

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

July 2015, Number 250

Rush to Restios

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On the Cover: July speaker loves restios

SDHS Fair Garden: An Award-Winning Success!

Our beautiful garden won 8 awards - see page 7



Janet Ward



Kim Alexander (2)

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Fair Awards We Gave - see page 8



Gigi
LoPatriello



Coastal Sage
Gardening



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Mandatory conservation measures include:

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

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



San Diego County
Water Authority

**Severe
Drought**

SDHS Garden at the Fair - see page 7



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SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, lending library, plant display, silent auction

6:45 – 8:30 Announcements, door prizes, speaker

MEETINGS & EVENTS

(FW = Free workshop; FG = Featured Garden; register at www.sdhort.org)

June 5 – July 5 San Diego County Fair – see pages 3 and 7

July 11 Container Gardening (FW) – see page 2

August 8 Succulents - Pruning, Propagation, Care (FW)

August 10 California Bees & Blooms

September 14 Rebecca Sweet on Refresh Your Garden Design

September 18 Terrestrial Bromeliads (FW)

October 12 Nan Sterman on Hot Colors, Cool Gardens

October 17 Plant Propagation (FW)

November 9 Designer Panel, Trends in Landscape Design

December 14 Clayton Tschudy on Ecology Landscaping and other
Waterwise Lessons from the Water Conservation Garden



www.sdhort.org

COVER IMAGE: July speaker Martin Grantham peering out from a clump of *Cannomois grandis* (Bell Reed) from South Africa. Learn about this statuesque beauty and other South African plants at the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: JULY 13, 2015, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

Speaker: Martin Grantham on *Rush to Restios: Choices for San Diego Gardens*

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

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

We welcome Martin Grantham, the greenhouse manager at San Francisco State University, who will share his expertise and great enthusiasm for South African plants, especially those that grow well in California and are good in home gardens. Martin formerly curated the restio collection at UC Santa Cruz, and has test grown some 100 different species. Restios are reed-like grasses that provide architectural interest and movement in the garden. His talk will focus on the plant family that is most closely associated with Fynbos communities: the Restionaceae, or Restios, along with Proteas, Ericas, and a number of the more unusual, attractive, and grow-able plants with which he has extensive experience. The Western Cape is one of the world's five Mediterranean climate zones, so the plants there experience summer drought. But the Cape has the highest rainfall of the five, so we must be selective when choosing plants for our California gardens.

Martin was born in pre-silicon Santa Clara Valley, and took an early interest in botany, earning a BA in Botany from U.C. Davis. He has done work for all the major botanical gardens in the San Francisco bay area, from field work and collection through design, plant propagation, installation, curation, fundraising, volunteer coordination, you name it! One of his specialties is the Fynbos flora of South Africa's Western Cape, and he has traveled there often to study plants in the wild. In the bay area he has grown a broad spectrum of the characteristic Fynbos plants, as well as some of the most obscure. His other travels have taken him to Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia, Chile and Argentina. He's taught courses in plant propagation, orchid cultivation, restios, and other topics.

For more information see page 6.



Mimetes stokoei

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

Kim Alexander - Member at Large
Cindy Benoit – Membership Chair
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Susan Starr – Garden Tour Chair
Susi Torre-Bueno – Newsletter Editor, Past President
Roy Willburn - Member at Large

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

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

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

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New Email? New Street Address?

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

BECOME A SPONSOR!

Do you own a garden-related business?

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

FREE WORKSHOP: Container Planting & Gardening Saturday, July 11, 9:30am, Poway

Carol Fuller, a local landscape designer and all-around horticulturist, is the principal at Carol Fuller Designs and manager at ISARI Flower Studios in Solana Beach and started her business with container gardening. She will share her tips and secrets to designing, planting and caring for wonderful container gardens. This workshop will be held at Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway, a long-time sponsor of SDHS (see page 15), so there should be many interesting and tempting plants and containers available. Additional details and registration are at sdhort.wildapricot.org/Workshops. ☘



Rachel Cobb

Job Opening for Plant Lover:

Briggs Nursery & Tree Company in Vista is looking for energetic, enthusiastic employees with general plant knowledge to assist customers. Full & part time. Call Alissa at (760) 727-2727 for details, or send resumes to Alissa@BriggsTree.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work.
(William Arthur Ward)

Garden Hosts Wanted for "A 'Fair to Remember'"

As in past years, we will need about 100 shifts covered by volunteers at our display garden at the 2015 San Diego County Fair. In exchange for about four hours of your time, you'll get free admission to the Fair. Volunteers will answer questions about our display garden and plants in general, and encourage interested folks to become members of SDHS. See our website for details and to sign up for a shift or two.

Tech Support Help at Meetings:

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

Newsletter Advertising Manager Needed

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





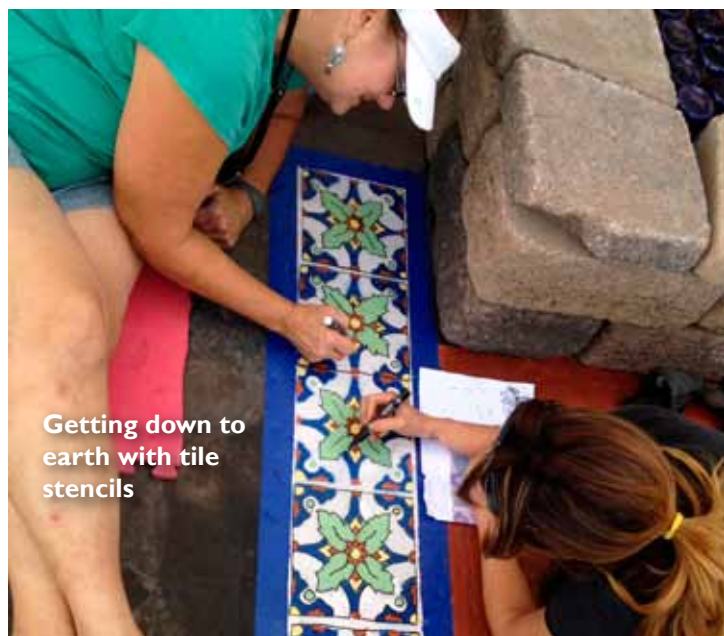
FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

Our Fair Garden – Many Thanks!

Thank you to all the volunteers who served as garden hosts at our exhibit at the San Diego County Fair. This is one of our largest volunteer activities and outreach programs of the year. With the huge attendance at the Fair and a great garden in a wonderful location, we were able to engage with many individuals to share information about the San Diego Horticultural Society, the San Diego County Water Authority conservation programs, and just share our knowledge about plants and beautiful gardens. Thanks to our MiraCosta College Horticultural Program students, who helped install the garden: Julia Coleman, Trisha Haslam, Allison Miles, Deborah Read-Ostner, and Eri Sudo. Special thanks to SDHS member Marilyn Guidroz (far right in the group photo) who was the Faculty Mentor of the students. Besides placing and planting the plants, they did the faux terracotta floor in the garden and also the stenciled faux tile at the entrances to the garden. The stencils are copies of the actual tile design used on the fountains in the Alcazar Garden in Balboa Park.

Many people have asked about the colorful mural of the Alcazar



Getting down to earth with tile stencils



Jim Bishop with MiraCosta students and Marilyn Guidroz

Garden and the reproduction of the benches in the exhibit. You may have recognized that the mural is of the Alcazar garden in Balboa Park. The mural was painted by Ed Roxburgh (edroxburghart.com), who has done many paintings of Balboa Park. The benches were painted and built by Terry Allen Gardner Creative Services, (graphicman_sd@yahoo.com). Terry photographed the actual tile on the front of the benches in the Alcazar Garden. He then edited the photo in Photoshop to create a long banner of the tile and had it printed on contact vinyl that was applied to the plywood front. The tile on top was hand-painted by Terry.

After the Fair, many of the plants in the garden will be finding new homes in Balboa Park.

2016 Garden Tour

Tour chairperson Susan Starr is in the very early planning stage for the 2016 Spring Garden Tour. First up is selecting an area for the tour. Early ideas are La Jolla Farms, Del Mar, Carmel Valley, Lake Hodges, Rancho Santa Fe, Fairbanks Ranch, or Del Sur. Final selection is based on gardens we can find in one or more of these areas that are reasonably close to each other. Perhaps you've seen a garden on previous tours in these areas? If so, if you have or know of a well-maintained garden with horticultural interest in any of these neighborhoods please contact Susan Starr at Tours@sdhort.org. ☺

SUBSCRIBE TO GARDEN DESIGN AND GET A FREE ISSUE!

Our sponsor *Garden Design* magazine has a special offer for members. Use the link in their ad on page 9 and get a FREE issue of this exceptional publication when you subscribe. subscribe by July 31 and they'll donate \$12 to SDHS for our Balboa Park restoration project. Every quarterly issue has 132 pages with no advertisements, expert insights, outstanding gardens showcased with inspiring stories and splendid photos, new plants, garden tours, and much more!



THE REAL DIRT ON...

Jack London's Beauty Ranch

By Donna Tierney

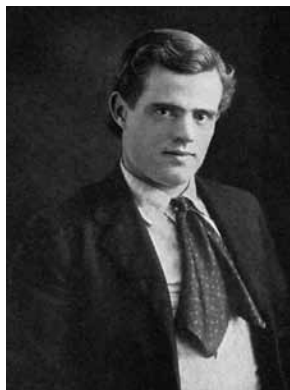
Though primarily remembered as dashing, colorful celebrity whose exploits were often in the news, Jack London (1876-1916) also became the highest paid, most popular writer of his time. His experiences as a traveler, laborer, factory worker, adventurer, war correspondent, fisherman, and gold prospector often played out in the plots and personalities he wrote about.

Though writing was his vocation, agriculture became his passion as he grew tired of adventures and retreated to a quieter life. In order to pay for his "agriculture hobby," he remained true to his tradition of writing at least 1000 words per day. He needed to publish enough works to pay for the properties he bought in Sonoma County and affectionately called Beauty Ranch.

Jack purchased multiple properties outside of Glen Ellen, California. All were run down, and the soil was worn out. The former owners had tilled the land for over forty years without using fertilizer or rotating crops. The livestock in the area was also inferior because of poor breeding practices. He was convinced that by applying scientific farming and animal breeding principles he could make Beauty Ranch the most modern farm in the west. He set about educating himself. He subscribed to a multitude of agriculture journals, corresponded with experts in the agriculture departments at the University of CA, and read everything he could find on the topics. One of his mentors was Luther Burbank. He became convinced that the fertile hills of California were being wasted by haphazard practices that needed refinement. Jack described his vision in 1913 by saying, "I am the sailor on horseback! Watch my dust! Oh, I shall make mistakes a-many; but watch my dreams come true...Try to dream with me my dreams of fruitful acres. Do not be a slave to an old conception. Try to realize what I am after."

Though he had initially invested in some farm equipment, he became convinced that it was important for the economy of the local area to employ people to help him farm. Jack set about enriching the soil by composting horse manure and plowing it into the fields. He pioneered soil conservation by using tillage and terracing. He had first seen these practices used in Korea and Japan when he was a war correspondent during the Russo-Japanese War. He imported pedigreed horses and animals from Europe to reinvigorate the livestock. He raised vegetables, grains, alfalfa, grapes, fruit trees, spineless cactus, eucalyptus trees, horses, goats, chickens, hogs, beef and dairy cattle. His hay was the best in Sonoma County. Whatever he attempted, his approach was all-or-nothing.

Though Jack had many successes, there were a few blunders.



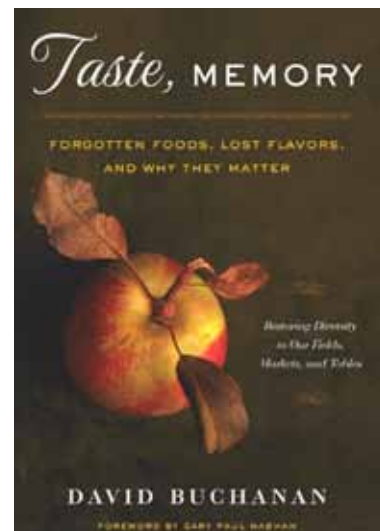
BOOK REVIEW

Taste, Memory: Forgotten Foods, Lost Flavors, and Why They Matter

By David Buchanan

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

The title really says it all. Taste and memory can be linked in our brains in amazing ways. I think we've all had the experience tasting something and being transported in our minds to another time, another place. What do you think of when you sip a glass of tart apple cider? Do you remember the taste that came when you chewed a stem of sourgrass (oxalis) or bit into a delicious juicy strawberry fresh from the garden? Did that take you back in time?



This is not a gardening book, but a memoir. You won't find instructions on how to plant rutabagas or how to enrich your soil (although I did learn that the best time to harvest seaweed for use as mulch is right after a heavy rain; the salt has been rinsed off).

Where is the author gardening, you ask? The answer: he tills a number of different places, most close to the shore in Maine. He couldn't find a place to rent or buy that suited his ambition, so he borrowed and rented small sections of ground in other people's yards and farms. Before he went home to Maine, he gardened in Washington State and in Argentina. I think the chapter on Argentina is worth the price of the book. Something that is so simple here, such as growing lettuce and beans, was just short of impossible there, another example of how lucky we are to live where we do.

Through trial and error, Buchanan becomes more and more interested in the idea of growing heirloom foods, especially those that are locally adapted. He's a generalist, but he has a special love for apple trees and tells us of his search for a particular species of apple no longer commercially available. That's a theme that runs through the whole book. We don't exactly get a happy ending to that story any more than a garden has a happy ending. It just keeps going.

Through his gardening, he gets interested in the Slow Food Movement and in particular in their Ark of Taste. This international project identifies and tries to save local foods—produce, fruit, fish, meat, and fowl—that are in danger of extinction. (To see what they're doing in California, check out localharvest.org.)

The book was slow to start. I almost abandoned it, but I'm glad I didn't. As I adapted to the rhythm of Buchanan's writing, it became more interesting. *Taste, Memory* (ISBN 978-160358-440-1) is paperbound, 224 pages, and sells for \$17.95.

P.S. The Internet tells me that he did finally find the land he was looking for. He bought 115 acres in Pownal, Maine in 2012. We can look forward to his next book. ☘

Continued on page 18

TREES, PLEASE

Snow in Summer alba, blanco, candida and more...

By Robin Rivet

As annual temperatures rise with global climate changes, planting urban trees with white flowers might help cool your senses. Consider these truly remarkable, but unexpected white-flowering cultivars.

Jacaranda mimosifolia 'Alba' sports the same decadent and messy inflorescence as its lavender counterpart,

but when icy white it is breathtaking, if rarely planted. The mass of dropped white blooms truly simulates snowfall. For bird and butterfly magnets, the white mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin* 'Alba') and chaste tree (*Vitex agnus-castus* 'Alba') are drought-tolerant trees, and the chaste has implausibly showy and fragrant plumes.

Although dogwoods don't flourish in most of our county, *Cercis canadensis* 'Alba' resembles them in habit, and most redbuds grow well here. The 'Alba's prolific blooms emerge on leafless branches, and they greet spring with striking whiteness after our snowless winters.

Of course, no list of "albas" would be complete without a mention of *Magnolia* × *alba*, or what used to be called *Michelia champaca*. It is not clad in a white gown since its flowers are inconspicuous, but its scent will put you in snow cloud heaven. Unfortunately, *Magnolia grandiflora* is too often a wimpy "Little Gem", but the species has dinner-plate sized flowers and should be planted more often.

If edibles are your preference, look no further than your home orchard. Citrus have fragrant white flowers, and some have white fruit, too. The Oroblanco grapefruit gets its namesake from the Spanish words for white gold, and many apricots, plums, cherries and even a pomegranate often sport glorious white flowers.

"Candida" is from Latin *candidus*, meaning white, and many species use it for cultivars. White Angel's Trumpet (*Brugmansia x candida*) will startle even the most jaded landscaper, as the flowers are enormous and are noted for their heady evening perfume. *Bauhinia variegata* 'Candida' (Buddhist bauhinia), has spectacular blossoms that accept partial sun, and white really brightens up dappled shade. Not to be missed are trees that lack illustrative names, but have strong visual impact. *Melaleuca linariifolia* (flaxleaf paperbark) blooms like a giant white bougainvillea landed on top of its summer canopy. Then there's the aptly named Chinese fringe tree *Chionanthus retusus*, another impressive species whose abundant tassel-like flowers appear surreal – like a 1920's fringed hat or flapper dress. White floss silk (*Ceiba insignis*) has spiny green bark and generous white, orchid-like flowers. If you really miss snow, there's *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* 'Snow Flurry', a native wildlife-friendly bloomer.

Although 'Sister Agnes' oleander can bloom nearly all year with



an abundance of eye-popping white flowers, and *Pyrus kawakamii* (ornamental pears) command attention bursting forth with pearly-white inflorescence in late winter; both these species have serious disease issues. Fireblight blackens the twigs and disfigures pear trees, and oleander leaf scorch is wiping out freeway medians and home specimen plantings willy-nilly, so please don't plant either one. More useful trees can be found at selecttree.calpoly.edu.

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

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Surprise Retirement Opens New Doors By Patty Berg, Volunteer Coordinator

Within minutes of meeting Tandy Pfof, you will find so many interesting facets about her life and personality that you know you could chat for hours. But with our SDHS volunteers, it always starts with plants, and the same was true when I spoke to Tandy during her shift last month at the San Diego County Fair.

Tandy and her husband are Oceanside residents. With a passion for growing rare fruit, among many other things, Tandy took advantage of an earlier-than-planned retirement to follow her bliss. She earned a certificate in horticulture through MiraCosta College and parlayed the wonderful connections she made at MCC into a job at Anderson's La Costa Nursery.

She's been involved at San Diego Botanic Garden as a docent and serves as docent treasurer. She has also served on boards of several other non-profits that are hort-related, such as the California Rare Fruit Growers and the Mira Costa Horticulture Club.

Tandy grew up in Manila, Philippines as the child of an American diplomat. Her college years were spent in Tucson at the University of Arizona, where she earned a business degree. That took her to Los Angeles (Sierra Madre) for nearly 35 years in the business and tech worlds as a senior-level executive. (See what I mean about things to chat about?)

Whatever Tandy thought her retirement would look like, I don't think she could have imagined being where she is today. She loves her job at Anderson's and has started to venture into garden design on their behalf.

Working at a nursery and garden center has deepened Tandy knowledge and appreciation of plants immeasurably. That was a big bonus for Fair visitors this year. No matter how random their questions might have been, Tandy was ready with a good answer.

We're always grateful for our volunteers and especially the ones whose plant knowledge can benefit the public. Tandy has generously volunteered for several years now for SDHS and we're all the better for her efforts. 🌿



GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

The Long History of Larval Host Study

By Susan Krzywicki

Recently, I was struck by two people who contributed to both the fields of art and science. They were pioneers in several important ways. Their acute observational skills helped us to establish the role that specific plant species play in the life cycles of specific butterfly species. This point is crucial because native plants have an under-appreciated but important role to play in every garden: making a place for butterflies to lay eggs.

These two were also important because they were recognized as being high-caliber scientists by their peer botanists, and they were recognized as accomplished creative talents by their peer artists.

And they were both women. You can see the illustrations of each artist's work at the blog sites linked to below.

Maria Sibylla Merian, born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1647, was a very early explorer and explainer of botanical and entomological processes. I had never heard of her until I read about her at the Biodiversity Heritage Library's blog site, (<http://tinyurl.com/JulyMariaM>), where they write, "Maria's illustrations were important and revolutionary for a number of reasons. The observations and evidence they displayed helped overturn the prevailing theory of the time that insects spontaneously generated from mud. Additionally, Maria drew her subjects from life in their natural environments. Most naturalists of the day illustrated species from dead, preserved specimens, which

contributed to a lack of knowledge about the true life cycle and origin of insects. Finally, Maria also portrayed the host plant for the species she studied and even illustrated the damage the insects left on the plants."

James Gurney, of *Dinotopia* fame (dinotopia.com), wrote in his blog recently about another outstanding nature observer: Fidelia Bridges. The image he used to illustrate the article is of a milkweed, probably showy milkweed, with butterflies in action.



Maria Sibylla Merian

Bridges was known for her plein air illustrations and her detailed recording of plant and wildlife interactions. Gurney writes of her, "She was inspired by reading John Ruskin's *Modern Painters*, which preached truth to nature... Her early studies in watercolor and gouache... show a patient and observant eye." At the time of her induction, she was the first female member to join the American Society of Painters in Water Color (now known as The American Watercolor Society). She kept a studio on West 54th Street in Manhattan, where she sold her work, and also did illustrations for L. Prang & Company, an early greeting card entrepreneur.

So, there we have it! The early days of exploring how insects and plants interact. I love the idea that these two illustrated nature. But what really captured my attention was their work to figure out that certain plants played a key role in the lifecycle of specific insects. This is something that, hundreds of years later, we are just scratching the surface of.

Member Susan Krzywicki is a native plant expert, having been the Horticulture Program Director for the California Native Plant Society, a native plant landscape designer in San Diego, as well as chair of the San Diego Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Gardens Committee. 🌿

TO LEARN MORE...

Restios

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Restios, the subject of our July meeting, are a family of perennial, evergreen rush-like flowering plants native to the Southern Hemisphere:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Restionaceae>

It is likely that they arose over 65 million years ago on the super-continent of Gondwana: britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/238402/Gondwana

Restios are not averse to living in a fire environment, <http://tinyurl.com/restios-1>, and they are a low-water alternative to thirstier grasses.

On the other hand, we also have many low-water grasses to choose from for our gardens:

<http://tinyurl.com/restios-2>

<http://tinyurl.com/restios-3>

amwua.org/grasses.html

thisoldhouse.com/toh/photos/0,,1223558,00.html

So even though El Niño is setting up to be big next winter, it will still pay to go low-water in the garden now:

<http://tinyurl.com/restios-4>

🌿



Fidelia Bridges

SEE US AT THE FAIR!

Last Day is July 5 – Don't Miss Out!

Last month this space featured an article by Jim Bishop, who designed a recreation of Balboa Park's Alcázar Garden for our award-winning Fair entry this year. He discussed the roots of this garden design (going back to ancient Persia). Our tranquil garden demonstrates the concepts of water conservation, low maintenance and sustainability. Jim replaced the annual bedding plants in the inspiration garden with a low-water succulent tapestry. In the center of the garden the waterless fountain uses a large blue pot filled with colorful succulents. These excellent ideas are included in our Fair handout and the informative signs at our display garden; a link to all this info is on the home page of our website: sdhort.org.

Plants Used in Our Fair Garden

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Aeonium</i> 'Zwartkop'	Large Purple Aeonium
<i>Agave lophantha</i> 'Quadricolor'	Quadricolor Century Plant
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'John Dourley'	John Dourley Manzanita
<i>Artemisia pycnocephala</i> 'David's Choice'	Coastal Sagewort
<i>Beaucarnea recurvata</i>	Bottle Palm
<i>Beschornia yuccoides</i> 'Flamingo Glow'	Variegated Red Yucca
<i>Cercis mexicana</i>	Mexican Redbud
<i>Cotyledon orbiculata</i> var. <i>oblonga</i>	Chalk Fingers
<i>Crassula argentea</i> 'Sunset'	Golden Jade
<i>Cupressus guadalupensis</i>	Tecate Cypress
<i>Echeveria</i> hyb.	Hybrid Echeveria
<i>Echeveria harmsii</i>	Fuzzy Echeveria

<i>Euphorbia milii</i> 'Pink'	Pink Crown of Thorns
<i>Euphorbia milii</i> 'Red'	Red Crown of Thorns
<i>Galvezia speciosa</i>	Island Bush Snapdragon
<i>Helichrysum</i> 'Frosted Berries'	Frosted Berried Helichrysum
<i>Helichrysum italicum</i>	CurryPlant
<i>Kalanchoe blossfeldiana</i>	Garden Kalanchoe
<i>Kalanchoe pumila</i>	Purple & Power
<i>Leucadendron</i> 'Silvan Red'	Silvan Red Leucadendron
<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus</i>	Catalina Ironwood
<i>Metrosideros excelsus</i> 'Variegata'	Variegated New Zealand Christmas Tree
<i>Salvia chamaedryoides</i>	Germander Sage
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i> 'Point Sal Spreader'	Purple Sage
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	Grey Lavender Cotton
<i>Tanacetum densum</i> var. <i>amanum</i>	Turkish Tansy
<i>Westringia fruticosa</i> 'Blue Gem'	Blue Gem Coast Rosemary
<i>Westringia fruticosa</i> 'Morning Light'	Variegated Coast Rosemary
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i> 'Bright Edge'	Variegated Yucca
<i>Zauschneria californica</i>	California Fuchsia

MANY THANKS to these people, who provided invaluable support for our garden:

Garden Design and Signage: Jim Bishop

Garden Installation: Marilyn's Garden Design, Marilyn Guidroz, marilynsgardendesign.com

MiraCosta College Horticultural Program Students: Julia Coleman, Trisha Haslam, Allison Miles, Deborah Read-Ostner, Eri Sudo

Garden Benches: Terry Allen Gardner Creative Services, graphicman_sd@yahoo.com

Wall Mural: Ed Roxburgh, edroxburghart.com

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 Home Depot
 Oasis Water Efficient Gardens, oasis-plants.com
 Waterwise Botanicals, waterwisebotanicals.com

Pottery: Backyard X-Scapes, backyardxscapes.com

FAIR AWARDS WE WON

Our garden won 8 awards, plus over \$6000 in cash! As it was in 2014, our exhibit was sponsored by the San Diego County Water Authority, and we greatly appreciate their support. At the end of the Fair, we hope to also win the Bill Teague Well-Maintained Gardens Award, which is given to "Each garden that is as well-maintained on the last day as on opening day," and includes a \$250 cash prize. We have won it every year.

- **Environmental Award, First Place:** Presented to landscapes that benefit the environment (i.e. water conservation, use of organic practices, sustainability, etc.).
- **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society "Distinguished Garden"**

Continued on page 20



California RARE FRUIT GROWERS

Friday August 7th - Sunday August 9th

2015 FESTIVAL OF FRUIT
"Year of the Drought Tolerant Fruits"

The Jacobs Center
404 Euclid Ave. San Diego, CA.

Field Trips and Tours Friday and Sunday
 Friday Evening Reception and Book Signing by Local Authors, a Presentation by Fruit Explorer Joe Simcox and an Olive Oil Tasting
 Saturday: 16 Speaker Presentations, Plant Sales and an array of events including demonstrations and a Vendor Marketplace coordinated by the UCCE Master Gardener Program of San Diego County

To Register and for information visit:
<http://www.festivaloffruit.org>

FESTIVAL OF FRUIT 2015

The Year of the Drought-Tolerant Fruits

August 7-9: Talks, Tours, Marketplace, More!

The San Diego Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers will be hosting the 2015 California Rare Fruit Growers (CRFG) statewide *Festival of Fruit*, with the theme of "Year of the Drought-Tolerant Fruits." They and the UCCE Master Gardeners of San Diego County are working together with the Jacobs Center at 404 Euclid Ave., San Diego where the Festival will take place. "We want to promote the idea that everyone can help conserve water in this time of drought and still grow healthy and delicious fruit." Mark your calendar and look for more information at festivaloffruit.org.

The main event will be on Saturday, August 8, and will kick off with fruit explorer Joe Simcox in a keynote session on uncommon fruit from dry regions of the world. The day continues with 16 dynamic speaker presentations about some of the more drought-tolerant fruits that can be grown in Southern California, as well as products and cultural practices that can help reduce water use. Seminars for beginners and professional gardeners will be presented, along with fruit tastings, an opportunity drawing, educational displays, a plant auction and plant sales.

On August 8 the Master Gardeners will be organizing a Marketplace with more than 60 vendors, agencies and non-profit organizations, and will be having educational instructional demonstrations throughout the day. The Marketplace will be free and open to the public from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Anyone interested in being a vendor or exhibitor at this Saturday event should contact Gail Simms at redstar324@aol.com or through the Festival website under the Marketplace tab. The Master Gardeners are coordinating the Marketplace and are looking for vendors and exhibitors to participate. Non-profit groups can participate at no cost. That evening the Festival will conclude with keynote speaker Justin Rohner giving a presentation during the closing dinner on agriscaping and how to grow fruit year-round in arid climates.

There will be garden and nursery tours on August 7 and 9. On August 7 enjoy an evening reception with a presentation by Joe Simcox describing his travels and adventures as a fruit explorer; book signings by local authors, and an olive oil and vinegar tasting.

Detailed information is also available by e-mailing info@festivaloffruit.org. Registration until July 8 is \$55; after that is \$65 (students pay \$20 less). Register online at festivaloffruit.org, or by mail-in form (available on-line). ☞



FAIR AWARDS GIVEN BY SDHS

The San Diego Horticultural Society is proud to give seven Excellence in Horticulture awards to display gardens at the Fair. These awards recognize the exceptional efforts of the many people who design and install the demonstration landscapes that are a highlight of the Fair. Each award includes a cash prize (\$100 for the first six, and \$500 for the Most Outstanding Exhibit) and a one-year membership in SDHS. Congratulations to the winning gardens, which we hope you all got a chance to enjoy during the Fair.

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

- SDHS President Jim Bishop
- Marilyn Guidroz (marilynsgarden.com), who designed our award-winning 2010 **and** 2011 Fair gardens, and who worked with MiraCosta student interns on this year's garden as well as the 2011 and 2012 Fair gardens
- Susanna Pagan (spgardens.com), who designed our award-winning 2012 Fair garden
- Mary James, SDHS board member; writer for the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles* magazine, and elsewhere; and editor of the award-winning *California Garden* magazine (published by the San Diego Floral Association, www.sdfloal.org)
- Landscape designer, Kimberly Alexander, of Allée Landscape Design (alleelandscapedesign.com), who designed and installed our award-winning 2014 garden
- Susi Torre-Bueno, past president and newsletter editor

The Bill Teague Memorial Award for Creative Use of Unusual Plant Material was given to **Blue Horizon Landscape** for their fascinating garden of low-water Australian native plants, which was "a tribute to Balboa Park's Australian Garden."

Our award for Best Youth Garden went to **San Pasqual High School FFA** for their very attractive drought-tolerant garden featuring many succulents and a model of the Balboa Park bridge walkway over Hwy 163. They also won this award in 2014 (and other years).

The Nomenclature Accuracy award for 100% perfect nomenclature went to the **San Diego Fern Society** (sandiegofernsociety.com), whose lovely display resembled the famous Balboa Park Botanical Building (lath house).

Jeann'e Waterford, of Jeanne's Garden Program for Children, won the award for Best Expression of Garden Education, with her extremely attractive design about California native plants, including ones which Kate Sessions might plant if she were alive today. After the Fair, the plants will be given to various local elementary schools.

The Best Planted Container award went to **San Diego Bonsai Club** (sandiegbonsaiclub.com) for the beautiful grouping of bonsai plants, featuring photos of the same full-size trees in Balboa Park.

The award for Best use of California Native Plants went to SDHS sponsor **Coastal Sage Gardening** (coastalsage.com), for their

Continued on page 20

THE DIRT ON WATER BLOG

A Green Perspective on Grass

By Jeanne Meadow

The California drought has put our lawns on the hot seat. Government wants the new California landscape to look very different...

Even with the many rebates available, it can be costly to tear out your lawn. Some have embraced the new order and installed drought tolerant landscapes. Many more are infuriated that the government is taking away their precious lawn.

Historians believe we brought our desire for lawns when we immigrated from Europe, where only the royalty and the wealthiest could afford green expanses. You needed excess land that could be used for beauty, not food production, and many servants and livestock to keep it in shape. But few Americans had the resources to take care of large, beautiful lawns.

Although the first lawnmower appeared in 1830 in England, the first human-pushed lawnmower was patented in Indiana in 1870. It was lightweight, and a commercial success. No longer would we need servants and livestock to have a lovely lawn. Later came gas-powered mowers, and self-propelled riding lawn tractors.

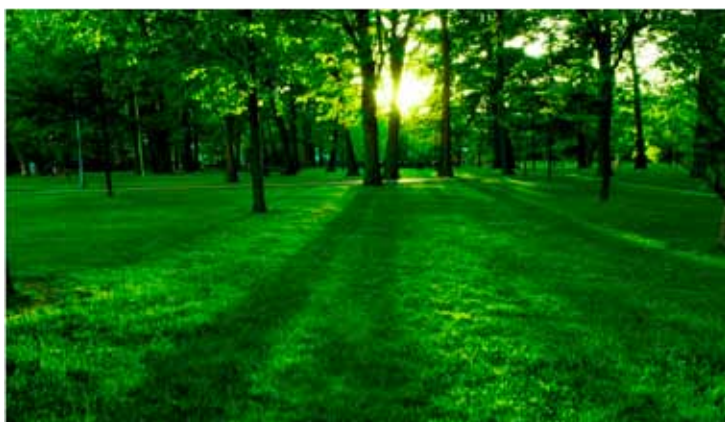
In addition to the technical advances, a number of influential groups, among them the Garden Club of America, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Golf Association, played major roles in both finding grasses that would do well here, and in marketing grass as a symbol of the American dream. Now, with beautiful green lawns, we were all royalty. At one point, 80 percent of U.S. homes had lawns.

But these days in California we need to end our romance with our lawn. It's over. It's time to break up. The status of grass lawns has been plummeting. Perhaps before long, that beautifully manicured lawn will join the fur coat as a symbol of political incorrectness.

Live grass takes approximately 55 gallons of water per square foot annually. So, as water available for lawns becomes scarce, what can you do to keep your grass green? You could set up a greywater system, but this is a big commitment (and some think it's a little icky.) Rainwater capture is another way to go, but can be even more expensive and you will need a lot of rain to have enough, and the drought's already four years old.

You could try artificial turf. The fake stuff is growing in popularity, but has many environmental questions still unanswered. And besides

Continued on page 12



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MY LIFE WITH PLANTS

By Jim Bishop

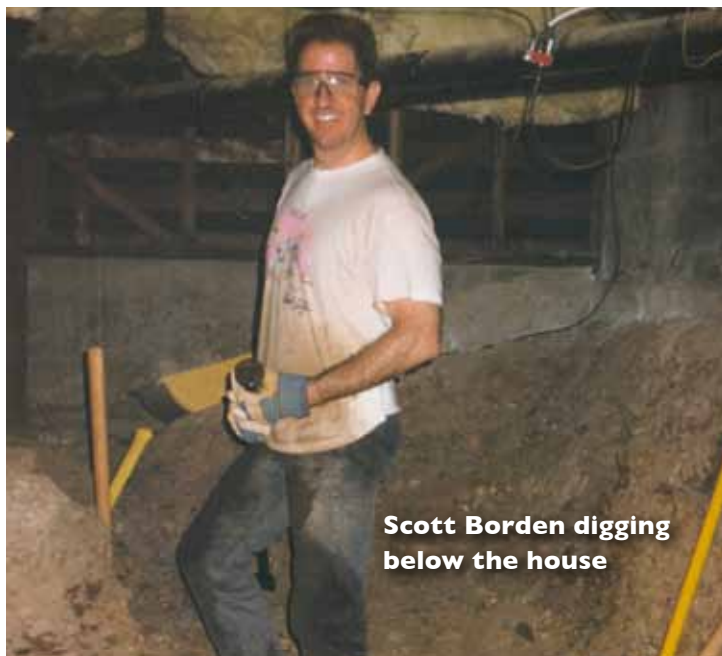
This is a continuing series of articles that chronicle Jim Bishop's experiences with plants and the effect they have had on his life.

The Downward March

This is a continuation of May's article about challenges creating a garden in our new home in Mission Hills.

In May's article, I talked about creating the first block steps and retaining walls on our hillside. As we slowly worked our way down the hill, I was beginning to realize that to create a garden on a steep slope that anyone would visit we would need landings, seating areas and some sort of pathway making a loop back up the hill. The obvious place for a return set of stairs was the slope behind the pool wall. However, the slope there was very steep and I couldn't figure out how to approach it. Fate stepped in. When we remodeled the house we dug out the area under the upstairs kitchen and dining room for a new master bathroom. There were doors from outside and the closet into this area. The dirt came up about 5 feet high with some very flimsy footings sitting on top of the dirt that held up the house. The plan was to remove the dirt and hide a large footing in a wall that would hold the weight of the house. Since this would create a room that was half underground there would also be a new French drain to handle any water that seeped out the uphill side.

Scott set about using a rented electric jackhammer to dig out the dirt. Though we weren't aware of any decomposed granite on our lot, we were surprised the dirt was undisturbed DG with lots of round cobblestones of different sizes mixed in. We piled the rocks outside the backdoor and threw the dirt over the large 15-foot high wall at the east end of the pool. When it came time to connect the new sinks, shower, toilet and laundry room to the sewer line, the contractor informed us that the sewer line was on the other side of the house and would require a pump behind the master bedroom to get to the sewer line. We really hated this idea, mainly because it would likely be very noisy in the bedroom. However, behind the bedroom was also a room with the heater and water heater for the house. I had noted that there was a fairly new looking drain under



Scott Borden digging below the house

the water heater that I believed terminated in the matching pipe two stories below the house. So, the plumber ran water down it to make sure and then pressurized it for several days to see if it had any leaks.

Sure enough, it was in great shape and could be used to connect the sewer except for one problem: it was on the wrong side of the property. So, to reach the sewer line, he dug a diagonal trench across the hill and tied into the very old cast-iron sewer line. Once the trench was covered, we had the first sort of walkable pathway that cut across the hill.

Within days we were busy buying more blocks and creating a new stairway next to the new sewer line. To stabilize the steep slope, some very large retaining walls were built above the new pathway. Halfway down the pathway I was able to put a large circular landing. Someone had previously reroofed the house and thrown the broken roof tile down the hill. I used the tile and other debris on the hill to create a star-shaped mosaic pattern on top of the landing. As we dug into the hill we found bricks, concrete blocks, and big chunks of broken up concrete that looked like it must have been a patio. Apparently, the very cracked decking around the pool had already been replaced at least once. We also found several broken concrete fruit baskets. I used these to create rubble retaining walls. Most are now hidden from view by plants.

I used some of the dirt that came from under the house to shore up the small pathway that ran behind the pool wall. This created a way to get from the new steps and back to the gate into the pool area. I also used some of the dirt to create a small patio just outside the pool area that serves as a landing for several of the walkways and steps going up and down the hill. To the west side of it, I dug a 2-foot trench and lined it with chicken wire and landscape cloth and used the rocks from under the house to create a dry creekbed down the hill. excited; this project tripled the available planting area of the garden.



Dry creek and more stairs

~~~~~  
Jim Bishop is President of the 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:

Herb Brown  
Julia Coleman  
Patricia Frinell  
Trisha Lynn Haslam  
Wyatt Hayes  
Montri Klaiudom  
Claudia Kuepper

Mike Kwak  
Sue Lasbury  
Susan Lenz, PhD  
Johanna Mall  
Betsy McQuillan  
Allison Miles  
Jesse "Miles" Miles

Carol Moseley  
Carola Naegele  
Deborah Read-Ostner  
Ed Roxburgh  
Christina Schwarz  
Jack Wadlington

## HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2015; 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.

Diedre Avery (1)  
Jim Bishop (4)  
Deborah Brenner (1)  
Sharon Corrigan (2)  
Shirey Doig (1)  
Claire Ehrlinger (1)  
Susan Getyina (1)  
Marilyn Guidroz (3)  
Wyatt Hayes (1)  
Heather Hazen (1)

Joyce James (1)  
Nelda Johnson (1)  
John Kramer (1)  
Dannie McLaughlin (1)  
Naomi McLean (1)  
Barbara Metz (1)  
Allison Miles (1)  
Francie Murphy (1)  
Joan Oliver (1)  
Laird Plumleigh (1)

Deborah Polich (1)  
Kathy Puplava (1)  
Barbara Raub (1)  
Marylyn Rinaldi (1)  
Catherine Robinson (1)  
David Ross (1)  
Tammy Schwab (1)  
Jeanne Skinner (1)  
Lynda Waugh (1)

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## LIFE MEMBERS \*Horticulturist of the Year

\*Chuck Ades (2008)  
\*Walter Andersen (2002)  
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper  
\*Bruce & Sharon Asakawa (2010)  
Gladys T. Baird  
Debra Lee Baldwin  
\*Steve Brigham (2009)

Laurie Connable  
\*Julian (2014) & Leslie Duval  
\*Edgar Engert (2000)  
Jim Farley  
Sue & Charles Fouquette  
Caroline James  
Joyce James  
Debbie & Richard Johnson  
\*Vince Lazaneo (2004)

\*Brad Monroe (2013)  
\*Bill Nelson (2007)  
Deborah & Jack Pate  
\*Kathy Puplava (2015)  
Tina & Andy Rathbone  
\*Jon Rebman (2011)  
Mary Rodriguez  
Peggy Ruzich  
Gerald D. Stewart

\*Susi Torre-Bueno (2012)  
& Jose Torre-Bueno  
Dorothy Walker  
Lucy Warren  
\*Evelyn Weidner (2001)  
\*Pat Welsh (2003)  
Betty Wheeler

## DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

(see ads for more discounts)

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

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

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Let's Talk Plants! July 2015, No. 250



## Sculpture in the Garden At San Diego Botanic Garden

Now – May 2016

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– Paul Cezanne,  
French Artist (1839 – 1906)

San Diego Botanic Garden has a rich heritage of garden art, both natural and man-made. Our 37-acre urban oasis provides the beautiful natural setting for this year's Sculpture in the Garden – a collection of 42 works supplied by 27 artists, including renowned local artist James Hubbell.

Visitors are invited to engage with these diverse creations set against a unique backdrop of dragon trees, rare fruit gardens, bamboo groves, tranquil ponds, and other natural settings. Ranging from the whimsical to the abstract, each piece has been carefully placed to help guests visualize these stunning works of art in their own gardens. All of the sculptures on display are for sale as part of the Garden's fund-raising effort.

Sculpture in the Garden is on display from 9 am – 5 pm daily through May 2016. Visitors are invited to take a self-guided tour with a sculpture map that can be obtained at the Welcome Center. 🌿



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■ **Water** Continued from page 9

being expensive, it gets quite hot. Our local high school football field, made of synthetic turf, has to be hosed down on hot days just so the kids can practice. Advice if you care about your feet: don't walk around on synthetic turf on a hot July day. Oh, and make sure when your dog Buddy sees your new turf as his new bathroom, you'd better be quick with the hose. I mean *really really* quick to reduce the lingering smells and flies. It's just not the same as real grass.

Some people are spray painting their lawns. But what does that do to the grass and the insects living in it? The paint doesn't kill the grass completely, and back it will come, possibly somewhat damaged, next winter. What about the environmental impact? And you are going to have to repaint it often to keep it green. Who's going to clean up the mess when the dead grass starts flying around? And will your Mr. Whiskers show up on your indoor carpet with green stains on his paws?

The big question is this: Should we even have lawns in a place where our water is imported and there is not enough for everyone? I say, one size doesn't fit all. You have choices. But embrace the change and look to a landscape that both conserves water and protects the environment.

Visit my blog at [TheDirtonwater.com](http://TheDirtonwater.com) to see my latest rants or at [Jeanne@jeannemeadow.com](mailto:Jeanne@jeannemeadow.com). 🌿



## Art In Bloom

### ART IN BLOOM WELCOMES YOU Balboa Park's Spanish Village, July 24-26

The fifth Annual Art in Bloom, combining the talents of area artists and floral designers, will take place Friday to Sunday, July 24-26, at Spanish Village Art Center in Balboa Park. We are delighted with the community response to this event. Free and open to the public, the annual event is set in the picturesque courtyard of Spanish Village, where original art works in various media will be displayed side by side with their fresh flower interpretations.

Meet the artists and floral designers, and see them demonstrate their creativity during a walking tour of 37 working artist studios. Enjoy refreshments and live music on the patio. Sales benefit the historic Spanish Village Art Center, which for more than 80 years has preserved and enhanced this flourishing arts community.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, July 25-26. Opening reception with light refreshments is 4-6 p.m. on Friday, July 24.

The Spanish Village Art Center is at 1770 Village Place, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101; info: (619) 233-9050 and [svacartinbloom.blogspot.com](http://svacartinbloom.blogspot.com). 🌿



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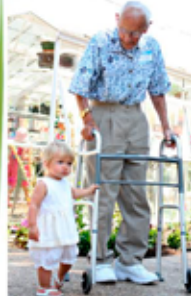
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## SHARING SECRETS

Edited by Dayle Cheever

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 July was: How have the drought requirements changed your gardening habits or plans?**

**Christine Vargas:** Adding more and more rain barrels and planting more and more cacti and succulents!

**Sue Lasbury:** Nothing has changed in my garden in response to our drought. Natives and drought tolerant plants in my garden make that possible. I am, however, starting to think about systems to collect rain water and reuse grey water.

**Gail Nye:** Taking out the front lawn and putting in native plants.

**Richard Cooke:** The two actions I have taken are: 1) Replace rainbird sprinklers, currently covering an area newly planted with French lavender, with a drip system. 2) Purchased a chipper/shredder that generates mulch that I can use throughout the backyard, to reduce weeks and retain moisture.

**Annie Arquhart:** I put down straw under my fruit bearing trees.

**Stephen Zolezzi:** YES - I started changing planting nine years ago with the big freeze. That's about when the cost of water started to increase too, resulting in a big makeover to a much less thirsty pallet of plantings and it's worked very well. Not so sure for this summer and early fall, with all the new drought rules and penalties. Most troubling concern is how aggressively the campaign is for turning in your neighbors who may be wasting water. This tends to bring out the worst in people. Let's all hope El Nino opens up the skies this season.

**Debra Lee Baldwin:** I added a trigger sprayer to the end of the hose I use to water my containers and window boxes. The spray goes precisely where I want it to and nothing's wasted.

**Connie Forest:** I have lots of potted plants. I am going to try and get in the habit of saving my nightly bath water and using it the next day to water my plants. It will be a lot more work but it will allow me to continue to have plants that require more water, like annuals and some perennials.

**Marc Stonebraker:** We have decided to remove all lawn in our yard (approximately 2000 square feet total) and replace it with hardscape and low maintenance/low water plants, emphasizing those that attract birds, hummingbirds, and butterflies.

**Patty Vickery:** Several years ago I deleted over thirty rose bushes. I have been collecting rainwater for many years also. I take short showers and don't run water in the bathroom unnecessarily. We don't flush the toilets every time so I can use enough water for my roses. I don't know what more I can do.

**Barbara Huntington:** I find it much easier to weed my new drought tolerant front yard!



**Vivian Black:** I keep a close watch on the weather and since I have a very abundant garden, I need to drip water everywhere. I have three rain barrels; two-250 gallon and one-75 gallon, and as soon as I feel I have maxed them out, I use them. Also I use my koi pond filter water, about 100 gallons of waste water (rich green algae water, 2-3 times a year). My main watering is done around 6 a.m., three times a week for 5 minutes, and everything is on either a low spray or a drip system. I can control the watering system manually and I do if I think it's going to rain, I turn it off. If it doesn't rain I turn it on before nightfall. I also collect shower water and sink water and use that in the garden. Plus I do grey water in three places; two reverse osmosis machines at two sinks and my washing machine is piped into the garden and on a pineapple guava tree. I used to water longer than 5 minutes (7-9 minutes) but it seems that 5 minutes is working for now.

**Marlaine Hubbard:** Removed all grass from the front yard, reduced 25% of the grass in the backyard. I replaced the lawn with succulents/pots/decomposed granite and hardscape.

**Cheryl Leedom:** I'm in the process of converting to micro-sprayers in the garden, wherever possible. I've also hauled in several truckloads of compost and mulch for spreading under the citrus trees and around the rest of the garden so I can cut back on the amount of water they will need. In researching this I discovered that the mulch should not be deeper than four inches or it can actually kill the plants and trees. This was news to me! So I guess more isn't always better.

**Ava Torre-Bueno:** I bought my house in 1996 and proceeded to not water at all. In 1998 I covered what was left of my "lawn" with newspaper and then cactus mix and put in a drought tolerant cactus and succulent garden. In normal years I only watered once a month, May through November and then let Mother Nature deliver her bounty through the winter. In the last few years I have had to water once a month, in the winter and twice a month in the summer; and still, I have lost a few plants to the drought. I follow the rules for which day and time I can water and it is no problem at all. I am ecstatic to see that my next door neighbors have taken out their lawn and will be taking cuttings and pups from my garden to start their own low-water landscape.

**Linda Jones:** I am in the process of removing lawns, removing thirsty plants (palms) and planting California natives. I am also planning how to group plants by water needs more efficiently. I still have to have flowers, fragrance and some food in my garden so I am trying to balance these with less water.

**Deirdre Swanson:** The water issues have absolutely made an impact on how I approach gardening. Coming from the Texas Gulf Coastal area, I already had to rethink my gardening passion. Lately I have adjusted my water usage down by a greater degree. I look at every plant I bring into my garden as a resource commitment and I am changing out all of my thirsty plants for lower water plants. I have designated one area that I allow more water; my raised vegetable beds. They receive hand watering only, so I keep a close eye on water usage. It has been a lot of fun so far making the conversion, but I still have far to go!

**Joan Braunstein:** Recently I heard about "diaper gardening." The gel used in diapers to hold liquid will also hold water near a plant's roots, when a handful is added to the planting hole. I planted several mints out of the irrigation zone and they showed a need for water every two or three days. I tucking a handful of the crystals from a clean diaper under each plant and now they go a week or

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more between watering. I add water to the crystals before using; they expand considerably into a gel-like substance. I don't know what the crystals are made of or if they are good for the soil, and would be interested in any feedback.

**Nancy Carter:** The current drought has changed nothing for me because I have removed grass and lawns and maintained a low-water garden at each house I've owned since moving to California more than 30 years ago.

**Linda Canada:** We have taken out a swimming pool and replaced the surrounding grassy areas with a rock hardscape and drought tolerant/low water requiring plants. I love the change for its lower maintenance requirements, as well as the water savings!

**Dale Serafin:** Yes, all of the grass is out except for the weeds and the replacement is silver carpet. I am watering twice a week and spraying with a weed and grass killer and praying and hoping for the best.

**Sherri Hannan:** Yes, to your question. We are placing a bucket in the shower and using the water to water our plants on our veranda. We are not planting in an area we had planned to. We are more careful with water when hand watering and we are taking out a medium sized lawn. We are on 1/3 of an acre on a corner lot and trying to figure out what to do with a large front and side lawn.

**Ken Blackford:** The drought has not affected my habits as much because I've been very conservative with my use of water now for several years, having already eliminated the lawn and migrating to more drought tolerant plants. My plans, however, have changed. I am planning an addition and upgrades to the house and want to incorporate a grey-water diversion/retention system, along with a cistern of some kind for rain water diversion/retention. While perhaps these won't provide enough water to last through our long dry season, it may make the difference between life and death, for some of the plants I love.

**Marylyn Rinaldi:** We let our grass die; we changed one additional sprinkler station to drip, and incorporated more hardscape.

**Enid and Mark Sherman:** We will get rid of our grass and do a succulent and native plant front yard.

**Catherine Tylka:** Well, I used to wine water my garden by hand. I'd get a glass of wine, go out around dinner time or after and slowly drink wine and water by hand some areas that didn't get water from anyone by God. Well those days are over. I am only doing the birdie watering that I schedule on my timers and what lives, will live; sad to say good-bye to the wine watering. Steve Bingham taught me this; he called it beer watering. Anyway, we will see how the garden survives without my help!

**Bridget Grier:** I planted three dwarf fruit trees in the same hole with a three gallon olla in the center. An olla is a terra cotta vessel that you bury then plant around it. You fill it 2-3 times a week and the water seeps out slowly and the plants roots grow towards it.

**Cindy Sparks:** Sometimes it just happens that things work out perfectly. I am about to begin some construction on the house and it means trashing the entire front yard for a few weeks or months, so I am turning off all the sprinklers there, which will save water. Not that much actually, as my front meadow got watered once every 14 days, but still it should make a measurable difference. Also, today I checked all the controller programs and reworked the "omit" days to align with the city's new requirements. I'm considering killing off the low-chill



sweet cherry trees I tried so hard to foster. They do give me cherries, a very small harvest because I keep them to a very small space, but they require pruning twice a year (keeps them small), feeding, netting before harvest, un-netting after harvest, and of course deep watering. All that isn't really worth the precious water I give them. So off with their heads!

**Gerald D. Stewart:** Most of what can be done has been done. The lawn was removed back in the 1980's; irrigation is on time clocks that are always off, turned on only occasionally when manually tripping the various stations; plants that require frequent irrigation are grouped together while generally plants that don't like the rare irrigation have always been encouraged to die quickly, to make room for something that will enjoy a low water environment. That said, to reduce overall water use, some areas of the acre that require regular irrigation have been eliminated (Dahlia Dell, for example) and others are severely reduced so that difficult-to-replace cultivars are minimally saved (Canna Court provides the biggest reduction in this category). Another major change is I've become devout and find myself, frequently when in the garden, praying.... for rain.

**Brett Ecker:** The recent drought has peaked my already existing fascination with succulents and other drought tolerant plants. I would very much like to take out lawn and other thirsty plantings from my landscape. I think I will do that, just a little bit sooner now.

**Greg Rubin:** In our case, the drought has simply intensified our efforts. We are no longer doing any conventional sod installations, although we have been converting lots of existing lawns to buffalo grass, as well as native sedges. Or we have been ripping out lawns altogether and replacing them with native landscaping. One of the other interesting outcomes from the drought declaration is that people are delaying ANY type of installation until cooler weather, this fall. Although I fully understand their thinking, we are finding that the more frequent, establishment watering is still less water intensive (in most cases) than what is being replaced. It is fairly easy to run the analysis. Contractors are as busy as they've ever been; my fear is being slammed all at once this fall and there not being enough qualified contractors or plants to accommodate it. On the other hand, people who already have water efficient landscapes are being unfairly penalized for the wastefulness of others. I would prefer that the water agencies come up with different criteria like maximum usage based on landscape square footage. I guess no good deed goes unpunished, right?

**Marsha Bode:** Mostly I have stopped planting so many plants, even drought tolerant ones. I water my lime trees (property is a former lime grove) just enough to keep them alive. I water the vegetable garden by hand when it needs it, putting water at the bases of the plants instead of watering all the surrounding dirt. The little rain we had in late spring and the overcast days have been a real bonus for me.

**Charlotte Getz:** We are in the process of converting all of our pop-up sprinklers to drip. We are using Netafim, and it works very well.

**Steve Brigham:** You wouldn't think of the Mendocino coast as having climate like Santa Barbara, but that's the way it's been here for the past three years. Fortunately, all the plants in my garden are ones that grew well in San Diego, and so even with global warming, they're all right at home here now! Last year was the third and fourth year in the ground for all the drought-tolerant plants in my relatively

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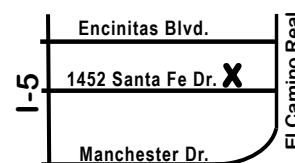
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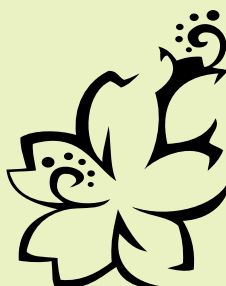
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new garden and they went through the whole summer without water, just fine, with no ill effects (we have a cool ocean climate here, so it never gets very hot). This year, just to be on the safe side, I'm mulching heavily with wood chips, but I've sure got more free time now that my garden is established and fully drought-tolerant and I don't have to water. We do have to try and save water here these days, so I'd be a hypocrite if I did water my garden this year. So this year I just plain won't water anything except for the pots of flowers on my deck and my vegetable garden, and I know everything will be fine. Thank goodness for drought-tolerant plants!

**Chuck Ades:** The biggest problem I have, which I just became aware of when I posted my water bills for the last three years, is that I have used the hoses in the yard indiscriminately, just grabbing whichever I happen to be near when I saw I had to apply additional water. When I posted my water usage, I saw that the usage changed a lot depending upon which hose I used; the one connected to the house meter or the lot meter. So, now, I have to consult my 2013 bills to decide which hose I should use during each billing period. I bet there are others the same as I am who did not look at their previous bills!

**Steve Wallet and Lisa Rini:** I have discovered that my spiderweb broom works GREAT in the garden! I hand water most of my plants (air plants/orchids/bromeliads) and often found a quick squirt of water effectively removed garden cobwebs. This past year I stopped using my water squirt technique and started using my spiderweb broom outside. It works like a charm removing stubborn webs on even delicate plants. So now I do a quick pass with the spiderweb broom before I water. I am hooked, even though my neighbors look at me like I am crazy as I "dust off" my plants!

**Greg and Connie Hunter:** Using a lot less water these days. For the past several months, all new plants are drought tolerant.

**Sue Fouquette:** We are getting pretty serious about saving water. Charley has always saved rainwater off the greenhouse roof, in big tanks, and for years we have put a big trash can out to collect rainwater from the gutter over our kitchen porch. Lately, we have been collecting grey water from the washing machine and the kitchen sink, in buckets and watering cans. These are heavy when full and carrying them to plants is going to give me Popeye biceps.

**Joanne Fishman:** Last year I redid a couple areas of my property with drought tolerant plants. This is what it looks like now. I am planning to plant "chaparral" on the hill in the fall. 🌿



## JANE MINSHALL

### Our 2006 Horticulturist of the Year Passes Away at 95

We were saddened to learn that Jane Minshall, our 2006 Horticulturist of the Year, passed away recently at the age of 95. A San Diego native, Jane grew up in rural Mission Hills, and saw tremendous changes over the years. Jane was the first female landscape architect to practice in San Diego, and in 1947 was hired to head a huge project landscaping the city's public schools, a job she excelled at for 30 years. She was among the first to use water-thrifty Australian and South African plants in public landscapes, and helped start the San Diego chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Read more about this important horticulturist, who was also a charming woman of many talents, at [sdhort.org/Hort-of-the-Year/999961](http://sdhort.org/Hort-of-the-Year/999961). She'll be missed by her friends and family. 🌿



### ■ Real Dirt Continued from page 4

The spineless cactus recommend as cattle feed by his friend Luther Burbank did not prove successful. London also planted a lot of grapes before he realized that it cost more to ship them than he could sell them for. He did recoup some funds by selling grape juice! In an attempt to reforest his lands, he bought 80,000 eucalyptus seedlings. He had planned to sell the trees for lumber. But the experiment backfired. The trees grew more quickly in California than Australia, and when the wood was lumbered it warped and cracked. London's experiment was responsible for causing a eucalyptus boom in CA.

Jack was a visionary with extraordinary passion and energy, but he still needed to dedicate time to earn a living from his writing and lecturing. He hired his stepsister, Eliza London Shepard, to be his Ranch Superintendent. The combination of Jack and Eliza proved to be near perfect! Jack did all of the planning, and when he was not there, Eliza carried out his plans with perfection. Jack's achievement is captured in this quote, "I ride over my beautiful ranch. Between my legs is a beautiful horse. The air is wine. The grapes on a score of rolling hills are red with autumn flame. The afternoon sun smolders in the drowsy sky. I have everything to make me glad I am alive."

Note: London's Farm is now a State Historic Park, a great place to visit when you are in the Sonoma area!

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## JUNE NIGHT AT THE FAIR

By Ellie Knight

San Diego Horticultural Society held its annual *Night at the Fair* event on June 8th at the Del Mar Fairgrounds in the Flower and Garden Show exhibit area. Members were able to view the exhibits and meet talented designers on an evening when the San Diego County Fair is closed to the general public.

The program for the evening also included a short presentation by the San Diego County Water Authority, who sponsored our charming and evocative Alcázar Garden exhibit, which was designed by president Jim Bishop. Marilyn Guidroz supervised student interns from MiraCosta College's horticulture program, who installed the plants and painted mock tiles, etc. on the asphalt floor. The exhibit celebrates the Centennial of the 1915 Exposition in Balboa Park.

The main feature of the program of the evening was the presentation of our award for Horticulturist of the Year to Kathy Puplava, an important advocate for Balboa Park horticulture, and the first Horticulturist hired by the Park. Lucy Warren, a close friend and colleague, provided an engaging introduction for Kathy, detailing her considerable accomplishments. After Kathy's remarks about her time in Balboa Park, and some sage life wisdom, celebratory cake was provided for all. 🍰

### Fair Awards We Gave - see page 8



Kim Alexander (3)



Janet Ward (2)



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### ■ Fair Awards Continued from page 8

vibrant display which combined San Diego County native plants with a nod (in plants, music, and art) to the World Beat Center in Balboa Park.

Our Don & Dorothy Walker Award for Most Outstanding Exhibit went to **Gigi LoPatriello** of Gigi LoPatriello Artful Design & Landscapes ([gigi.lopatriello@gmail.com](mailto:gigi.lopatriello@gmail.com)). Her charming garden featured "two types of dry summer gardens inspired by Balboa Park's succulent gardens and bird friendly gardens." It included some California natives, water-thrifty and color succulents and grasses, and artwork with scenes of Balboa Park.

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### ■ See Us at the Fair Continued from page 7

**Award:** Presented to the garden which exemplifies outstanding horticultural/landscaping features/characteristics in a garden show display. Donated by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

- **Featured Theme Garden Winner, First Place**
- **Unique Color Landscape Award, First Place:** Presented to the most unique display of colorful foliage plants in a display.
- **Cuyamaca College Botanical Society Award:** For the best presentation of the landscape display in the drawn landscape plan. Design features such as ease of reference, accuracy of plant identification (botanical and common), layout; presence of design characteristics (directional arrow, Statement of Purpose) and color presentation are some of the criteria. Judging by faculty members of Cuyamaca College Horticulture Department. Donated by the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society.
- **Conceptual Landscape Plan Award, First Place:** Presented to the best graphic representation of the installed landscape display.
- **Award Of Merit:** Judged on the quality of plant material, practicality of design, presentation of conceptual design, visual appeal of installed design, and educational value, including labeling.



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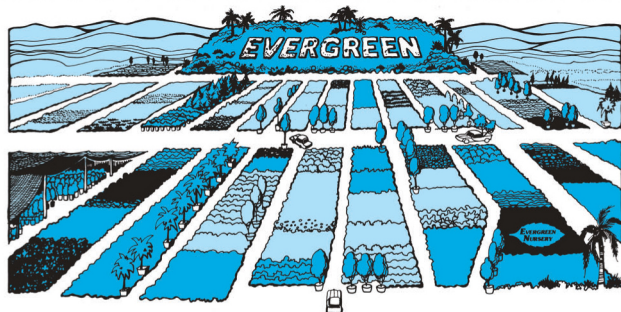


## What's Happening? for JULY 2015

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@sdhort.org](mailto:calendar@sdhort.org).

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##### EL CAJON

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

## Events at Public Gardens

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

#### July 4: Dinner & Fireworks.

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

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

July 12, 9am-noon, Living Wall / Vertical Garden: Learn the basics of planting a living wall. We will be planting a 10" x 20" wall comprised of a variety of succulents. Members \$30, non-members \$36. Register by July 3.

July 18, 9am-noon, Build Your Own Hydroponic Summer Garden: Learn principles of the hydroponic wick method by building a sustainable garden to take home. Members \$75, non-members \$90. Register by July 10.

July 25-26, 10am-4pm, Insect Festival: This one-of-a-kind event features thousands of fascinating creepy-crawlies including live insects, lizards, snakes, and the famous "Madagascar hissing cockroaches." Children can practice bug collecting, hands-on insect arts and crafts, and even taste cooked mealworms. Experts available for questions; more than 20 info booths will teach and entertain children and adults alike. Cost: Free for members and children 12 and under. Non-members free with paid admission.

❖ **The Water Conservation Garden**

Contact info on other side

July 11, 10am-noon, Habitat Gardening: The process of creating a water-saving habitat garden. Non-Members \$10. Registration is required.

July 26, 6-7:30pm, An Evening Of Music In The Garden: Fund raising concert is an outstanding evening of pops, classics, marches, and brand-new compositions. Info & tickets: [www.SanDiegoConcertBand.com](http://www.SanDiegoConcertBand.com).

## Events Hosted by SDHS Sponsors

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

◆ **Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops**

Info: [www.barrelsandbranches.com](http://www.barrelsandbranches.com) or (760) 753-2852. See ad on page 17.

◆ **Cedros Gardens, Saturday & Sunday FREE classes.**

See [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**

July 18, 10:30, Vegetable Gardening Lecture: Successes and failures in your spring/summer gardens and preparing for fall/ winter planting. Why is my lettuce bolting? Where did the aphids come from? RSVP: (858) 472-6059 or [roy@sunshinecare.com](mailto:roy@sunshinecare.com). Info: [www.sunshinecare.com](http://www.sunshinecare.com). See ad on page 13.

◆ **Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes**

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

#### Point Loma, 9am

July 11 Summer Color

July 18 TBA

July 25 Garden Trends Now

#### Poway, 9:30am

Container Gardening

Fruit Tree Pruning & Care

Landscaping with Herbs

◆ **Weidners' Gardens classes & workshops**

See [www.weidners.com](http://www.weidners.com) or call (760) 436-2194.

## Next SDHS Meeting

July 13

## Rush to Restios

See page 1 & website for details

## More garden-related events on other side

**Other Garden-Related Events:**  
Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

**Free Workshop: Details on page 2**

**Container Planting & Gardening**

Saturday, July 11, 9:30 a.m., Poway

Landscape designer Carol Fuller shares her tips on designing, planting & caring for wonderful container gardens.

To register go to [www.sdhort.org](http://www.sdhort.org) and click on the workshop link.

**July 12, noon-2pm, Plumeria Society:** Plant Hormones, How they work and affect the growth of our plants. Balboa Park, War Memorial Building, 3325 Zoo Drive. FREE. Info: [www.socalplumeriasociety.com](http://www.socalplumeriasociety.com).

**July 25 (noon-5pm) & 26 (10-5pm) Orchid Society Summer Show:** Exotic orchids to view and purchase, more! Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101. FREE. Info: [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com).

**July 24-26, 11 am – 5pm, Art in Bloom:** See article on page 12. Original art works in many media will be displayed side by side fresh floral interpretations. Info: (619) 233-9050 and [svacartinbloom.blogspot.com](http://svacartinbloom.blogspot.com).

**August 7, 8 & 9, Rare Fruit Grower's The Festival of Fruit:** "The Year of the Drought Tolerant Fruits." See article page 8. Dynamic speaker presentations, products and cultural practices that can be used to help reduce water, fruit tastings and more. 404 Euclid Ave., San Diego. Info: [www.crfgsandiego.org](http://www.crfgsandiego.org).

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

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

**For an extensive list of garden club meetings and events, visit**

**[sdfloral.org/calendar.htm](http://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: \$14/adults, \$10/seniors, \$8/kids 3-12; parking \$2. Free to members and on the first Tuesday of every month. (760) 436-3036; [www.SDBGarden.org](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. Info., events, road conditions, etc.: (760) 767-5311 or [www.desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html](http://www.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 [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 [www.lifestyletalkradio.com](http://www.lifestyletalkradio.com).

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