

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

June 2014, Number 237

SDHS Night at the Fair

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THOMAS JEFFERSON, GARDENER

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MEET JULIAN DUVAL

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LIVING LARGE IN A SMALL GARDEN

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DG Steps

SDHS
OUR
20TH
YEAR!

On the Cover: Sneak peek of our Fair Garden

SPECIAL EVENT: *SDHS Night at the Fair Gardens* Plus 2014 Horticulturist of the Year Presentation

Monday, June 9, 5:30 – 7:45 PM, Presentation 6:15 PM

LOCATION: Flower & Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds

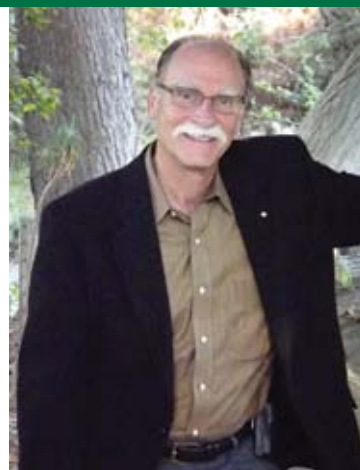
FREE PARKING! FREE ENTRY for SDHS Members! Guests, \$15

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

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

At 6 p.m., at the Flower & Garden Show Stage, President Jim Bishop will present the Horticulturist of the Year Award to Julian Duval. Julian is the CEO & President of the San Diego Botanic Garden, and has been responsible for many major improvements in his 19 years there - see article on page 9.

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



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

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sdhs



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Calendar/Resources/Ongoing Events

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

MEETING CHECK-IN EXPRESS LINE

Please have your membership card in your hand when you get on the EXPRESS Check-In Line at our monthly meetings. This will greatly speed up the process for everyone - thanks!

MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

June 7	Using plants with colorful & interesting foliage: Living large in a small garden (FW) – see page 12
July 13	Edible Landscaping for the Mediterranean Climate (FW)
July 14	Mike Atkinson on Scent-sational Plumeria
August 9	Dry Shade Gardening (FW)
August 11	Tom Piergrossi on New Tropicals for San Diego Gardens
September 8	Randy Baldwin on New Plant Introductions from San Marcos Growers
September 19	Welcome to the World of Bromeliads (FW)
October 13	Lawn Replacement Ideas



www.sdhort.org

COVER IMAGE: This image shows a small part of the exciting display garden we'll have at the Fair – learn more on page 8.

SPECIAL EVENT on Monday, June 9th:

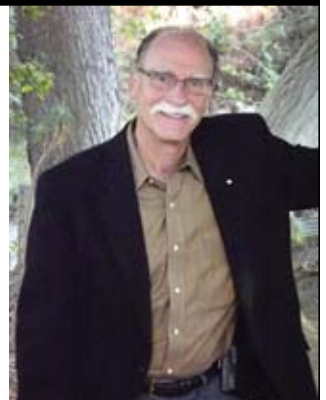
SDHS Night at the Fair Gardens

Plus 2014 Horticulturist of the Year Presentation to:
Julian Duval, CEO & President, San Diego Botanic Garden

5:30 – 7:45 PM

FREE PARKING! FREE ENTRY for SDHS Members!

See inside front cover for details



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Garden Design is partnering with the San Diego Horticultural Society to support their efforts in promoting horticulture in the San Diego region.

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**GARDEN
DESIGN**



Paul Ecke Jr.

FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

2014 FLOWER STAGE SCHEDULE

Sat. June 7

1:30 pm
3:00 pm

ORGANIC GARDENING DAY

Organic Spring/Summer Garden Vegetables / Sunshine Care - Roy Wilburn
Understanding Organic Fertilizers: Use, Results, Benefits / CA Organic Fertilizers, Inc. - Jim Verner

Sun. June 8

10:00 am - 3:00 pm Oratorical contest
3:30 pm

DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS DAY

Gorgeous Yard...Little Water / UCCE Master Gardener - Cindy Sparks

Wed. June 11

1:30 pm

3:00 pm

BIRDS, BEES & BUTTERFLIES DAY

The Life of the Honeybee / San Diego Beekeepers Association - Don Spangler
Release Your Inner Beekeeper! / San Diego Beekeepers Association - Eric Robinson
Attracting Birds, Hummingbirds and Butterflies to Your Garden / UCCE Master Gardener Marsha Van Loy

Thurs. June 12

1:30 pm
3:00 pm

TROPICAL PLANTS DAY

Tropical Look-Alikes, Lush yet Water-Wise! / APLD- Christiane Holmquist
How Not to Kill Your Plumeria / So Cal Plumeria Society - Kim Shultz

Fri. June 13

1:30 pm
3:00 pm

WATER CONSERVATION DAY

Watersmart Landscapes / San Diego County Water Authority - Carlos Michelin
Garden Maintenance: A Step above Mow,
Blow and Go / Nature Designs Landscape - Steve Jacobs

Sun. June 15**FLOWER FESTIVAL & 5th ANNUAL FLORAL DESIGN CONTEST**

This is the day everyone who is a part of the flower and floral design industry, or those who just love flowers, will see student displays. Ikebana demonstration, Lei making and much, much more

Wed. June 18

1:30 pm

3:00 pm

BROMELIAD DAY

Bountiful Bromeliads / San Diego Bromeliad Society - Nancy Groves
The Dirty Bromeliad - the Terrestrial / San Diego Bromeliad Society - Robert Kopfstein
Introducing Tillandsias, Care & Cultivation / Bird Rock Tropicals - Pamela Koide-Hyatt

Thurs. June 19

1:30 pm

3:00 pm

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS DAY

CA Native Gardens: A Sense of Place in a Water-Challenged World /
CA Native Plant Society Susan Krzywicki
Secrets to Successful Native Landscapes / "The CA Native Landscape" book
Greg Rubin and Lucy Warren

Fri. June 20

1:30 pm
3:00 pm

ORCHID DAY

Orchid Basics / Calavo Gardens - Bennie Machado
Working With Orchids / Fouquette Orchids - Charley Fouquette

Sat. June 21

1:30 pm
3:00 pm

CACTUS & SUCCULENT DAY

Succulents as Art Forms / Deeter-Buckner Design - Michael Buckner
Under the Spell of Succulents / Solana Succulents - Jeff Moore

Sun. June 22**FAB FLOWER DAY**



Paul Ecke Jr.

FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

2014 FLOWER STAGE SCHEDULE

- Tues. June 24 KIDS GARDENING DAY**
1:30 pm Which Way Did It Grow? / UCCE Master Gardeners - Charlotte Getz, Mary Manaster & Marilyn Wieland
3:00 pm Seeds Feed the World / UCCE Master Gardener - Diane Bailey
- Wed. June 25 COMPOSTING DAY**
1:30 pm Let Worms Eat Your Organic Wastes to Improve Your Soil / Vermicoast - Shelly Grossman
3:00 pm Composting 101 / Solana Center - Jennifer Galey
- Thurs. June 26 ROSE DAY**
1:30 pm How to Grow Beautiful Roses / Del Mar Rose Society - Kathy Reed
3:00 pm The Right Place for Your Roses / San Diego Rose Society - Bob Martin
- Fri. June 27 BACKYARD PRODUCE DAY**
1:30 pm Pruning For Production / Edible Eden - Richard Wright
3:00 pm Your Edible Front Yard / UCCE Master Gardener - Cindy Sparks
- Sat. June 28 PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE DAY**
1:30 pm The 5 "W's" of a Landscape Contractor: Who, What, Where, When and Why / CLCA Panel
3:00 pm Watersmart Gardens: Transitioning to the New Normal / ASLA Panel
- Sun. June 29 MY BIG FAIR WEDDING DAY** - Romance is in the air! Don't miss this unique opportunity to enjoy floral demonstrations on the latest wedding trends, visit with more than 15 leading wedding industry professionals, taste gourmet catering samples, get wedding décor inspiration, and much more
- Tues. July 1 KIDS GARDENING DAY**
1:30 pm Do It Yourself Spring Rolls / Center for a Healthy Lifestyle - Jessica Ellis
3:00 pm Garden Bugs: the Good, the Bad & the Ugly / UCCE Master Gardener - Carol Graham
- Wed. July 2 HEALTHY SOIL DAY**
1:30 pm Got Dirt? Plant a Tree - Make Soil / Arborist & UCCE Master Gardener - Robin Rivet
3:00 pm Feed the Soil and the Soil will Feed the Plant / California Organic Fertilizers, Inc. - Jim Verner
- Thurs. July 3 CONTAINER GARDENING DAY**
1:30 pm All Together Now; Container Gardens for Beauty, Nature and Edibles / Sun-Coast Design - Gigi Lopatriello
3:00 pm How to Irrigate Your Container Garden / Tournesol Siteworks - Jon Willingham
- Fri. July 4 NOVICE GARDENERS DAY**
1:30 pm Nurturing Healthy Growth / UCCE Master Gardener - Larry Brown
3:00 pm Quick and Colorful Pots of Posies / Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply - Jennifer Merzigian
- Sat. July 5 BONSAI DAY**
1:30 pm How to Plant a Bonsai / Bonsai & Beyond - Chris Manion
3:00 pm How to Prune a Bonsai / Bonsai & Beyond - Chris Manion
- Sun. July 6 HERB DAY**
1:30 pm Herbs for the Garden & the Kitchen / UCCE Master Gardener - Cindy Sparks
3:00 pm Culinary Herbs - Eye and Tummy Appeal / Sunshine Care - Roy Wilburn

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

Cindy Benoit – Member at Large
Patty Berg – Volunteer Coordinator
Jeff Biletnikoff – Meeting Room
Coordinator
Jim Bishop – President
B.J. Boland – Corresponding Secretary
Julian Duval – San Diego Botanic Garden
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Bill Homyak – Member at Large
Mary James – Program Committee Chair
Dannie McLaughlin – Tour Coordinator
Princess Norman – Secretary
Susanna Pagan – Public Relations
Coordinator
Sam Seat – Treasurer
Susi Torre-Bueno – Newsletter Editor,
Past President

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

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

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

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New Email? New Street Address?

Please send all changes (so you will continue
to receive the newsletter and important
notices) to membership@sdhort.org or
SDHS, Attn: Membership, PO Box 231869,
Encinitas, CA 92023-1869. We NEVER share
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for your employees, and free admission to
SDHS events. This is a wonderful way to
show your support for the SDHS. Sponsors
help pay for our monthly meetings, annual
college scholarships, and other important
programs. Sponsorships start at just \$100/
year; contact Jim Bishop at sponsor@sdhort.org. Sponsors are listed on page 10; look for
"SDHS Sponsor" above their ads. We thank
them for their support.

2ND ANNUAL SUCCULENT CELEBRATION At Waterwise Botanicals on June 6-7

North County's Waterwise Botanicals nursery, a sponsor of SDHS, will host the
spectacular two-day event, Succulent Celebration, on Friday and Saturday, June 6 -7. If you
attended last year, you'll know what a marvelous event this was! This one of a kind event
in Southern California celebrates the versatility, sustainability, and beauty of succulents.
All are invited to experience "the best garden event of the year," with acres of nursery
and display gardens to explore, hands-on workshops, a grand assortment of succulents
and low-water plants for sale, the chance to speak with industry experts, arts and crafts
vendors, food trucks and more. Waterwise Botanicals is a 20+ acre wholesale/retail
nursery in Escondido, just off Interstate-15 and northwest of the highway at 32183 Old
Hwy 395, Escondido, CA 92026. The Succulent Celebration event hours are 9am to 5pm
both days. Free parking (carpooling recommended) and admission. Event details: www.succulentcelebration.com. ☘

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers Wanted for Our Fair Display Garden

Yes, it's getting to be that time of year already! Once again, SDHS will have a display
garden and we'll need volunteers to be ambassadors. You'll let folks know about SDHS and
answer questions about our exhibit and plants in general. You don't need to be an expert
of any kind – just friendly and outgoing. The Fair runs from June 7 to July 6. Sign up online at
www.sdhort.org/fairvol or, if you can't sign up online, by calling Patty Berg at (760) 815-0625
or emailing her at volunteer@sdhort.org. Free admission to the Fair and free parking make
this one of the year's best volunteer opportunities!

Board Opening: Membership Chairperson

Are you an outgoing "people person?" Our membership chair is a job you'd enjoy! You'll
recruit new members, interact with current members, set membership policies, and answer
questions regarding membership renewals. Also, you'll help with outreach tables at non-SDHS
events and conduct two semi-annual new member orientation events in member's gardens.
Best of all: the majority of the routine membership tasks are done by our bookkeeper
and automated on our website. Requires familiarity with email and computer editing skills.
Contact Jim Bishop: president@sdhort.org.

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.

Tech Support Help at Meetings:

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

Newsletter Advertising Manager Needed

Here's a fun opportunity for members who like to work with local garden businesses and
clubs: we need a detail-oriented person to be our newsletter advertising manager. This takes
about 2 hours per month, and you'll be working with current advertisers, plus previous and
potential advertisers. For more information contact Susi Torre-Bueno at storrebueno@cox.net. ☘

To Learn More...

Botanic Gardens

By Ava Torre-Bueno

This month's meeting is at the San Diego County Fair and honors Julian Duval, the President and CEO of the San Diego Botanic Garden, so I thought I'd just give you links to sites that have pictures and descriptions of national and international botanical gardens. But first, the newest botanical garden in California isn't even open yet: www.wildlandsconservancy.org/botanicgarden.html
<http://tinyurl.com/junebot1>

When stuck in Phoenix (yes, that's how I feel about it), I like to hide out at the Desert Botanical Garden: www.dbg.org

Here are a number of sites with slide shows of Gardens
<http://tinyurl.com/junebot2>
<http://tinyurl.com/junebot3>
<http://tinyurl.com/junebot4>
<http://tinyurl.com/junebot5>
<http://tinyurl.com/junebot6>
<http://tinyurl.com/junebot7>

A truly sweet little botanical garden is called The Dingle in Shrewsbury, England. If you've read the Brother Cadfael mysteries, you know the town I mean: <http://tinyurl.com/junebot8>

Another picture of The Dingle: <http://tinyurl.com/junebot9>. I like this one because it includes this interesting factoid: In 1647 a woman was burned at the stake here for poisoning her husband. ☹

HOW I GOT MY START IN GARDENING

The Sharing Secrets question for this month brought in a great many replies (see page 14), and this one by garden designer, landscape contractor, and writer John Beaudry (www.beaudrydesign.com) was especially interesting.

Mary Jane Mueller's Garden

By John Beaudry

Mary Jane Mueller was a wiry woman who wasn't afraid to get her hands in the dirt. She didn't have a husband, so I suppose she did much of the work around the house herself, especially work in her garden, which wrapped around her patio. That garden was a mystery to me, full of intrigue. In my earliest years I recall waiting for spring when the plants, which had retreated into the earth for the long Midwest winter, began to sprout. As the days of spring grew longer, I voyaged to that garden to see if the plants had awakened from their sleep. Though Mary Jane's garden was only next door, to me it seemed like a very long trek. Weaving my way up the gentle hill, through the shrubbery between the yards, I made my way to that magical place.

I would go the places where, before the snow and cold had come, huge plants, nearly as big as me, with long green and white leaves had

Continued on page 7



FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

Imagine

The San Diego Horticultural Society is committed to educating our members and the public, through our projects, programs, events and documents, on how to create a garden that is functional, beautiful, low maintenance and waterwise and, of course, filled with wonderful plants. Imagine the water, energy, monetary and time savings, not to mention the beauty, if everyone gardened appropriately for our climate and natural resources. On July 1st, we mark the end of a record warm and dry rainy season, yet another in a series of record setting years. But there is still hope and beauty. Read on page 8 about the wonderful garden that Kimberly Alexander, owner of Allée Landscaping, is creating for us at the San Diego County Fair. Again this year, we are pleased to announce that our garden is sponsored by the San Diego County Water Authority (see ad on page 21 for more information about SDCWA and their programs).

You can help educate the public and be part of our largest outreach program by volunteering to staff our exhibit. For volunteering as a Garden Host, you receive free entrance to the Fair in exchange for a few hours in either the morning or afternoon. Answer questions and talk to Fair patrons about our exhibit, water conservation, the San Diego County Water Authority and the Society, and then head off to enjoy all that the Fair has to offer. The Fair runs Saturday, June 7 through Sunday, July 6. You can pick your shift and sign up on our website at www.sdhort.org.

On Monday, June 9th, at our "Night at the Fair" meeting we will honor Julian Duval as our 19th Horticulturist of the Year. Coincidentally, Julian has been the President and CEO of the San Diego Botanic Garden for the past 19 years. See page 9 for information about Julian. You can learn about our previous 18 honorees online at www.sdhort.org/Hort-of-the-Year. The Fair is closed that day, so not only is parking free and easy, we will also have exclusive use of the outdoor garden exhibit area. There will be a no-host bar to add to the festivities of the evening. For details see the inside front cover.

Welcome New Members

Special thanks to Carol Costarakis and Rolf Haas for hosting our spring New Member Orientation in their artistic garden. About 40 new members attended and had a wonderful time exploring the garden and viewing and koi pond. Carol and Rolf have graciously hosted us many times before, and are always so giving in sharing their inspirational garden with others. ☹



THE REAL DIRT ON...

Thomas Jefferson

By Donna Tierney

Thomas Jefferson was a complex character! He insisted that he had no political ambition, but he spent years in politics. He became President, but considered himself first as a farmer, gardener, and philosopher. Throughout his life, Jefferson was conflicted by his head and heart. His heart drove his love of beauty, family, and harmony. Simultaneously, he was a scientist, architect, educator, and a relentless record keeper. In choosing the location for his Monticello home, his heart won. He located it on a hilltop because of the gorgeous views. This decision led to a lifelong struggle for enough water to support his plantation.

In order to supplement water availability, Jefferson experimented with cisterns to collect water from the roofs of the primary Monticello buildings. Through meticulous calculations, he determined he needed four eight-foot cube cisterns. After the cisterns were built, it took him an additional eight years to find a sufficiently waterproof plaster to line them. Only one of the four cisterns ever really worked effectively. The lack of abundant water contributed to poor garden productivity and plantation profitability. His daughter, Martha, managed his household after the death of his wife, and she constantly struggled to feed all the people who lived at or visited Monticello.

After his second term as President, Jefferson raced back to Monticello to become involved in his gardens. He focused on designs that would reflect America: beautiful, sublime, independent, and agrarian. He combined edible gardens with ornamentals and large trees. He used ditches instead of walls to separate areas of the landscape. Jefferson spent every day outside: supervising, planting, and documenting. His Garden Book, maintained from 1776-1824, told of horticultural triumphs and failures.

He had access to a wide range of seeds from his global political connections and the many visitors who brought them. He grew 330 varieties of 89 species of vegetables and herbs and 170 fruit varieties. He knew every plant in his garden and could instantly spot a missing or diseased plant. Jefferson was an original organic gardener, as he used large quantities of manure to conserve water, improve soil and crop yield, and control insect pests.

Jefferson was primarily a vegetarian. He directed the planting of lettuce and radishes every two weeks throughout the growing season. He grew interesting greens such as orach, corn salad, endive, and nasturtiums. He also grew sea kale. The spring sprouts were blanched with clay pots, cut, and prepared like asparagus. According to culinary historian Karen Hess, Jefferson "was our most illustrious Presidential epicure," and his devotion to fresh produce when entertaining at the White House and at Monticello is the central legacy of his gardening career.



Jefferson's Monticello garden

Photo: Mary Ann Sullivan, Bluffton University, www.bluffton.edu/~sullivanm

BOOK REVIEW

The Perfect Fruit: Good Breeding, Bad Seeds, and the Hunt for the Elusive Pluot

By Chip Brantley

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

Several years ago I reviewed *Epitaph for a Peach*, by David Mas Matsumoto, one of my favorite books that I've reviewed over the years. This book, *The Perfect Fruit*, could be thought of as a companion to that one. Matsumoto, a peach grower, discussed the problems faced by growers of stone fruit in California, but from an intensely personal point of view.

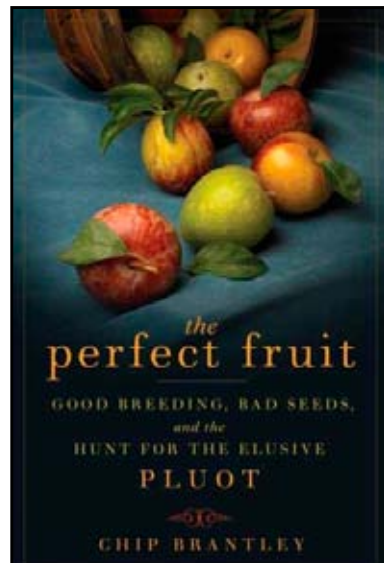
Chip Brantley describes the industry more from a distance. He's a former newspaper writer who stumbled upon someone selling pluots at a farmers' market and fell in love with a taste he'd never experienced before. It piqued his curiosity, and he decided to find out what was involved in bringing a new fruit to market. He traveled through the Central Valley in California and talked to people working in all aspects of the business. And the lessons to be learned from all his research? We should all be really glad we don't have to earn our livings that way, and we should be really glad that someone is willing to.

Plant breeding is complicated no matter what you're trying to develop, but it's especially time-consuming and chancy if you're dealing with trees that take so long to mature to the point of producing fruit. Your odds of finding a winner are probably better with a lottery ticket, but people who are "bitten by the bug" are willing to take their chances. The process may take as long as seven years to complete, and it may require as many as 20,000 seeds to be planted, culled, and replanted to come up with one tree that produces fruit that is enough of an improvement over what is currently available that it is worth trying to bring to market.

Once you have that fruit, then you have all the normal problems of the business aspects of growing fruit for profit. As one interviewee says, you spend all your time hoping that you have a good crop and everyone else doesn't. If everyone has a good crop, prices go down. It's possible to lose money in a really good year.

Other things can be problems, too. For example, when do you pick? It's possible to lose money if you're not among the first to get your crop to market. The first fruit of a season sells for the highest price. Later, the fruit doesn't meet such demand. Add to that the other problems of farming: labor, weather, and market strength. What a challenge.

The Perfect Fruit (ISBN 478-1-59691-381-3) is hard bound and 223 pages long. It lists for \$25. If I have one complaint, it is that the book would be greatly improved by an index. Except for that, it's an interesting read. ☞



Continued on page 7

TREES, PLEASE

Trees Heal Me

By Robin Rivet



I never admired sticky and oily, ant-attracting tree litter more than today. Although their profuse lavender-blue inflorescence can be glorious if viewed from afar in May and June, a blooming jacaranda is also ephemeral, dropping so many blooms at peak flowering, it looks like blue ooobleck. In case you're Dr. Seuss challenged, "ooobleck" was a fictional green slime that fell from the sky, smothering everything in its path. The king in the children's story had apparently tired of seeing only rain, fog, sun and snow, and declared he wanted something radically different. However, it nearly wiped out his entire kingdom, until he apologized for attempting to control nature.

In real life, non-Newtonian fluids (ooze or ooobleck) can appear to be liquid, until you forcefully try to pick them up, whereupon they may suddenly act like a solid. A colloidal suspension of corn starch in water may defy the laws of gravity, allowing a person to literally walk across liquid without sinking. My humorous analogy to jacaranda blooms are that these can appear to be quite solid, but suddenly seem to liquefy when attempts are made to sweep, blow, or otherwise clean up the prodigious spent flowers on pavement, soil surfaces, the kitchen floor or your car hood. Some senior homes have even banned these trees because of their slippery residues.

So, why am I so ecstatic about these spent flowers now? The truth is, I had a spill in my garden, although it wasn't the fault of those slippery blooms. My errant fall has benched me to two weeks of interior confinement, with a long recovery projected ahead. No spring gardening or summer planting, no fruit plucking, no raking, weeding, watering or pruning. My green world is now what I can see from an open window or door. However, it was "purple rain" on a breezy day that brought me immense joy.

As an urban forester, I had read scientific studies about hospital patients healing faster, and needing less pain medication after surgery when they could see trees, but peer-reviewed journals often read with all the excitement of trying to read a newspaper in a foreign language. Despite all the scientific, statistical and objective analysis, who wouldn't prefer a window seat?

The shock was how much it mattered. Within view of my home's interior, I can see trees out every window, and many are blooming – alive with birds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators. This isn't a controlled science experiment, but I now believe that my trees are healing me like the research claims. Not only are trees cited to reduce pain and suffering, they can also reduce stress and depression. Our symbiotic relationship with trees is complicated. And next time you grouse at leaf litter, beware; it just might preserve your heart.

Interesting articles:

<http://tinyurl.com/junetrees1>

<http://tinyurl.com/june-treesb>

<http://tinyurl.com/june-treesc>

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist & Tree Risk Assessor; UCCE Master Gardener; contact her at robin@sandiegotreemap.org.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Leader of the Pack

By Patty Berg, Volunteer Coordinator

This month's spotlight is on yours truly, Patty Berg. I thought it was time to let the members know how I came to the group and what I envision for its future.

My tenure with SDHS started in Spring of 2011 when then-President Susi Torre-Bueno asked if I'd like to get more involved as the Volunteer Coordinator. I'd volunteered for a few events before that, and I thought it would be a great opportunity to serve the group and hone my leadership skills.

It would also allow me to rub elbows with some of the luminaries in the world of San Diego horticulture like Susi herself, Jim Bishop, Mary James, Dannie McLaughlin, Roy Wilburn, and too many others to mention here. Every single one of them turned out to be the most gracious and giving people. I chalk that up to the Law of the Farm that every gardener knows: You can only get back what you put in. Prepare the soil, put the right plant in the right place and take good care of it. No mystery there.

My background did not include non-profits. I came to the job as entrepreneur (founder and CEO of The Wishing Tree Company) as well as a Realtor – 25 years specializing in residential properties in North County. And I brought along a Master's degree from USC in creative writing, a passion that has served me since I was a little kid back in Ohio.

My volunteer experience at that point was confined to serving as a CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocate) for foster child who needed one caring individual to help her navigate the county system. Though it has been stressful at times, I think that's how most worthwhile things are in life, so I highly recommend your considering this work too. Learn more at www.SpeakUpNow.org.

As my term comes to its conclusion in August, it's time to hand the baton to a new Volunteer Coordinator, or a team. As we've moved the administration work online, the position has become more automated, but it still requires people skills and dedication. I will happily work with my replacement(s) throughout the annual cycle of events, and can promise excellent files, notes and instruction.

Oh yeah, that reminds me... I was also a college English instructor back in the 2000s. A cubic yard of patience goes a long way. ☺



GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

Very Verbena

By Pat Pawlowski

How could I have missed it? In the recent article I wrote about natives with a long blooming period, I neglected to mention *Verbena lilacina*, commonly called Cedros Island Verbena. This diminutive evergreen subshrub (2 to 3 feet high and 3 to 4 feet wide) blooms its little head off almost the whole year, with extra enthusiastic showings in spring and summer. This makes the butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds really happy, since there are at least some of these individuals hanging around the yard all the time. Cedros Verbena is drought tolerant and even container tolerant, if the container is a fairly big one. It likes full sun, but can take a little shade, too. Rabbits don't seem to bother it, even the Monty Python ones.

Anyway, the flowers are lavender and petite, and have a wonderfully spicy aroma; walking by a small nosegay in the garage I was struck by just how noticeable the fragrance was. Actually, the scent that was entrancing my nose was coming from a selection of *V. lilacina* called 'De La Mina', whose flowers are a bit darker in color than the straight species. 'Paseo Rancho' is a pink selection with flowers that are supposedly even more fragrant.

Now for the caveats:

#1: Cedros Island verbena is not exactly a California native, but it is a close cousin, originating on – guess where – Cedros Island, off the coast of Baja, and is in the California Floristic Province, which should be enough to impress anybody.

#2: If you have one of these Cedros Verbenas in full bloom, be ready to fight off the butterflies with a stick, because the flower heads are composed of florets filled with nectar and make a perfect landing platform for the tiniest lepidopteran to the largest. And speaking of large--

#3: Here comes the BIG ONE! Although this column is supposed to cover natives, there is another member of the verbena family that needs to be mentioned. In fact, it kind of insists on it. Its name is *Verbena bonariensis*, or Tall Verbena. Recently, I stood eye-to-eye with a pale swallowtail as the butterfly was perched on one of the purple flower heads. Tall Verbena can stretch to 6 feet, but it has an airy look since the leaves are arranged in a rosette which is probably only a foot or so high; the rest of the height is in a really long partly naked branching stem, ending in masses of purple florets. In fact, you could call it a Cedros Verbena on steroids. While Tall Verbena hails from tropical South America, it will probably be thrilled to be in your yard if you give it a little water. In fact, if it gets thrilled enough you will have little Tall Verbenas popping up all over the place, which are easily pulled out, and exercise is good for you anyway.

So, exercise your right to plant Verbenas, especially that neat (literally) Cedros Island kind.



Rachel Cobb

BROMELIAD BASICS

June 18: Bromeliad Day at the Fair

June 28-29: Bromeliad Society Show

By Nancy Groves

This is a very brief overview, and I hope you will join us for Bromeliad Day at the San Diego County Fair Gardens on June 18 for more information. To see many beautiful specimens, come to our annual show in Balboa Park on June 28-29 (see page 21). [SDHS will have a free workshop about bromeliads in September.]

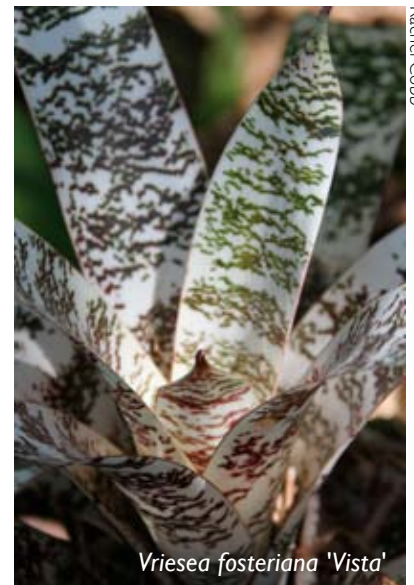
Bromeliaceae is made up of three main subfamilies: Bromelioideae, Pitcairnioideae, and Tillandsioideae, though this is currently being revised to eight subfamilies. There are over 3,432 species and varieties in 56 genera. They are by nature a New World plant in origin. The most common bromeliad that is known by all is the pineapple, which Columbus brought to Spain. Now, bromeliads are cultivated worldwide and hybridized by the thousands. They are abundant in the Southeast US, Mexico, Central and South America.

There are Terrestrial Bromeliads that produce a well-developed root system, which is primarily for the absorption of water and nutrients from the soil. The *Ananas* (pineapple) falls in this category.

Another group, called Tank Bromeliads, commonly have leaves arranged in rosettes (like *Neoregelia*) or funnels (like *Billbergia*). These are efficient in collecting water. They also have roots, but as a secondary water absorber and to hold the plant upright.

There are also Epiphytic Bromeliads. These plants collect water and nutrients from the atmosphere. These epiphytes grow in trees, bushes, rocks, on other plants, electric lines, etc. Many, like *Tillandsia* (air plants), have leaves covered in *trichomes* (fine outgrowths), which absorb water from the atmosphere, prevent evaporation, and reflect light to prevent burning. The trichomes covering the leaves take on a silver appearance, called *scurf*. The roots of these epiphytes grow on trees and into rock crevices, and hold the plant in place.

Variety is the main feature of bromeliads. In some plants it is the colorful leaves that are the attraction, rather than the tiny pincushion of flowers, as in *Neoregelia*. In others, it is the tall cylindrical tubes, colored from green to red, with spots or bands, and an inflorescence that rises from the center and cascades down the plant as the flowers open spectacularly, as in *Billbergia*. The bracts are brilliant on many, as on *Vriesea*; some bracts are more attractive than the flowers, as in some *Aechmea*. Like all bromeliads, the flowers have three petals and three sepals. Each plant blooms only once, but most produce off-sets (or pups) at the base, or along the flower stem, or from stolons, and all reproduce by seed.



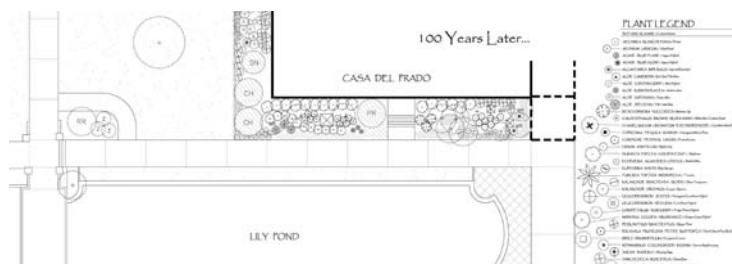
Rachel Cobb

Member Pat Pawlowski is a writer/lecturer/garden consultant and verbena venerator. 🌿

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN BALBOA PARK

Balboa Park Centennial Committee

By Jim Bishop



See the full garden design on our website.

We have begun selecting and purchasing plants for our replanting of the Balboa Park Gardens adjacent to the Lily Pond. Dave Ericson (he's responsible for much of the landscaping at the San Diego County Fairgrounds) led Chris Drayer, Sam Seat, and me on a field trip to visit Birdrock Tropicals and Briggs Tree Service (a SDHS sponsor, also known as Briggs Nursery, www.briggstree.com) for potential sources for plants. The owner of Birdrock Tropicals helped us select colorful bromeliads we hope to use in the gardens. It is an amazing place to visit with many rare and unusual plants.

We also visited the Briggs Nursery Poinsettia office and met with their sales manager to discuss our list of plant selections. Chris, Sam and I were impressed with the variety, quality and the cost of the plants, and made several purchases for our home gardens, too.

Both nurseries are currently reviewing our plant list to determine what they can provide and also to suggest possible substitutions or better selections. Next up is delivery and scheduling planting.

You can view the proposed planting plan and proposed plant list on our website at www.sdhort.org. You can also make a tax deductible donation to fund the project. Now that we've starting purchasing plants, it is a great time to make a donation. Donations can be made online at www.sdhort.org/donate. We thank those folks who have already been generous with their support. 🌱

■ My start in gardening Continued from page 3

grown. I knew they were hiding now, deep inside the earth. I knew they would be coming back soon. I would go there and watch for the purplish-red tips to peak out from the ground. And once those plants began to sprout, I knew it wouldn't be long before the garden would return. I loved watching them grow into the massive green giants I knew them to be.

Mary Jane was very generous with me. In the summer, when the garden was in its glory, I would ask her the names of the plants. But I would never remember, so I would return to ask again and again. Mary Jane always told me the names of the plants as if it were the first time I had asked her, with just as much patience and pride as the day before.

I now see that my early experiences in Mary Jane Mueller's garden were the seeds of my passion for gardening, which has now become both my vocation and my avocation. It's funny how certain threads weave their way through life. This morning I ventured out to my vegetable garden to see what seeds I had recently planted were sprouting. The spinach is up now. So are the radishes and scallions. No coriander or carrots yet. I'll check back tomorrow to see who's come up from the mysterious earth. 🌱

SDHS FUNDRAISING FOR THE BALBOA PARK RESTORATION PROJECT

We are raising funds to restore the gardens adjacent to the lily pond in Balboa Park. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to help complete this pilot project in 2014. Visit www.sdhort.org for information on making donations. You can also donate at meetings and other events. Every contribution is very welcome. As of May 14 we have raised \$3635. **Thank you to these generous donors:**

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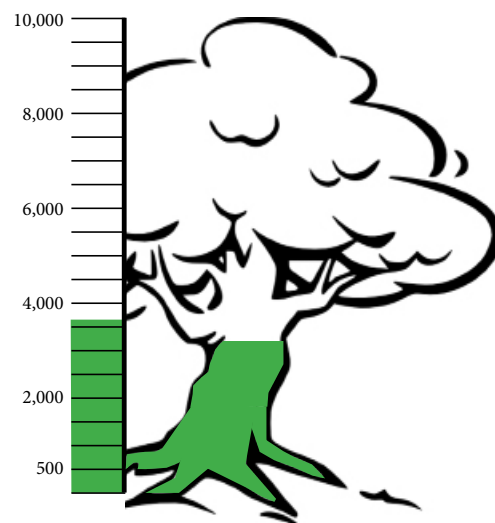
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■ Real Dirt Continued from page 4

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SEE US AT THE FAIR! "Imagine" Our Garden – Part 2

By Kimberly Alexander

I am very pleased and honored to have designed our garden, "Imagine," at this year's San Diego County Fair. I am also just a little apprehensive at representing the entire membership of the San Diego Horticultural Society with my work. In 2012, my first time displaying at any exhibition, I was the recipient of five awards, including our Society's Most Outstanding Garden Award. It's one thing to have won the Horticultural Society's award, but quite another to be the designer for one of the largest horticultural societies in the nation – yikes! Hopefully, you will once again enjoy my design vision.

In the May issue of *Let's Talk Plants* I outlined my artistic concept and delineated the specific design elements in order to achieve that goal. This month, I'd like to share with you the other, even more important aspect: how to educate the public about simple, sustainability practices they can readily employ in their own landscapes and gardens.

Water-Saving Ideas Demonstrated

The most pressing local gardening issue today is California's severe drought, one of the worst in California's history. More than 77% of the entire state is experiencing some degree of drought. The fact that we in San Diego import most of our water from outside our area means we must pull from our other sources (the Colorado River and the San Francisco/Stockton Delta), which are also experiencing drought conditions. Importing, cleaning, and transporting water accounts for about 20% of California's electricity usage. Integral to the garden display are the elements that help to retain and conserve water on our own properties, thus reducing the strain not only on our water reserves, but also our energy costs and air quality.

I am so pleased that the San Diego County Water Authority is sponsoring our design as part of its effort to educate the public on efficient and pleasing ways to use our limited water resource. As a designer it is my job to show how you can successfully integrate practicality (function) with beauty (form) to create a California Friendly Landscape/Garden. In addition to being a landscape designer, I am a Qualified Trainer for G3-Green Gardens Group, and through a grant from the Metropolitan Water District, I teach free seminars to educate homeowners on water conservation. These programs are sponsored by the various water districts in San Diego County and beyond. For more information on these free workshops, please visit www.WatershedWiseTraining.com.

I have incorporated two types of water retention ideas in my design: a rain garden and a bioswale. A rain harvesting tank will empty directly into the rain garden. I have attached a gutter to the side of the pavilion, which, using a rain chain in a real-world setting, will direct water into the tank. This demonstrates that even an open structure can capture some rain. The tank is being loaned to us by Bushman USA; they are located in Temecula and they have a unique design for rainwater harvesting. You can find these tanks at www.bushmanusa.com.

The purpose of a bioswale is to clean and filter land-based pollution. I am using another unique product for this feature: native grasses, in sod form, that was developed solely for biofiltration use.

Currently, CalTrans is testing this sod in various areas around the state, with amazing success. Delta Bluegrass Company, located in the California delta region in Stockton, CA, has developed this exclusive product and is donating it for our garden; you can find them at www.deltabluegrass.com.

Permeability is incredibly important to retaining water onsite. Instead of traditional hardscape, I am using flagstone set 2" apart and interspersed with gravel to promote permeability. You will notice that instead of using concrete for the steps I will be using decomposed granite (DG). I have also terraced the garden, which will help, in reducing erosion.

Building A Great Garden from the Soil Up

I know you are all chomping at the bit to find out about the various types of plants I'll be using, but as we say in the seminars, we need to get our ducks in a row first. As our garden display is also educational, I want to show the public how to build a healthy garden. So, let's talk about what we need to do in order to keep our plants healthy and thriving. Most of us think of our gardens first as the flowers and plants and then as soil. But what we need to recognize is that our gardens are systems which benefit from all the components contained within them. Those components are incorporated into the design.

You will see *most* of those components in our Fair garden. I say *most*, because I can't show the microscopic critters that you'll find in good healthy soil: the beneficial bacteria, protozoa, nematodes and fungi. But take my word for it, they're there. What will be obvious is good mulch, because as it decomposes it will bring organic matter to the mix to feed those microbes. (Fun facts: did you know that fungi are amazing decomposers of wood mulch and the fungal network can stretch for miles?) Other mulch benefits: helps keep the soil cooler and moister, and helps in the creation of good soil structure as well as combating weeds. I wanted to display a very easy way of how to add organic material to the soil, by using a worm bin. I chose this over a composter for a couple of reasons: aesthetically, a composter didn't fit, and a worm bin gives homeowners and renters a way they can contribute to the health of their garden using minimal space. Additionally, if they have children, a worm bin is an excellent way to get them involved in a sustainability practice at an early age.

Plant Choices Showcase Beauty and Suitability

And now, let's talk plants. Another key aspect to sustainability in a garden is cutting down on green waste, which reduces our carbon footprint and maintenance costs. For that reason, the plant palette I have chosen is not only low water use, but also very low maintenance. I hope to have at least 30% native plants to illustrate how attracting and keeping beneficial birds and insects, as well as creating wildlife habitat, are also important. As of this writing (May 11th) I am still finalizing the plant list, but using the criteria above, here is the general thrust of the types of plants you will find in the garden:

Local native plants: *Arctostaphylos* sp.; *Quercus agrifolia*, *Ceanothus* sp., *Penstemon* sp.; *Salvia* sp.; *Eriogonum fasciculatum* (California Buckwheat)

Grasses: *Nassella pulchra* (Purple needle grass), *Festuca mairei*

Continued on page 17

MEET THE SDHS HORTICULTURIST OF THE YEAR: JULIAN DUVAL



Since 1996, the San Diego Horticultural Society has been proud to recognize someone as our Horticulturist of the Year for her or his lifetime of achievement and service in horticulture in Southern California. Some previous honorees include Walter Andersen, Pat Welsh, founder Don Walker, Vince Lazaneo, Steve Brigham and, in 2013, the innovative educator Brad Monroe (a complete list is on page 11). This year the honor goes to Julian Duval, President and CEO of the San Diego Botanic Garden, who will be recognized at our June 9 SDHS Night at the Fair (see page 1). Julian has graciously written about his life in horticulture in this article, the second half of which will appear in the July newsletter. Congratulations, Julian!

Just a Fortunate Nature Nut

It came as a complete surprise when the SDHS Board decided to select me as the Society's 2014 Horticulturist of the Year. It is an incredible honor to be recognized by one of the most successful and dynamic horticultural societies in the nation. My position as the first President/CEO (aka Executive Director) for Quail Botanical Gardens, now San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG), explains how I qualified for this honor. This position is also what brought me, my wife, Leslie, two cats, a box turtle and a personal collection of some 800 plants to Encinitas from Indianapolis, Indiana in January 1995.

I was born the oldest of four children to a loving family. However, I never really felt the climate of a western suburb of Chicago was my best habitat. At an early age, I was influenced by my grandmother and started collecting plants. She bought me a piece of Hawaiian Cordyline trunk when I was six years old. Once it rooted, we put it in a dish garden that she showed me how to make. After about ten years, it became a centerpiece houseplant, until our cat decided to shred it one day.

My mother says I was a born "Nature Nut," as animals and plants of all kinds were always my greatest passion. I lived in a very urban environment, but I was very influenced by the wonderful zoos, natural history museums, and plant conservatories in Chicago. They were my connection to see and learn about the diversity of the world's biota.

I was also fortunate to have parents who encouraged my interest in nature. It was challenging at times for my mother, who never got used to some of the animals I would bring home. This was particularly true of the snakes, which were quite the escape artists. My dad did not mind so much, but he might have enjoyed his first born a bit more if I had also shown an interest in sports. However, my interest was very singular. In high school, I remember many of my classmates struggled to decide on career pursuits. Not me; I knew I wanted to work with animals and plants.

While I was in high school, I landed a summer job as a naturalist for the Cook County Forest Preserve. I also became a "groupie" at Brookfield Zoo's (BZ) Reptile House, where I was later hired after

high school as the youngest keeper. For seven years, I worked at BZ with a wide variety of animals, including bottle-nose dolphins.

I realized my dream of living in a warmer climate when I left Chicago to attend New Mexico State University. I loved my new home's expansive beautiful natural areas, where the flora and fauna seemed very exotic compared to Chicago. The diverse ferns adapted to the Chihuahuan desert were the first native plants that grabbed my attention.

The call of the exotic was still strong in me. After graduating with a degree in Wildlife Science, I applied to Peace Corps, where I was offered a position to help open a new zoo in the Dominican Republic. At last, I was living where it would never freeze.

The Peace Corps is rightfully titled "the toughest job you will ever love." It is also the best use of tax dollars our government spends on foreign aid and relations. I was able to contribute to the development of a modern zoo and spend some of the most important formative years of my life as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

My curatorial position at the zoo in the D.R. opened a door for me to move to Guatemala, where I was hired to manage the opening of a private zoo called Auto Safari Chapin. Now, I had two new zoo openings on my resume, and would have made Guatemala a permanent home if not for the dangerous political situation there in 1980.

I reluctantly left the tropics to work under the Director of the Indianapolis Zoo to guide the Zoo's new \$64 million design. I spent 15 years in Indianapolis, where I was in charge of the Zoo's animal and plant collections. Zoo work in the 80s and 90s was exciting, as real advances were made in the roles that zoos play in conservation and horticulture.

Indianapolis is also where I met my wife, Leslie. We actually met at the zoo, so she knew all about my interests, which were literally brought home as an important selection criteria for our house was its suitability for an attached greenhouse. That is where my plant collection grew, and it eventually moved with us to Quail Botanical Gardens.

As I look back over the almost 20 years I have been with what is now known as San Diego Botanic Garden, it may have been the second toughest job I have ever loved. San Diego County, which operated Quail Botanical Gardens since its opening in 1970, had financial challenges that looked like they would bring about the closure of the Garden. The Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation (QBGF), with a small nest egg from two bequests, jumped in to save the Garden in 1993. By the time I arrived 18 months later, the financial reserves from those bequests were quickly being exhausted. A change was desperately needed.

Tax dollars no longer supported the Garden. The goal was to improve the visitor experience so that people would be willing to pay for its support and to encourage philanthropy. When I started, adult admission was only \$2. Though adult admission is now \$14, I am proud to share that our visitation has doubled in that time to over 209,000 people annually.

The Garden has been completely transformed from its County-operated time and there is a long list of dedicated and talented staff, volunteers, board members and donors who rightfully join me in taking pride in what we have accomplished.

To be continued in the July newsletter.



MY LIFE WITH PLANTS VERMIN

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.

Everything is Connected

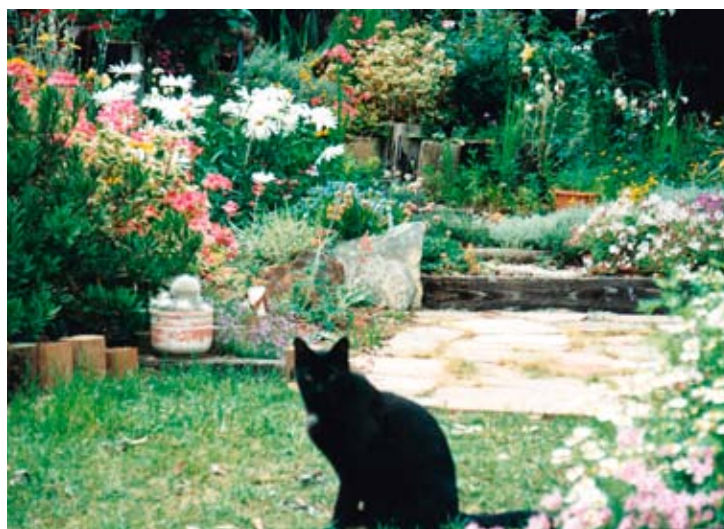
On October 17, 1983, after a long and exhausting day of lifting and unpacking, I finally went to bed. Near sunrise, I was awakened by what I thought were the upstairs condo neighbors. However, I soon realized that it was my first night in my new house in Encinitas and there was no upstairs. As I lay awake, listening to the scraping, scratching and sliding noises in the bedroom ceiling, I came to the realization that I was listening to roof rats. And so began my multi-year struggle with Southern California pests. The rats returned every fall until 1990, when I was adopted by a cat.

Southern California seemed so dry, open, clean and neat that it was difficult to believe there was any wildlife at all. Over the next 15 years, in the middle of suburbia, I would encounter tree rats, roof rats, field mice, alligator lizards, swallows, a road runner, a large pack of coyotes, opossums, a tarantula, a gopher (luckily only one), a family of seven raccoons, feral cats, domesticated cats, brown snails, Argentine ants, termites, and countless other garden insects and pests.

In the garden, some of the pest problems were of my making. Worst were the white flies. All of the yellow flowers and bright green foliage in the garden were a magnet for white flies. At first I started spraying weekly with Malathion. However, when I learned that the whitefly lifecycle had four main stages (egg, instar, pupa, adult), and that Malathion worked only on one of the stages, I increased the frequency of spraying and tried different pesticides. This had no impact on the growing clouds of whiteflies. After some research, I learned that the use of pesticides had likely killed the natural predators, allowing the whitefly populations to increase exponentially with each new generation. I needed a new approach.

Much to my surprise, I learned in one of the many garden catalogues I received that predators could be purchased via mail order. So I ordered lacewings, ladybugs, and *Encarsia formosa* (a small parasitic wasp). The *Encarsia* came on small cardboard tags with a dark circle of parasitized whitefly pupa on one side. All I had to do was hang the tags throughout the garden. It took a few orders to fully control the whiteflies, but nothing could be easier, and in no time, I had gone organic! In our current garden, last year a large, old *Melianthus major* had a serious case of whitefly and I've recently released *Encarsia formosa* to try and control it.

My battle with snails didn't go as well. The iceplant on the slopes was home to an infinite population of brown garden snails, *Helix aspersa*. It was introduced to California as a food animal (escargot) in the 1850s, and had quickly naturalized throughout most of the state. The only snail predators were possums and rats, and in spite of large populations of both, there were still plenty of snails. As the garden matured, the increasing population of snails had affected what I grew



Jim's cat was known as Kitty, but his name was Phillip Marlowe.

and how I planted. I had to give up on starting plants from directly sowing seed in the garden, or even as small transplants. Snail baits, copper strips, diatomaceous earth, coarse sand, coffee grounds, and even a pet turtle did nothing to reduce their numbers.

So, during damp evenings, I made nightly rounds with a flashlight and collected the snails in a 5-gallon bucket. I used a plant stake to periodically knock them back to the bottom of the bucket to prevent them from escaping while I collected more. When there became too many to contain, I'd throw them into the garbage can. However, this created a new problem with an unpleasant odor and millions of ants that feed on the dead snails. So, I began flushing them down the kitchen sink with the garbage disposal on. In the spring, I could get three to four buckets a night, night after night. Eventually, I purchased decollate snails (*Rumina decollata*), which were still getting established in the garden when I moved away.

One night as I was getting ready for bed, the roof started creaking, followed by lots of banging on the bathroom skylight. I assumed someone had climbed on the roof and was playing a joke. I went out the front door and saw seven raccoons slowly climb off the roof. Not wanting them in the house, and forgetting I was in my underwear and the front door locks behind me, I closed the front door behind me. Luckily I was much thinner in those days and was able to squeeze in through the small unlocked atrium window over the kitchen sink. After that, when I planted a new bed with compost, the raccoons would dig everything up looking for grubs and earthworms. One evening, I was startled while sitting at the kitchen bar when a large raccoon head popped through the kitchen cat door. They had figured out the garage cat door and the second one from the garage into the kitchen. In a matter of minutes they were able to pull everything off the garage shelves. I opened the large garage door and picked up a piece of firewood for protection as I tried to herd them out of the garage. It was then I found out they can hiss and spit green stuff at you when threatened.

Such was the fun in the wild kingdom of Encinitas.

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

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

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## 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.

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## Natural Habitat Restoration at San Diego Botanic Garden

By Lesley Randall

San Diego Botanic Garden is fortunate to include two natural areas within its grounds. Both areas contain species from the rare Coastal Sage Scrub and Southern Maritime Chaparral plant communities, including the endangered Del Mar Manzanita. The Garden has been active in preserving these natural areas by replanting with native species, as well as removing invasive plants. A generous grant from San Diego Gas & Electric has funded materials and staff time for these restoration efforts. With the grant, the Garden has added nursery benches for native plant germination studies and has purchased a stereomicroscope. As a member of the Center for Plant Conservation, the Garden is participating in a collaborative effort to bank seeds of endangered California native plants. Impacts from development and potential effects from climate change are increasing pressures on vulnerable species. By collecting and preserving seeds of these rare plants, we are safeguarding their future.

Signs describing our restoration efforts and the importance of preserving the native flora will also be added on our Overlook Natural Area boardwalk. Visitors will notice orange flags scattered out in the habitat, which represent six different species, each grown from seed collected from plants growing in the natural area. Many plant species from this natural community will germinate only under specific conditions, such as after a fire. While lighting a fire in our natural area is not possible, we can mimic the process by burning over seeds in flats in the nursery. Heat from a fire can crack the seed coat, allowing moisture from winter rains to enter the seed and trigger germination. Garden staff have been conducting numerous germination trials to determine which treatments give the best rate of germination for each species. This past fall, the Garden has been successful in germinating a number of Del Mar Manzanita and Warty Stem Ceanothus, another threatened species, which we hope to plant out this coming winter. ☘



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# Plant a garden, grow a friendship

By Dave Ericson

A good garden is like a good movie or book, it's all about telling a compelling story. This garden tells a story of a wonderful friendship that has grown over the years. The home owner, Howard Appel, and I became great friends due to our equal passion for gardening. We are constantly trying to make the garden extraordinary, with creative ideas for new plants, artifacts, and lighting. We have also improved the garden with innovative irrigation, drainage, and water recycling systems. Just recently, we installed an outdoor aquarium, which sits a foot deep in the pond. The garden is filled with ancient plants and trees. In one corner you may find a small statue in moss, and at the other end a small stone statue. If you look carefully, you may find a small space.

The backyard holds two 100-pound tortoises that roam through a pre-historic garden. The entire garden is beautifully lit at night, with just the right amount of light, including subtly diffused light emanating from unique spiky rattan globes from Bali. Other unusual aspects of the garden include a recycled teak mosaic wall above the spa, draped in greenery hanging from the wall above. The most special aspect of the garden is the copious number of rare plants, many from private collectors.

All this combines beautifully into a garden that takes hours to absorb, even though it is a small garden. Every day there is a new bloom that has not been seen before, which makes the garden an ever-changing work of beauty. Synergy is the best way to describe the reason for the creation of something this special. One needs to spend time in the garden to experience all that it offers.

The garden has hosted such events as the La Jolla Village Garden Club photography workshop, and a featured garden tour for the San Diego Horticulture Society. It was featured in the March 2012 issue of *San Diego Magazine* (<http://tinyurl.com/JuneFW>), but over the past two years it has been transformed into something completely different.

I personally have been landscaping for the past 40 years and can honestly say that this is the best garden I have ever seen, not because of talent, resources or hard work, but because of my friendship with the garden's owner. 🌿



Dave Ericson in the  
 June workshop garden

Barbara Raub

## LOS ANGELES ARBORETUM FOUNDATION Gardener Position Announcement

The Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden is looking for an experienced gardener to manage and care for specific gardens to achieve the highest quality of landscape aesthetics, education and enjoyment of visitors. The ideal candidate will have a strong knowledge of Southern California horticulture and be able to incorporate best management practices to ensure the health and well-being of the plant collection. Activities will support proper care of the gardens through weeding, watering and irrigation maintenance, dead-heading, fertilizing, planting, removing debris, pruning and mulching as well as record keeping.

Minimum two years of practical gardening experience. Degree in horticulture or related field from an accredited university or community college is preferable. Valid California Driver's License is required.

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This column is written by you, our members! Each month we'll ask a question, and print your responses the following month. You can find copies of previous Sharing Secrets on our website at <https://sdhort.wildapricot.org/SharingSecrets?eid=1093874>. Also, you can continue the discussion by adding new replies online to Sharing Secrets topics. Here's your chance to comment on how the plants you mentioned two years ago are doing today, or to suggest another way to do something in the garden.

### The question for June was:

Who got you started in gardening, and how old were you?

This popular question yielded so many replies that we'll start with the responses this month and conclude in July's newsletter.

**Katie Pelisek:** My Aunt Norma gave me a book (*Indoor and Outdoor Gardening for Young People*) for my 9th birthday, along with a small trowel. I have been fascinated by gardening (and gardening books!) ever since.

**Sue Getyina:** When I was in grade school, we sold seed packets for five cents a pack. I was six, and my first garden had radishes and portulaca flowers. I've been growing things for over sixty years.

**Patti Vickery:** I got started gardening when I was about nine or ten years old during World War II. My father and I each had our own Victory Garden of vegetables in our backyard. I remember growing corn, beans, peas, cucumbers, summer squash, cantaloupe, and watermelon. I only remember *eating* the pitty-pan squash.

**Patricia Leon:** I'm probably a late bloomer (ha-ha) and didn't get started until adolescence. At 17, I started a garden.

**Al Benner:** I was about 7 or 8 and my dad had a large garden. They called it a Victory Garden because it was war time and everyone was asked to conserve by growing your own vegetables to have more produce for food for our troops in Europe and the Pacific. We had several relatives serving, and were very aware of the war. My father's garden was well ordered and mixed with flowers. He said that they helped the food to grow, and gardens should be a nice place to walk. My grandfather would water the garden in the morning and come back at evening to get some worms to fish in the lake. I was with him while he dug for worms in the flower garden, where he uncovered a coin. It was a very rare coin from the 1760s and quite a find. I always thought I would find a rare coin, too. So far, no luck.

**Ann Hoepfner:** My mother got me started when I was 4 or 5 years old. My brother and I grew radishes for my father. I did not like them, but he did, and he extravagantly enjoyed the vegetables of our labors. My next garden memory is as a young teenager, 12 or 13. My mother decided to build our character one summer vacation by having us take over the weeding chores for the landscaping at our Florida home. My brother and I did an hour of weeding early every weekday morning, and by the time we had completed a full circuit around the property, the first areas needed weeding again. We both learned the desirability of a white collar job.

**Tammy Schwab:** I grew up in New York City, with a summer house on the North Shore of Long Island, and from an early age I

was inspired by my mother who passed on the creed "leave it better than you found it." My mother always loved her roses, rhododendrons, daylilies, and dogwoods. We always had a beautiful yard that was constantly being edited. In my early teens we had an elderly neighbor, Mrs. Berglund, who had the most amazing flower and vegetable garden. She taught me all about the plants she grew, how to press flowers, and how to collect seed. These are fond memories, and the ladies that I can point a shovel at for my plant obsession!

**Ari Tenenbaum:** My dad got me started – I was about 5 years old.

**Dale Rekus:** It was a pincer movement by my grandmothers. My paternal grandmother (from Lithuania) lived less than a block from the Garfield Park Conservatory ([www.garfield-conservatory.org](http://www.garfield-conservatory.org)) and she would take me there whenever we went to her house for Sunday dinner. I was probably under five years old when that routine began. She also went mushroom hunting, and canned dozens of jars of them every year. As to my maternal grandmother (American born Polish), as one example of her gardening fervor, at one time she had over a thousand African violet plants in the house! They were on tables under lights in the basement, on shelves in all the windows in the house, and even covered the dining room table. She also grew all the vegetables she ate, canning everything needed for the winter. Guess who was drafted for weeding duty when he went for a vacation at her house? She even canned young spring chickens in glass jars and stored root vegetables in a dirt floor room in the basement. And this apple did not fall far from those two trees.

**Catherine Morley:** My grandmother had a beautiful yard full of flowers, vegetables, roses, berries, citrus trees, and even some chickens in the back. She had a green thumb, as everything was always thriving. I have fond memories of picking fresh berries for my breakfast. Nana would also can and preserve many of her fruits, berries and tomatoes. I just started making preserves last year. She is my inspiration.

**Gayle Olson:** My mother got me into gardening when I was still in elementary school on Long Island. She was trying to teach me responsibility and put me in charge of the iris bed.

**Linda A. Espino:** I was a kid in Chicago when I started gardening pretty young. We had a double lot, and the second lot was all mostly garden. I remember we had lilac trees (not like the ones that hardly have any smell in the Julian area), which would send out their perfume in summer through our open windows. We would have the cut lilacs on the tables in vases. My Grandmother would make rhubarb and strawberry pies with the rhubarb from the garden. I was mostly the weed puller. I liked being out there. Playing in the dirt in the yard/garden was enjoyable. Getting wet with the hoses and watering in the hot summer was fun. I remember how upset my Grandmother was when the relatives on my father's side went out to "weed" while we were on a short vacation and dug up the rhubarb and threw it out in the trash, as they thought it was a weed! No more rhubarb fresh from the garden for the pies! I learned to make the pies and then eat the slice of pie with my hands as my Grandmother said it tasted better that way. Our dog, Dolly, would be out there helping us. We had corn growing. I remember picking that to cook. Might have been six years old. Some guests for dinner were in awe that we grew it in our yard in back of the house. I remember sitting out in the shade of a large tree and my Grandmother, Mother and I were cleaning fish that the men caught. The heads and fish guts were used as fertilizer for the lilacs, as that was what my parents were told to do to feed them. We had

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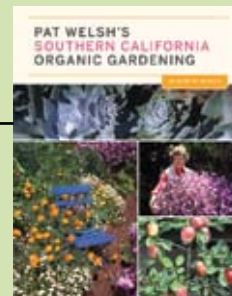
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morning glories, hollyhocks, and cosmos in the front, and I learned that they came up every year from self seeding.

**Linda Bresler:** I had a 4-H annual flower garden when I was about 8 years old, and entered the prettiest flowers for the end of summer display at the annual grange fair. My son was an infant in a stroller when he first kept me company while gardening. At 2 years old, he announced that when he grew up, he was going to teach people how to pick grass. Now, at 32 years old, he enjoys gardening.

**Wayne Froboese:** It was a natural interest for me.

**J.B. Riekstins:** I am sure it was my mother who got me started in gardening. She had a large organic garden and she grew everything. Very large: I did not eat a commercially prepared canned food item until I was about 10-11. She allowed the children who wanted to use some portion for their own projects to have a corner here or there. I remember growing Hubbard squash, huge warty monsters, and green bean when I was about 5 years old. I was already helping her plant and weed, and it was something I was good at and enjoyed. I also planted any flower seed I could get my hands on, then and now.

**Vivian Blackstone:** I was raised in New York City, the city of cement and monumental buildings. In 1989, when I was 45 years old, I moved into my first house and became interested in a garden. I had a lot of ideas and wanted to try them out, and became friendly with many Rudolf Steiner people, like Peter Dukich, master compost maker, and Jack McAndrew, Peter's disciple. So, I started making soil. Then I made four 17'x3' raised beds with biodynamic soil, growing large quantities of vegetables. In 1994, I made a trip to Vladivostok, Russia, where I was a filmmaker on a James Hubbell park structure; the motto was "Beauty can save the World," by Tolstoy. I came home and looked at my backyard, my raised beds and said, "I can do better than this; this is not beautiful." I gave away three of my raised beds and saved one, and redesigned my entire home garden area. That's when I designed the home that I have now, with 37 fruit trees and 15-gallon pots with vegetable and flowers. It is bird friendly and biodynamically fruitful.

**Nancy Woodard:** As far back as I can remember, my Father always had a large vegetable garden and I loved to sit on the grass in the summer and eat warm tomatoes. My Grandmother on my Mother's side lived next door and also had a large garden, which she tended by herself and kept her vegetables for herself. She canned all of the extras. She also canned the peaches from my Father's peach tree. And in the winter, it was my Grandmother who taught me how to propagate violets, ivy, and pothos from a cutting when I was about ten years old. Now, I can't seem to be able to get the violets to successfully start.

**Bobbi Hirschkoff:** As a child I spent many hours with my Sicilian grandmother, who baked bread, made wine from her own grapes, and grew fruit trees and vegetables, but no flowers. I was maybe 5 years when this all got started. Don't see any chance of it going away soon!

**Dave Ericson:** My dad got me started when I was 10 years old. He gave me the rose garden to care for and I observed how astoundingly a tiny bud turns into a beautiful flower with amazing colors, fragrance, feel and even taste.

**Candace Kohl:** I have always liked plants and gardens from my childhood. I remember helping my mother in the garden in St Louis, planting tulip bulbs and staking the peonies from the time I was 9 years old or so. My mother's mother had a large garden (with full time gardener!) and greenhouses where she grew the cattleya orchids that

she always wore as a trademark. There was a night blooming cereus in one of these that I would be allowed to stay up late and watch bloom. The sight and fragrance is something I will always remember. That plant now sits in one of my cousin's houses, and cuttings from it are growing in my garden in Del Mar.

**Yves Brancheau:** My kids, Bella (5) & Beau (3) got me started. I became a stay at home Dad just over 1-1/2 years ago, and at the beginning the fear of keeping them educated, entertained and healthy kept me up late nights. One night (or early morning), around 3 a.m., I was on the computer searching for some educational things we might be able to do together, when I came across The Children's Garden at Sunshine Care with Farmer Roy Wilburn ([www.sunshinecare.com](http://www.sunshinecare.com)). He has an extensive history as a horticulturist, practices organic farming, and is dedicated to spreading his wealth of knowledge. Everything really clicked for me when I saw my son snap off a stem of broccoli and my daughter harvest some strawberries, then chow down straight from the garden. I feel such a sense of empowerment and confidence as we propagate, plant, and harvest together, it's so natural. I have been a fan and grower since, which has led me to the SDHS to help develop my newly acquired skills.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

### The question for August is:

What are you making with produce, flowers, or other things from your garden? (Thanks to Tandy Pfost for suggesting this topic.)

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

### ■ See Us at the Fair Continued from page 8

(Atlas Fescue), *Leymus condensatus* 'Canyon Prince', *Carex* sp. (hopefully San Diego sedge, *Carex spissa*)


Climate-appropriate plants TBD

Succulents TBD

### More to come!

In July's newsletter, we will have the full final plant list. I hope as many of you as possible can attend the Fair and visit our garden. The Fair is open from June 7th through July 6th. We will be having our private, members-only evening on Monday, June 9th.

I have absolutely enjoyed working on this project and I'd like to thank our president, Jim Bishop, for inviting me to design the "Imagine" garden for you. As I said in my design statement, it is my wish that viewers of the garden will imagine all sorts of possibilities for their own landscapes and gardens.



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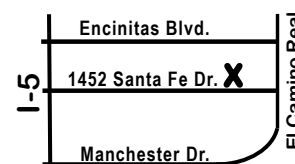
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# MAY 2014 PLANT DISPLAY

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.

### **Baccharis pilularis** COYOTE BRUSH, COYOTE BUSH (Asteraceae)

California, Oregon, Baja California

A very drought-tolerant evergreen shrub to about 8' tall and wide, this species ranges from Baja California north to the Oregon coast. Adaptable to many soil types, Coyote Brush is also a good source for nectar for insects and provides food and hiding places for a number of birds, mammals and insects. The thick leaves are about ¾" long, with coarsely serrated teeth. According to *California Native Plants for the Garden*, "Fall-blooming male or female flowers are borne on separate plants and cover the stems with an abundance of cream-colored rayless flowers. The male flowers are quickly shed, but debris from the females plants' fluffy fruits can be a nuisance." There are a number of horticultural selections ('Twin Peaks #2' and 'Pigeon Point' are most commonly seen in nurseries), and they tend to be male to avoid the messiness. Grows best with moderate summer watering

Top right: *Dudleya farinosa*  
Below: Orchids from  
Charley Fouquette



Tena Navarette (2)

and occasional pruning. The specimen displayed was interesting because the tips of the stems were covered with many small pale green insect galls, possibly from a midge (*Rhopalomyia californica*); for a fascinating article about this see [www.carpwithoutcars.org/category/coyote-brush/page/2](http://www.carpwithoutcars.org/category/coyote-brush/page/2). (Sue Nelson, Encinitas, 5/14) – S.T-B.

### **Broughtonia sanguinea** BLOOD RED BROUGHTONIA

(Orchidaceae) Jamaica

This beautiful orchid is native to the island of Jamaica, where it is fairly common, especially within about six miles from the coast. It flowers primarily in late spring through summer, but flowers may be seen at other times as well. It needs bright indirect light, and grows best in warm to hot conditions from 66°F to 85°F. The flower spikes can be up to 2' long, with showy clusters of up to ten red flowers, each flower up to 2" across. The same stalk can bloom twice in a year. (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/14) – S.T-B.

### **Dudleya farinosa** LIVE FOREVER, BLUFF LETTUCE

(Crassulaceae) California, Oregon

This evergreen succulent is native to the California coastline (from Santa Barbara north to Oregon), where it is commonly found on bluffs and hillsides. Growing from a caudex, it forms a basal rosette (about 6" to 12" tall and wide) of fleshy leaves, and the leaf color ranges from chalky white to pale green, often with brightly colored leaf tips. In late spring and into summer the plant sends out a stem about 1' – 2' long, which bears yellow flowers. Needs excellent drainage and grows well in full sun to light shade with minimal water. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/14) – 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](http://www.sdhort.org) for details on how to order this valuable reference tool.

*Anemopsis californica* YERBA MANSA (Sue Nelson, Encinitas, 5/14) – description online in 7/11 newsletter

*Cattleya Brabantiae* (*C. aclandiae* x *C. loddigesii*)  
(Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/14)

*Dendrochilum pangasinanense* (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/14)

**3** *Heteromeles arbutifolia* TOYON, CALIFORNIA HOLLY  
(Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 5/14) 3



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## MAY MEETING REPORT

### Indoor & Outdoor Projects with Succulents

By Jeannine Romero

Succulents continue to trend upward both in the garden and on gardening bookshelves. "Weirdly wonderful" succulents and creative gardening projects are featured in the recently published book, *Planting Designs for Cactus and Succulents* (2014), by local gardening expert Sharon Asakawa, who spoke at our meeting on May 12. She coauthored the book with John Bagnasco and Robyn Foreman.

Asakawa previously coauthored five gardening books with her husband of 50 years, Bruce. The local husband and wife horticultural team hosted the radio show, *GardenLife*, and Sharon continues to do the show. They were also named horticulturalists of the year in 2010 by SDHS. Bruce, who is living with Parkinson's Disease, sent his familiar message to our group, "Good growing, everyone," a phrase he routinely used to sign off on the radio.



Robyn Foreman (left) and Sharon Asakawa

Asakawa shared some of her favorite succulent garden projects, along with Robyn Foreman, who has a local business making custom floral designs for upscale events. Foreman demonstrated her "Life Is A Ball" succulent plant outdoor hanger of twine-covered wire found in floral supply and craft shops. Foreman

loosely wrapped and secured the coil around an inexpensive plastic ball to make a sphere and then popped the ball to remove it from the inside of the sphere. She strung the sphere for hanging, put reindeer moss inside (sphagnum moss would also work), planted several succulents inside, and the ornament was ready to hang from a patio cover or tree branch.

Succulents often look even more beautiful when stressed from beheading, Foreman noted. She skillfully adds succulents to make elegant bridal veils and Fascinator-style hats favored by the Brits.

Another outdoor project that received the attention of HGTV, Asakawa noted, is a glass Ikea tabletop with a frame underneath that allowed Foreman to add a screen and then plant succulents under the glass. Instructions are also provided in their book for hypertufa planters that are homemade with Portland cement, perlite, and peat moss. Asakawa said they have the classic look of cement planters, but without the weight. She points out, however, that these planters are high in lime content, and should be soaked in water after they cure in order to leach out excess lime.

Foreman created kid-friendly projects intended to plant a seed of interest in horticulture in children. The African safari garden combines plastic zoo animal figures and succulents with descriptive common names. Think zebra plant, tiger jaws, and elephant trunk succulent varieties. For the adult gardener, recycled glass bottles or colored wine bottles can be cut and planted horizontally for an indoor display. Asakawa also created what she calls xerispheres, or succulents potted in sand and inside a clear glass, terrarium-style planter (see the cover of the May newsletter).

As for the weird and wonderful succulent plants, the book



Robyn Foreman making a hanging succulent ball

features several varieties, including *Bowiea volubilis*, or climbing onion, which is not edible but grows long stems with an array of green and white flowers. It is a good beginner plant because it survives benign neglect, she said. And, while it is "an eye stopper," it is also toxic and can be a "heart stopper," too. *Haworthia truncata*, "horse teeth," thrives mostly below soil

level, is small in size and is slow growing but a "cool plant to add to your collection."

Slower still is the *Welwitschia mirabilis*, "tree tumbo," which grows in an African desert. It is "the ultimate of the weirdly wonderful," Sharon said, with a tap root of 75 feet long. Yes, 75 FEET. Even more weird: Sharon said most live about 1000 years, yet she showed a photograph of a specimen that is claimed to be 2000 years old.

Thanks, Sharon and Robyn, for a very interesting and fun look at succulents. If you missed this talk, you can borrow the video of it at the next meeting you attend.

## THANK YOU MEETING DONORS!

We thank these donors for their generosity:

Grangetto's Farm & Garden Supply (see page 16)

Jeanne Meadows, who donated a stunning succulent xerisphere



## 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



## PACIFIC HORTICULTURE TOURS

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PacHort visits Australia this November. We'll begin in Sydney, visiting historic Vacluse House and garden and select private gardens designed by leading Australian landscape designers. Next we head to the Blue Mountains to see the cool-climate plants of the area. We'll enjoy private gardens and magnificent homes in Mt Wilson plus the Paul Sorenson-designed garden of Everglades -- a brilliant blend of European design elements in harmony with the Australian landscape. We'll get a complete tour of Canberra before flying on to Melbourne where plans include tea at an old farmhouse one day and dinner with wine at a private home the next. We'll also visit Grampians National Park, Heronswood Garden and Nursery, McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park, and the recently completed Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. The last day of the tour includes Cloudehill in the Dandenong Ranges (shown here), where its stone walls and jewel-like garden rooms are set within woodlands of magnificent and historic trees. We'll have lunch in the award-winning cafe at Heide Museum of Modern Art, followed by private garden visits and a surprise farewell dinner which reflects the hospitality of Melbournians. This is a tour not to be missed!



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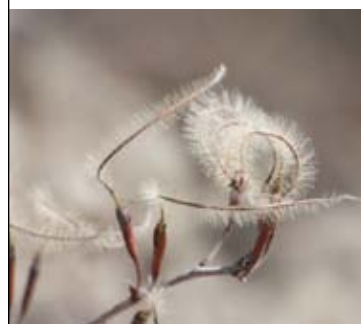
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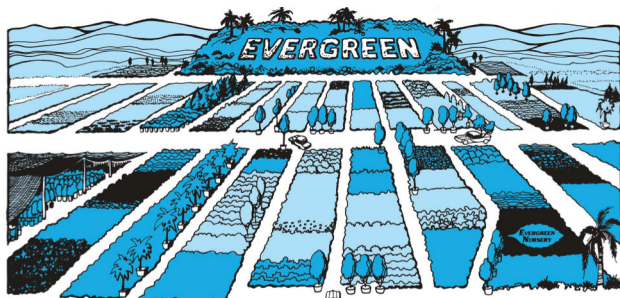
## What's Happening? for JUNE 2014

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](mailto:calendar@sdhortsoc.org).

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## Events at Public Gardens

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

**June 21, Summer Solstice Medicine Wheel Ceremony**

See [www.avgardens.org](http://www.avgardens.org) for events & classes.

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

**June 21, 10am-4pm, Fairy Festival:** Celebrate summer at the Hamilton Children's Garden. Wear your fairy costume or come as you are. Create a fairy house, make fairy treasures, leave messages on the wishing bush, visit the Fairyland market. Free with admission; small fee for crafts.

**June 8, 10am-1pm, Nature as Mirror – Garden Journaling:**

Through guided journaling, you will gain a deeper sense of yourself as reflected in nature. All writing levels welcome. Bring: Writing journal and folding chair. Instructor: Ellen Speert, Board Certified Art Therapist. Members \$40, non-members \$48. Register by May 30.

❖ **The Water Conservation Garden**

Register at [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org); contact info on other side

**June 14, 10am-noon, Rainwater Collection And Greywater For Homeowners:** Demonstrations of the ease of grey water and rain harvesting systems. Non-Member \$10.

**June 28, 10am-noon, Tropical Look-Alikes, Lush Yet Water Wise:** Workshop on water-saving plants that give you brilliant colors and lush foliage in our arid San Diego climate. Non-Member \$10.

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

Details at [www.cedrosgardens.com](http://www.cedrosgardens.com).

✿ **City Farmers Nursery Workshops**

See [www.cityfarmersnursery.com](http://www.cityfarmersnursery.com).

✿ **Evergreen Nursery: FREE Seminar**

See column at left for details.

✿ **Sunshine Care FREE Seminar Each Month**

**June 21, 10:30am, TBA.**

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

✿ **Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes**

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

|         | Point Loma, 9am                      | Poway, 9:30am |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| June 7  | Shade gardens                        | TBA           |
| June 14 | Drought Tolerant Plants              | TBA           |
| June 21 | Vegetable Garden Mid-Way Tune-up     | TBA           |
| June 28 | Preparing the garden for hot weather | TBA           |

✿ **Waterwise Botanicals**

**June 6 & 7, 9am-5pm, 2nd Annual Succulent Celebration:** Explore the beautiful world of succulents with renowned landscapers, artists, designers, & more. FREE. Waterwise Botanicals, 32183 Old Highway 395, Escondido, Info: [www.waterwisebotanicals.com](http://www.waterwisebotanicals.com).

✿ **Weidners' Gardens classes & workshops**

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### Next SDHS Meeting

**June 9:**

**SDHS Night at the Fair**

**See inside front cover for details**

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

## Free workshops for SDHS members!

Details & registration at [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org)

June 7, *Using plants with colorful & interesting foliage*

July 13: *Edible Landscaping*

## Other Garden-Related Events:

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

# San Diego County Fair June 7 to July 6

## Visit the SDHS Display Garden!

See insert for a list of all the exciting & informative lectures by a wide range of experts.

◆ **June 4, 6:30pm, Palomar Orchid Society:** Thailand orchid restoration. The Gallery Room at Lake San Marcos, 1105 La Bonita Dr., San Marcos. Info: [www.palomarorchid.org](http://www.palomarorchid.org).

◆ **June 4, 7:00pm, 7pm. San Diego Herb Club:** Herbs and foods for the seasons – Summer. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: [www.thesandiegoherbclub.com](http://www.thesandiegoherbclub.com).

◆ **June 6, 9am, Vista Garden Club:** How to propagate roses from cuttings. McClellan Senior Center, 1200 Vale Terrace, Vista. Info: [www.vistagardenclub.org](http://www.vistagardenclub.org).

◆ **June 7, 10am-12pm, Free Composting Workshop:** Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook. Info: [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org) or call Diane at (760) 436-7986 ext. 217.

◆ **June 7 (10am-5pm) & 8 (10am-4pm), San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale:** Huge selection of plants and more! Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net).

◆ **June 8, 1-3pm, Plumeria Society:** Annual, popular experts panel. War Memorial Building, 3325 Zoo Dr., Balboa Park. Info: [www.socalplumeriasociety.com](http://www.socalplumeriasociety.com).

◆ **June 17, 6:30-9pm, Native Plant Society:** TBA. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. Info: [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org).

◆ **June 18, 6:00pm, San Diego Floral Assoc.:** Patrick Anderson will speak on Floriade and the Gardens of Holland. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: [www.sdfloral.org](http://www.sdfloral.org).

◆ **June 21, 8am-1pm, Dos Valles Garden Club Plant Sale:** Martin Gang Ranch 28933 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center. Info: [www.dosvallesgardenclub.org](http://www.dosvallesgardenclub.org).

◆ **June 21, 1-2:30pm, FREE Workshop:** Control Ants the Healthy Way! Valley Center Library, 29200 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center. Info: <http://tinyurl.com/junecall>.

◆ **June 25 - 26, California Urban and Community Forests Conference:** In San Diego; some scholarships available. Info: [www.caufc.org/Annual%20Conference](http://www.caufc.org/Annual%20Conference).

◆ **June 28 & 29, 10am-4pm, San Diego Bromeliad Society Show & Sale:** Great bromeliads on display and many to purchase. Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Info: [www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html) or (858) 453-6486.

For an extensive list of garden club meetings and events, visit [www.sdfloral.org/calendar.htm](http://www.sdfloral.org/calendar.htm)

## Resources & Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Garden TV and Radio Shows:

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

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

## San Diego County Farmers Markets

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

### Do you belong to a club or organization whose events aren't listed above?

For a FREE listing (space permitting) send details by the 10th of the month before the event to Neal King, at [calendar@sdhort.org](mailto:calendar@sdhort.org).