: www.socalplumeriasociety.com.

♦ **Feb. 11, 10am, Dos Valles Garden Club:** Benefits of Bees in Your Gardens. 31020 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center. Info: www.dosvallesgardenclub.org.

♦ **Feb. 12, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club:** Flowering Trees.. 2818 Avenida de Portugal. Info: www.plgc.org or (619) 222-9304.

♦ **Feb. 12, 10am, Poway Valley Garden Club:** How to create an undersea succulent garden. 14134 Midland Road, Poway. Info: www.powayvalleygardenclub.org or (760) 743-9500.

♦ **Feb. 16, 10:30am-3:30pm, Wild Mushroom Fair:** Native wild mushrooms on display; growing demonstrations. Balboa Park Casa Del Prado. Free. Info: www.sdmyco.org.

♦ **Feb. 18, 7pm, California Native Plant Society:** Defending the Rarest of the Rare, habitat restoration and research in support of *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Botanical Library, Room 104. Info: www.cnpssd.org or (619) 282-8687.

♦ **Feb. 20, Bernardo Gardeners Club:** Join us for a trip to Descanso Gardens and a Tour of Old Pasadena. Info: www.bernardogardeners.org.

♦ **Feb. 24, 2pm Lake Hodges Native Plant Club:** Plant diseases that threaten your garden. 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego. Info: (858) 487-6661 or www.lhnpc.org.

♦ **Feb. 25, 1pm, Fallbrook Garden Club:** Grafted Veggies. 341 Heald Ln., Fallbrook. Info: www.fallbrookgardenclub.org.

♦ **Feb. 26, 6pm, Mission Hills Garden Club:** "Aloeicious," colorful and exotic Aloes that grow well in San Diego. 4070 Jackdaw St. Info: www.missionhillsgardenclub.org.

♦ **March 22, Master Gardeners Spring Seminar:** Register NOW! See page 5. Info: www.mastergardenerssandiego.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, our Calendar Editor, at calendar@sdhort.org.

San Diego County Farmers Markets

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

For an extensive list of garden club meetings and events, visit the San Diego Floral Association website: www.sdfloal.org/calendar.htm

Resources & Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Garden TV and Radio Shows:

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

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