Let’s Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

June 2015, Number 249

SDHS Night at the Fair

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On the Cover: Alcazar Garden in Balboa Park
SPECIAL EVENT: **SDHS Night at the Fair Gardens**

**Plus 2015 Horticulturist of the Year Presentation**

**Monday, June 8, 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. Free celebratory cake!**

At 6 p.m., at the Flower & Garden Show Stage, President Jim Bishop will present the Horticulturist of the Year Award to Kathy Puplava. Kathy was the first horticulturist at Balboa Park, and her lasting legacy includes mapping and studying the trees and making major improvements - see article on page 8.

**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 Vallo). 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.
2015 Paul Ecke Jr.
FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW STAGE SCHEDULE

Sat. June 6  ENVIRO FAIR - LOCALLY GROWN FESTIVAL
10:30 am  The Drought and Watersmart Landscapes, San Diego County Water Authority – Carlos Michelon
11:45 am  Loren Nancarrow Tribute
12:00 pm  Women, Farming and Food / California Women in Agriculture
1:30 pm  Get Acquainted with the River Park /San Dieguito River Park – Leana Bulay
3:00 pm  Sustainable Flooring Options for the Modern Homeowner / Cali Bamboo– Sarah Coryell

Sun. June 7  FLOWER FESTIVAL
10:30 am  Barbara Clark – Create Beautiful and Lasting Floral Arrangements for your home and gifts
12:00 pm  Scott Barnes – A Year in the Life of a Cattle Ranch
1:30 pm  Jamie Wynn Kales – From the Grape Press to the Petal
3:00 pm  Barbara Conrad – Raising African Violets

Wed. June 10  FLORAL SPEAKERS
12:00 pm  Diana Kilmer – What Judges Look for in a Winning Rose
1:30 pm  Sam Chiem – Wedding Trends and DIY Weddings
3:00 pm  Cheryl Gregory – A Novelty Arrangement

Thurs. June 11  ORCHID DAY
1:30 pm  Orchid Basics / Calavo Gardens - Bennie Machado
3:00 pm  Orchids of Australia for Outside in San Diego / Fouquette Orchids - Charley Fouquette

Fri. June 12  CACTUS & SUCCULENT DAY
1:30 pm  How to Make Miniature Succulent Garden Art / Singing Gardens – Roxanne Kim-Perez
3:00 pm  Under the Spell of Succulents / Deeter-Buckner Design - Michael Buckner & Solana Succulents – Jeff Moore

Sat. June 13  TOAST OF THE COAST WINE FESTIVAL

Sun. June 14  6th ANNUAL FLORAL DESIGN COMPETITION
Master of Ceremonies:  David Root – Final Step on the way to top 10 competition
Mid-Day Demonstrator:  Jamie Wynn Kales - The Sicilian Wine Marsala

Wed. June 17  BONSAI DAY
1:30 pm  Bonsai Basics / San Diego Bonsai – Abe Far
3:00 pm  The Art of Bonsai / San Diego Bonsai – Glenn Jensen

Thurs. June 18  ROSE DAY – Beautiful roses throughout the gardens
11:00 am  Diana Kilmer
12:00 pm  Kathy Reed – How to Grow Beautiful Roses
1:30 pm  Jamie Wynn Kales - Color of the Year in Flowers
3:00 pm  Cheryl Gregory

Fri. June 19  PROPAGATING PLANTS DAY
1:30 pm  Propagating From Cuttings / San Diego Geranium Society – Jim Zemcik
3:00 pm  Hands-On Propagation Workshop / UCCE Master Gardener – Dawn Standke

Sat. June 20  INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY DAY Customs & Costumes Celebrated

Sun. June 21  IKEBANA DAY –Master of Ceremonies:  Jackie Zhang
– A Top Rank Ikebana Master, qualified by the Ohara School of Ikebana:  Headquarters, Tokyo, Japan

Tue. June 23  FLORAL SPEAKERS
12:00 pm  Jerry Beck – The DJ/MC Can Make or Break Your Wedding Day
1:30 pm  Maureen Slottje – Let’s Go Jammin of Mo’s Berry Patch
3:00 pm  Edee Johnson – Floral Design
**Wed. June 24**  
**GROW YOUR OWN FOOD DAY**  
1:30 pm Amazing Herbs / UCCE Master Gardener and Herb Specialist – Mary Friestedt  
3:00 pm Summer Veggies in Your Home Garden / Sunshine Care – Roy Wilburn

**Thurs. June 25**  
**HEALTHY SOIL DAY**  
1:30 pm Managing Your Difficult Soils / Agri Service – Mary Matava  
3:00 pm Down and Dirty…What’s In Good Dirt, and Why It Boosts Plant Health  
UCCE Master Gardener - Cindy Sparks

**Fri. June 26**  
**FLORAL SPEAKERS**  
12:00 pm Arlesia Cook – A Simply Made Arrangement encouraging audience participation  
1:30 pm Carolyn Jones  
3:00 pm Darlene Hill Karinen – Floral Designs from your Garden

**Sat. June 27**  
**BALBOA PARK GARDENS HISTORY and CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS**  
10:30 am Growing Balboa Park: 1868-1915 / Historian - Nancy Carol Carter  
12:00 pm Balboa Park Gardens: The Last Hundred Years/ Balboa Park Ranger - Kim Duclo  
1:30 pm Honoring Balboa Park Retirees  
3:00 pm Centennial Celebration…What’s Happening in Balboa Park  
Balboa Park 2015 District Manager - Mike Ruiz

**Sun. June 28**  
**MY BIG FAIR WEDDING – 6 BEAUTIFUL GARDEN WEDDINGS AND VOW RENEWAL**  
Master of Ceremonies: Jerry Beck

**Tue. June 30**  
**KIDS GARDENING DAY**  
1:30 pm Garden Bugs: the Good, the Bad & the Ugly / UCCE Master Gardener - Carol Graham  
3:00 pm Engaging Your Children in the Garden / UCCE Master Gardener – Jennifer Telford

**Wed. July 1**  
**COMPOSTING DAY**  
1:30 pm Let Worms Eat Your Garbage…and Make an Organic Soil Amendment – Shelley Grossman  
3:00 pm Composting 101 / Solana Center - Jennifer Galey

**Thurs. July 2**  
**BROMELIAD DAY**  
1:30 pm Water-Wise Bromeliads / San Diego Bromeliad Society – Nancy Groves  
3:00 pm Tillandsia Air Plant Care & Cultivation / Bird Rock Tropicals - Pamela Koide-Hyatt

**Fri. July 3**  
**GARDEN-TO-TABLE DAY**  
1:30 pm Tomatoes from Seed to Table / Sunshine Care – Roy Wilburn & “Tomato Queen” Karan Cooper Greenwald  
3:00 pm Tomatoes from Seed to Table / Sunshine Care – Roy Wilburn & “Tomato Queen” Karan Cooper Greenwald

**Sat. July 4**  
**STARS, STRIPES & STEMS FLORAL CONTEST**  
3:00pm Alba Reilly – Military Family Fun

**Sun. July 5**  
**WATER CONSERVATION DAY**  
12:00 pm Garden Abundance with Rainwater and Graywater / UCCE Master Gardener – Cindy Sparks  
1:30 pm Growing Food in a Challenging Environment / UCCE Master Gardener – Joyce Gemmell  
3:00 pm The Public Utilities Water Conservation Program / San Diego County Water Authority – Christopher Gehrki

**WWW.SDFAIR.COM**
Mandatory conservation measures include:

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

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

San Diego Bromeliad Society
2015 SHOW & SALE

- Saturday & Sunday, June 13 & 14
- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Casa del Prado, Room 101

SDBS is an affiliate of Bromeliad Society International.

http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html
2015 PAUL ECKE, JR. GARDEN SHOW
AT THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

Enjoy “A Walk in the Park”
featuring Balboa Park re-creations of:
☞ California Tower
☞ Spanish Village
☞ Botanical Building
☞ Spreckels Organ Pavilion
☞ Japanese Friendship Garden
☞ Historic Gardens
and much more!

Visit our all NEW Garden Market, Sprigs & Spirits craft cocktail bar
and Outdoor Living Spaces exhibits.

www.sdfair.com • June 5 – July 5
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
June 13 Colorful Foliage Plants for Low Water Gardens (FW)
– see page 2
July 11 Container Gardening (FW)
July 13 Martin Grantham on Rush to Restios: Choices for San Diego Gardens
August 8 Succulents - Pruning, Propagation, Care (FW)
August 10 California Bees & Blooms
September 14 Rebecca Sweet on Refresh Your Garden Design
September 18 Terrestrial Bromiliads (FW)
October 12 Nan Sterman on Hot Colors, Cool Gardens
October 17 Plant Propagation (FW)

www.sdhort.org

COVER IMAGE: The beautiful Alcazar Garden in Balboa Park, shown in the cover photo by Rachel Cobb, is the inspiration for our display garden at the Fair – see page 3.

SPECIAL EVENT on Monday, June 8th:
SDHS Night at the Fair Gardens

Plus 2015 Horticulturist of the Year Presentation to:
Kathy Puplava, First Balboa Park Horticulturist
5:30 – 7:45 PM
FREE PARKING! FREE ENTRY for SDHS Members!
See inside front cover for details
Free Workshop:
Colorful Foliage for your Low-Water Garden
Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m. to noon or 1 to 3 p.m.

Leaves come in a thousand shades of green, but also in silver, crimson, gold, black, pink, bronze, magenta and chartreuse. Learn why and how to use colorful foliage to enhance your garden. This workshop is also a garden tour, and showcases all types of plants, with an emphasis on low-water plants for our Mediterranean climate. Hundreds of plants are arranged in a series of themed gardens, and as we walk through the garden Susi will explain her foliage combinations and how to create year-long interest without relying on short-lived flowers for color and visual interest.

The workshop teacher, Susi Torre-Bueno, is the past-president of the San Diego Horticultural Society and editor of the SDHS newsletter, and has been a passionate gardener since the third grade, when she grew her first radish from seed. Class will be held on Saturday, June 13, and there are two sessions offered: 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; each is limited to 25 members. Carpooling is recommended. Additional details and registration are at sdhort.wildapricot.org/Workshops.

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)

Docents Wanted for Opening Night at the San Diego County Fair

There will be a special wine and cheese reception in the Flower & Garden Show this year on Opening Night, Friday, June 5. We need about a dozen people to lead tours of the display gardens. You’ll get free admission, a snazzy Fair 2015 shirt, and be among the first to see this year’s marvelous display gardens. If interested and available from approximately 4-8 p.m. on Friday, June 5, please look for the sign up info on our website under EVENTS.

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.

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.

San Diego Horticultural Society
Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS
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Cindy Benoit – Membership Chair
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Roy Wilburn - 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!
From The Board
By Jim Bishop

A Fair to Remember

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. Last year when I wrote the June column I remember thinking that it is highly improbable that we would have a fourth year of drought and another record of warm weather. However, I was proven wrong, as we continue to set new climate records almost every month. Still, people that live in much dryer and warmer climates than ours create beautiful and functional gardens. We can learn much from them.

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 6 through Sunday, July 5. You can pick your shift and signup on our website at www.sdhort.org.

A Walk in the Park

Our garden exhibit at the San Diego County Fair (see page 7) this year ties in with several current themes. The first is that in commemoration of the Centennial of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park, our exhibit is a recreation of the Alcazar Garden in Balboa Park. However, in 1915, this garden was called Los Jardines de Montezuma (Montezuma Garden). In 1935, architect Richard Requa modified the garden by adding two delightful water fountains and eight tile benches. The garden was renamed Alcázar as its design is patterned after the courtyard gardens of Alcázar Castle in Seville, Spain.

The second theme is that garden design ties in nicely with the gardens that were on our garden tour this past April. Many of the gardens emphasized using color and hardscape to define spaces and create year-round interest. Several also had impressive tile work, which we’ve modestly recreated in the exhibit.

The third theme is the importance of water. As I’m sure you are aware, we are in our fourth year of an historic drought. The garden demonstrates many water conservation ideas that also work in our home gardens. From the plant choices to the hardscape, our garden will inspire Southern Californians and show how they can have wonderful outdoor garden spaces without a lawn. In keeping with the water conservation theme, we are again this year sponsored by the San Diego County Water Authority (see ad on page 21 for more information about SDCWA and their programs). SDHS volunteers who staff our garden will be distributing SDCWA handouts about water conservation and their programs.

Horticulturist of the Year

On Monday, June 8th, at our “SDHS Night at the Fair” meeting we will honor Kathy Puplava as our 20th Horticulturist of the Year. In 1988, Kathy was hired as the first Balboa Park Horticulturist. See page 8 for information about Kathy. You may also learn about our previous 19 honorees online at 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.

Thanks to our New Member Orientation Hosts

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

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 June 30 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!
Most folks travel to Sonoma County for the wine, food, and film festivals. But, there is another great reason to visit—the Quarryhill Botanical Garden! This garden is located on forty acres northeast of Glen Ellen in the Mayacamas foothills.

The property was purchased by botanist Jane Davenport Jansen in 1968, and it had been burned by a large fire a few years prior to her purchase. The site was also home to the remains of several abandoned quarries, which had been mined for road base materials, hence the name Quarryhill. During the winters, heavy rain filled a steam running through the property, which gradually created a group of waterfalls and ponds.

In 1970, Jane planted a vineyard in an open area, but she didn’t begin gardens until the mid 1980s. She collaborated with landscape designer Roger Warner, and wanted to showcase his designs in the garden. Warner completed some of the garden’s conceptual designs and layout, but stopped work on the garden a few years later. Jane was then inspired by an Asian garden developed by Lord Charles Howick on his English estate. This inspiration lead to the development of a temperate Asian woodland garden. She hired a local landscape contractor, William McNamara, to install it.

If it seems odd that Jane would want to plant an Asian garden in a Mediterranean climate, she had good reasons! The Asian source for many of the world’s largest and diverse temperate plants had been closed for more than forty years, even though Asia’s population growth, development, and resource consumption had increased. These factors were leading to the depletion of resources and the threat of plant extinction. Jane had the perfect property for creating a habitat where the threatened plants could flourish and be preserved. The climate at Quarryhill (with dependable frost in winter and heat in summer) was very similar to the Asian native habitat, except for the rain cycle. California’s wet season is winter; while Asia’s is summer. This difference is actually beneficial, since it makes it less likely that an introduced plant might become invasive.

In the fall of 1987, Quarryhill representatives made their first seed collecting expedition to Asia. A nursery was established on the property, and the first plants were ready for the garden in 1990. For over 20 years, fall expeditions have been made to Asia to collect seeds to generate seedlings for spring planting. Today, Quarryhill is a world-renowned botanical institution featuring well over 25,000 wild-origin plants in a natural setting. The wild origin of these plants sets Quarryhill apart; it’s not only beautiful, it’s preserving species that are disappearing at an alarming rate. Quarryhill has partnerships with many scientific institutions in other countries, and provides plant material and research to others here and abroad.

In 2014, Quarryhill decided to enhance the garden experience by featuring one artist’s work each year. The first artist featured is

Continued on page 12
So you’ve turned off your spigot, thinking it was your civic duty. Ponder this: your grass is brown, and adjacent trees and shrubs are fading fast. Soon, there will be parched, impervious dirt underfoot, with non-native weeds taking up residence. Did you permanently displace your climate-cooling plants with green-dyed rugs (masquerading as turf), or coarse gravel mulches that trap more heat than pavement? And what happens when it finally rains? Flooding truly wastes water resources, and it’s largely caused by disruptions to healthy ecosystems. Is this really sustainable urban planning?

Although it’s not publicized, the San Diego County Water Authority’s Model Drought ordinance states that even during an emergency “Stage 4 drought,” trees and shrubs can still be watered and maintained. Why? Trees are green-infrastructure investments and long-lived, whereas perennials and lawns can be quickly and less expensively replaced. Trees intercept rainfall in their canopies, slow down runoff, and improve soil penetration, while recharging our groundwater. Their extensive root systems store excess water for future non-rainy days, and help control erosion. Unlike most plants, trees absorb limited rainfall very efficiently, and survive on minimal supplemental irrigation.

I’m not suggesting that if you plant a tree, a genie will magically pop into your yard, dropping down a personal water source; but what if we maximized the tree canopy in our region? San Diego residents apparently suck up about 66% of local water resources, and quick cuts to that are favored by water agencies. If we planted trees, lots of them, we could actually increase local water availability, not reduce it.

UCSD used algorithms from i-Tree to estimate that a “typical” mature tree intercepts 1,271 gallons of water annually, and Open Tree Map individually evaluated approximately 341,000 San Diego trees, guesstimated to be <10% of existing trees. Preliminary satellite data suggest we have about a 6% canopy, although western regions should strive for 25%, a goal set in recent climate action plans. Based on the available data, if we quadrupled our existing tree totals, we might intercept 53,200 acre feet of water, or roughly 10% of our county’s entire 2014 adjusted use of 505,295 acre feet/year. It would take awhile of course, even if we planted lots of saplings now; but it’s easier for residents to act, and not deplete our green spaces further by removing too much vegetation. Why wait for government to do something innovative?

Water agencies expect 20% cuts by policing scofflaws, leaks and ignorance, yet, isn’t it ironic that we might halve that need by simply planting more trees? There is also evidence that increasing our urban forest could affect weather patterns. Tree transpiration becomes clouds, and clouds bring rain.

**Interesting Links:**
- Drought Ordinance: tinyurl.com/June-treesplease-1
- UCSD's Tree Cover Report: tinyurl.com/June-treesplease-2
- UCSD's Tree Screening tools: tinyurl.com/June-treesplease-3
- UCSD's Tree Health Clinic: tinyurl.com/June-treesplease-4

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

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**Volunteer Spotlight**

**Last Chance for the Big Party**

By Patty Berg, Volunteer Coordinator

Every fall in early October, the Hort Society honors everyone who volunteered during the past year with the Volunteer Appreciation Party. It’s a great opportunity to meet fellow members, enjoy some good food and drink, and to treat yourself with a leisurely visit to a wonderful garden. I’m bringing it up now because you’re running out of time if you’ve been meaning to volunteer and just haven’t gotten around to it yet.

With the San Diego County Fair just days away, you might still be able to grab a shift as a Garden Host at our gorgeous display garden. It’s easy work and you get into the Fair for free – a savings of $15 this year. Check the website to see if there’s an open shift when you are available. Tell people about our garden and about SDHS, answer their questions and enjoy the fun fair atmosphere – that’s all there is to it.

Additionally, there’s a special wine and cheese reception on the opening night of the Fair, Friday, June 5. SDHS will be providing docents to lead tours through the Flower and Garden Show. So you’ll get to see all the display gardens at their freshest and also get the inside scoop.

There may still be a shift or two open for this as well, so do not delay – check the website.

If the Fair is just not your thing but you want to contribute your time and talents, contact me at any time for other opportunities. We always need help somewhere – after all, we’re a 100% volunteer organization. I’d love to hear from you at patt Berg@gmail.com or 760-815-0625. .

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Not every lepidopteran can be a Monarch butterfly, the glamour puss of the insect world. Some of them have to be moths. It’s just the way the world is.

The word “Lepidoptera” means scaly winged, which is what all butterflies and moths are; the tiny scales on butterfly and moth wings give them their colors, and in some cases, psychedelic patterns. Nature has not been fair to moths in many cases, having given most of the good stuff like bright orange and yellow and purple colors, etc. to butterfly species. Moths usually get shades of white, off-white, brown, gray, etc. Butterflies have cute little clubbed antennae; moths look like they’ve had a bad hair day, since their antennae are feathery, disheveled-looking structures. For the most part, butterflies’ bodies are smooth-looking and colorful while moths’ bodies are hairy, like werewolves. And, speaking of werewolves, who tend to wander around at night, so do moths, for the most part. Butterflies, of course, go flitting and twerking around during the daytime, inviting oohs and aahs from the average gardener. Butterflies are seen as benevolent insects; whereas the moth family includes the dreaded Tomato Hornworm, who lays waste to many a tomato plant.

However, most moth species are nonviolent creatures. They pollinate many types of plants, just like butterflies do. They provide meals to hungry bats and birds, keeping the ecological world spinning. And – hold on to your butterfly net – there are some moths that to death. How great is that?

Even though some moths may annoy you, be lenient. Follow the advice of that song by the Beatles: “When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Nature comes to me, speaking words of wisdom, let it be.”

Member Pat Pawlowski is a writer/lecturer/garden consultant who believes in moths.


Succulent Celebration
At Waterwise Botanicals on June 5 & 6

North San Diego County’s Waterwise Botanicals nursery and gardens, a sponsor of SDHS (see page 21), will be hosting for the 3rd time the spectacular two-day event, “Succulent Celebration,” on Friday and Saturday June 5th & 6th.

This one of a kind event in Southern California celebrates the versatility, beauty and popularity of these water-wise plants. Come to Waterwise Botanicals to enjoy a kaleidoscope of color, inspiration, creation and education on drought tolerant landscaping at its best. Meet exciting authors highlighting their books for purchase and signing.

All are invited to experience the “best garden event of the year” with acres of nursery and display gardens to explore with hands-on workshops, celebrated speakers, an outstanding assortment of succulents and low-water plants for sale, the chance to speak with the experts, arts and crafts vendors with garden friendly gifts, food vendors and more.

The event hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days, with free parking and admission. Event details can be seen at succulentcelebration.com.

Waterwise Botanicals, established in 2010, is a 20+ acre wholesale/retail nursery located in the rolling hills of North County, San Diego located just off Interstate 15, northwest of the highway at 32183 Old Hwy 395, Escondido, CA 92026.
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Spanish Gardens

The Alcázar garden in Balboa Park is patterned after the courtyard gardens of Alcázar Castle in Seville, Spain. The palace is renowned as one of the most beautiful in Spain. It is an exemplary example of the mudéjar architecture found on the Iberian Peninsula. Today it is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Spanish gardens developed incorporating principles and elements of garden design from precedents in ancient Persian gardens, Roman gardens, Islamic gardens, and the great Moorish gardens of the Al-Andalus era on the Iberian Peninsula. These gardens were created to represent paradise on earth.

Traditionally, the paradise garden is interpreted with a central cross axis, in the four cardinal directions, with long ponds or water channels where water reflects and flows, set in a walled courtyard. The quadrants often had fruit trees and fragrant plants. A clarity from the symmetrical simplicity often results. Ceramic elements and tiles are often used in water features, paving, pottery, and architectural adornment. Pathways are often paved with tiles or stonework, or they may be graveled. The hot and dry climate of Spain keeps most gardens from featuring large areas of grass. Shade is often used as a design element in a Spanish garden. Provisions for shade are given with the use of arcades, pergolas, trellising, and garden pavilions. Trellises, pergolas, and arbors provide places for visitors to escape the hot sun. Shaded sitting areas under small pavilions or gazebos are also common. Verandas or long shaded galleries may surround a formal garden, especially one at a large estate.

Plantings along paths or walkways are arranged with smaller plants in front and taller plants in the rear. Plants used vary widely, but fruit trees and flowering and fragrant plants are favorites. Herbs such as lavender and rosemary are found in almost every Spanish garden. Citrus, pomegranate, olive, cypress and other Mediterranean trees are also popular. Tropical and sub-tropical plants from Spain and other parts of the world, such as cacti, yucca, figs, palms, and bougainvillea are also common. Many flowering plants, succulents, and climbing plants can be found in a typical Spanish garden. Thus, characteristic sensory experiences are refreshing coolness, humidity, sounds, greenery, and fragrance. Creating a garden paradise that is compatible with the Spanish climate of sun and heat.

To Learn More...

Moorish Gardens

By Ava Torre-Bueno

On a hot day there is nothing as soothing and refreshing as sitting in a tranquil, walled Mediterranean garden, with water in the center; plants all around, and arched pergolas for shade. The plan for this kind of garden comes from the Romans through the Persians and the North Africans (Moors), all of whom loved water and used it extraordinarily efficiently in their dry environments. This excellent article from Pacific Horticulture has details about the design of Moorish gardens: tinyurl.com/moorish-1

To visit the epicenter of Moorish gardens, watch this lovely video. Gardens start about minutes 6 and 10, but the whole video is a love poem to The Alhambra. Don’t be fooled by the tranquility though. In reality, visiting The Alhambra is like going to Disneyland or Venice; choked with people mid-day: tinyurl.com/ Moorish-viedo

Here is a Flickr site with 1,689 photos of Moorish inspired gardens: flickr.com/groups/1707791@N21

Jeffry Bale probably embodies the Moorish aesthetic more than any other garden designer I know of. You can see his blogspot here: tinyurl.com/Jeffrey-Bale

See Us at the Fair!

June 5 – July 5

By Jim Bishop

Alcázar Garden Recreation

Our garden celebrates the Centennial of the Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park with a recreation of the Alcázar Garden designed by Richard Requa in 1935 (balboapark.org/in-the-park/alcazar-garden). This tranquil garden demonstrates the concepts of water conservation, low maintenance and sustainability. We’ve replaced the annual bedding plants in the inspiration garden with a low-water succulent tapistry. In the center of the garden the waterless fountain uses a large blue pot filled with colorful succulents.

Alcázar Garden in Balboa Park

During the 1915 Panama-California Exhibition, this garden was originally named Los Jardines de Montezuma (Montezuma Garden). In 1935, architect Richard Requa modified the garden by adding two delightful water fountains and eight tile benches. The garden was renamed Alcázar because its design is patterned after the courtyard gardens of Alcázar Castle in Seville, Spain. It is known for its ornate fountains, exquisite turquoise blue, yellow, and green Moorish tiles and shady pergola. The two water fountains were made with distinctive green, yellow, and turquoise tiles. This formal garden, bordered by boxwood hedges, is planted with 7,000 annuals for a grace and glory. The group commissioned 1,800 tiles that replicate the originals. They expect this renovation will last 20 years or so, but damaged tiles and renovated the water fountains to their original state.

Seventy years later, the Moorish tiles were beginning to show their age. Tiles were cracked, chipped, and had chunks missing. In 2008, the garden was reconstructed to replicate the 1935 design by Requa. During the restoration they found that moisture had seeped through, as tiles are porous and grout isn’t perfect. With $50,000 in donations, the Committee of One Hundred, a nonprofit group dedicated to the park’s Spanish Colonial architecture, replaced the damaged tiles and renovated the water fountains to their original grace and glory. The group commissioned 1,800 tiles that replicate the originals. They expect this renovation will last 20 years or so, but bought extra tiles for future patch work. The giant Indian Laurel Fig, Ficus microcarpa, just outside the Alcázar garden, but shading much of the garden was likely planted for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition.

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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 2014, Julian Duval, President and CEO of the San Diego Botanic Garden (a complete list is on page 11). This year, as we celebrate the Centennial of the 2015 Exposition in Balboa Park, our award goes to Kathy Puplava, who for many years was an important advocate for Park horticulture. She will be recognized at our June 8 SDHS Night at the Fair; details on this exciting event will appear on our website and in the June newsletter. Kathy wrote about her life in horticulture in the May newsletter. This month, she shares more about her time in Balboa Park and some sage life wisdom. Congratulations, Kathy!

The Balboa Park Forest

Another serious issue unveiled during the tree survey was that the Park forest was aging out. Unlike New York City’s Central Park that was carved out of a native forest, Balboa Park had very few native trees when the land was set aside in 1868. Balboa Park was landscaped in great bursts of civic enthusiasm. Large quantities of trees were planted during community Arbor Day events, and again prior to the 1915 and the 1935 Expositions. Park Arborist Paul Siros and I developed the Balboa Park Reforestation Plan, which recommended that 100-200 trees be planted each year to provide for a healthy age diversity. The number of plantings should be adjusted depending on how storm damage or construction impacted tree removals.

As a landscape management manager, it was important for me to walk through the Park on a regular basis and communicate with the gardeners. As I walked around Balboa Park, I would visualize how the landscape would look in the next few decades. Were we planting enough trees now so that the park visitors in 2030 could picnic under mature trees? At this time, I learned how to put on my 5 year, 10 year and 25 year glasses to “see” what the park landscape will look like in the future.

I became less focused on lawns and flowerbeds and more on the trees. I also tried to become a voice for the cultural landscape. The Balboa Park trees (and landscape) do not have a community group to support them. They stand silently during city council discussions about the park budget and new construction. It became my mission to communicate the value of the landscape up and down the chain of command and to the public.

I wasn’t interested in developing new gardens for Balboa Park. It became my goal to provide more appreciation and interpretation of the existing 15 gardens and of the Park forest. That’s how the idea for the Trees and Gardens of Balboa Park book came about. Paul Siros and I hoped that visitors would develop an appreciation of the Park by using the book as a field guide to locate and visit the trees and gardens. The San Diego Foundation provided the funds to publish the book in 2001, along with several other garden brochures for horticulture interpretation.

Several times we worked towards having Balboa Park designated as an Accredited Botanic Garden by the American Association of Museums. The Park certainly has enough assets to qualify. The accreditation process got bogged down along the way, and it became somewhat complicated by the fact that it is a public park. We resolved that even though we did not have that official designation that we should behave as though we were a botanic garden, and by putting into place plant record keeping and maintenance standards, so that if the Park ever applied for the designation again, we would be that much closer. And, in fact, they were just good landscape maintenance standards.

Balboa Park is maintained by dedicated city gardeners who work for modest wages, and yet many of them bypass promotions into other departments in order to spend their entire career caring for Balboa Park. It is only through the individual gardeners’ efforts (both City employees and dedicated volunteers) that the Park has thrived. As more and more families have moved to the downtown area, Balboa Park and all the urban parks have become even more important as a green retreat and open space.

I had the honor of working in Balboa Park from 1988-2005. During those 17 years, Dan and I had two children: Joe (22) and Danielle (18). In 2005, I retired early to care for my mother, who had terminal cancer. At the time, our children were 12 and 8 years old. After my mother passed away, I decided to become a full-time mom. In spite of planting thousands of trees in an incredibly fulfilling job, I felt like my most important life contribution would be to parent two healthy individuals who would be capable of making a positive impact on the world. A decade later, I still feel like it was the right decision, but I do miss the wonderful people and the beautiful Park.

Life after retirement

In addition to volunteering with my children’s schools and sports over the last ten years, I have continued to volunteer with several conservation groups, including City Beautiful of San Diego. The Friends of Balboa Park (friendsofbalboapark.org) and most recently Eco-Life (ecolifefoundation.org).

My Life Lessons and 2-cents worth opinions:

It stills shocked me when I hear that that there are people that have lived their entire life in San Diego but have never set foot inside the Botanical Building or visited the Inez Grant Memorial Rose Garden! 90% of the Balboa Park gardens are free, including the Botanical Building, which is open 6 days a week. Get out there people! For maps and details, visit balboapark.org.

When moving from the East to the West Coast, I had to learn all new plant materials. In addition, working at the Wild Animal Park required that I learn about African and Australian plants. There is
The California drought is serious.

Our state’s mild climate has helped make California one of the top producing agricultural areas in the world, and one of the most desirable places to live. But this growth has crippled us. The water we have used was pumped out of the ground, and imported via dams, canals, and massive water projects from sources far away. Now, the lack of rain and snowpack to recharge aquifers and rivers and reservoirs leaves us facing difficult decisions.

The State Water Resources Control Board has mandated percentage cuts by region. Check with your local water company to learn your own numbers. As of today, the rationing cuts range from 4 percent to 36 percent. Yes, 36 percent.

We believed that water was unlimited and have been wasting it for years. Sort of like not knowing your checking account balance but hey, you still have checks left so you keep writing them and not caring about any overdraft fees. Except the bank cares, and then charges you for your inattention. So here we are, wondering who’s going to pay the overdraft fees, and then realizing it’s going to be us.

You love your garden. It is a place that brings you closer to nature and offers relaxation and a place to step away from the stresses of life. It was probably a big investment, both in dollars and sweat equity. What can you do now? There are many things you can do that have large price tags, but here are a few with less impact on your wallet:

• Know how much water you use. Pull out your old bills; know where you stand on your usage. Maybe there are still reductions you can make. (Or you have already cut back enough.)
• Turn off your irrigation for one week, and each day, make an assessment of how far you can push your plants. It might surprise you how sturdy they are.
• Another good test is to cut your irrigation in half and to observe how your plants react.
• Use compostable plates, cups, etc., for less dish washing. (I love this one!)
• Contact your local water company officials and encourage them to offer recycled water.
• Attend a local meeting and see what your paid representatives are doing for you.

You can see my latest rantings and updates on my blog at thedirtonwater.com, or contact me at Jeanne@jeannemeadow.com.
Let's Talk 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 Romance of the Real Alcázar in Seville

In keeping with the themes of our garden exhibit at this year’s San Diego County Fair and the influence Spanish architecture and gardens had on the 1915 Panama-California exposition, it seemed appropriate to recap part of a cycling tour of southern Spain we took in 2007.

Scott and I planned to spend a few days before the tour in Seville to explore the city. With no sleep and only part of our luggage, we arrived 7 hours late and stepped from our cab into a giant street party. The cab driver said he couldn’t drive in the historic district and we’d be able to find our hotel on foot through the labyrinth of narrow streets in the old Jewish quarter. Right. Our trip planning was a little off. Who knew Columbus Day in Seville, from where Isabella and Ferdinand launched Columbus on his imperial journey, was one of the biggest holidays of the year?

The streets of Seville are lined with 14,000 bitter orange trees. When we were there, the trees were brimming with fruit. They are far too bitter to eat and the fallen fruit is left in the streets to be swept away by the municipal street sweepers. However, the pungent fragrance of the blossoms and lush evergreen leaves have been emblematic of Seville since its time as a Moorish city. The fruit is also said to make the best marmalade; just ask the English.

We spent the next few days exploring the historic districts and parks of Seville. I soon learned that the style that I admired so much was called Mudéjar, the name given to Muslims who remained in Spain after the Christian Reconquista. Their craftsmanship and architecture was apparent in many buildings. The style is a blending of the architecture from many cultures and civilizations spanning across the Mediterranean to the Far East.

Some of the best examples of this style are in the Parque Maria Luisa. The buildings aren’t particularly old, since the park was created in 1929 for the Ibero-American Exposition World’s Fair. The park was designed by Jean-Claude Nicolas Forestier in the Moonish paradisiacal style. It reminded me much of Balboa Park, with its tile work, fountains, courtyards and towers and lush plantings of trees and palms. The centerpiece of the park is the semi-circular Plaza de España with a moat in front and four tiled cover bridges across it representing the four ancient kingdoms of Spain. The front of the Mudéjar building has tiled alcoves, each telling the history of a different province of Spain. There was enough yellow and blue inspirational tilework here to keep me busy for the rest of my life.

Between the park and the historic district are a few other famous landmarks. On the banks of the Río Guadalquivir sits the Torre del Oro. An incorrect legend says the tower, built in the 13th century, was used as a storehouse for all the gold and silver the conquistadors brought from the Americas. In reality, the name comes from the color of the mortar used for the building. This reminded me of just what is the true meaning of California’s Golden Gate?

Nearby in the median strip of a very busy road sits the El Cid statue. A very similar El Cid statue sits in the center of Balboa Park near the Plaza de Panama Fountain. Ours has a much more peaceful setting.

Of course, the main reason to visit Seville is for the historic district and Real Alcázar. Construction of the Alcázar began in 1364 as a palace, and was modified and added onto by subsequent monarchs for almost seven centuries. The palace has countless Mudéjar arches, plasterworks, passageways, doors, courtyards, reflecting pools and fountains. Of course, this was all created long before air conditioning, so the importance of courtyards, water, shade and green spaces played a significant role in creating livable spaces. The landscaped gardens in the back were the inspiration for the Alcázar garden that Richard Requa created in Balboa Park. The variety of plants in the gardens was rather modest compared to most public gardens in California, but the importance of hardscape for creating outdoor rooms and refuge from the heat and bustle of the city was unforgettable. As an introduction to historic Spanish buildings, the grace, beauty and diversity of it all was overwhelming. It all feels as though you have been there before, perhaps in a dream.

The first day of the tour we left Seville and followed the Río Guadalquivir upstream to town of Palma del Río, where our cycling tour actually began. We spent the night in the Monasterio de San Francisco Hotel. It was from this Andalusian monastery that Franciscan monks set out for California to found the string of Missions that would become the major cities of California, including our own San Diego.

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:

Rob Ashley  Joan Grier  Kristine Napora
Justin Beach  Adriana Herbert  Mary Rinaldi
Robert Bonham  Stacey James
Luis Cerda  Naomi & Kevin McLean

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)  Joyce James (1)  Laird Plumleigh (1)
Jim Bishop (1)  Nelda Johnson (1)  Kathy Puplava (1)
Deborah Brenner (1)  John Kramer (1)  Barbara Raub (1)
Sharon Corrigan (2)  Dannie McLaughlin (1)  David Ross (1)
Shirey Doig (1)  Naomi McLean (1)  Tammy Schwab (1)
Susan Getyina (1)  Barbara Metz (1)  Jeanne Skinner (1)
Heather Hazen (1)  Joan Oliver (1)  Lynda Waugh (1)

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Sunshine Care
The Wishing Tree Company
Walter Andersen Nursery
Waterwise Botanicals
Weinman’s Gardens
Westward Expos

Life Members *Horticulturist of the Year

*Chuck Ades (2008)
*Walter Andersen (2002)
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper
*Bruce & Sharon Asakawa (2010)
Gladys T. Bard
Debra Lee Baldwin
*Steve Brigham (2009)
Laurie Connable
*Julian (2014) & Leslie Dual
*Edgar Engert (2000)
Jim Farley
Sue & Charles Fouquette
Caroline James
Joyce James
Debbie & Richard Johnson
*Vince Lazaneo (2004)
*Brad Monroe (2013)
*Bil Nelson (2007)
Deborah & Jack Pate
*Kathy Puplava (2015)
Tina & Andy Rathbone
*Jon Rebman (2011)
Mary Rodriguez
Peggy Rusch
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.


Let’s Talk Plants! June 2015, No. 249

What’s Up at San Diego Botanic Garden

Props for the Big Guy!

Drop by the San Diego Botanic Garden to see the latest acquisition to our unusual and diverse plant collection. Long-time supporters of the San Diego Botanic Garden, Paul and Ann Tuskes, donated this notable specimen of Cyphostemma juttae, or Tree Grape. It was recently planted next to the main entrance to the Ecke Family Building.

Some very old C. juttae are known to reach the size of this specimen in their native habitat (South Africa and Namibia), but this one may be the largest of its kind in the U.S. Given its enormous size and estimated weight, in excess of 700 pounds, Garden staff had to use a forklift to move it.

The Tree Grape is a succulent plant, so caution was important in not bruising or damaging its trunk or branches. Also, it was not possible to preserve any of its soft and delicate roots when it was dug out, so the cut root ends were treated with a fungicide and rooting hormone. We then followed protocol, when transplanting succulent plants, in making sure those cut root ends were allowed to callus over several weeks before we planted it.

Tree Grapes are deciduous in the winter and this specimen is just now producing its leaves and flower stalks. It is a member of the grape family (Vitaceae) and produces attractive bunches of grape sized fruits that turn bright red about the time of the holidays. However, while pretty to look at, the fruit is not edible.
**Garden Party of the Century**

*Our Wagon was a Hit!*

The Garden Party of the Century was held in Balboa Park on May 9, and the SDHS entry in the Kid’s Floral Wagon Parade was a charming wagon pulled with great charm by Sam & Terri Seat’s adorable granddaughters Jaen and Azaria. Many thanks to Susan Morse for the use of her wagon (which her husband, Russ, kindly repainted), and for coordinating with Oasis Water Efficient Gardens nursery (oasis-plants.com). Thank you to Carmen at Oasis for helping sponsor our wagon by making providing the plants at a generous discount, and to Dianne Reese at Oasis for designing and planting succulent-filled the wagon. Sam Seat produced the eye-catching sign.

The party continued all day, and we hope you visited the SDHS info booth. We greatly appreciate the following members for volunteering their time staffing the booth and answering questions: Ellen Bevier, Jeff Biletnikoff, Jim Bishop, Kathryn Blankinship, Scott Borden, Sylvia Keating, Brynn Proudfoot, and Cathy Tylka.

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**Real Dirt On** Continued from page 4

California sculptor Bruce Johnson. He describes his work as a cross between “Stonehenge and Shinto shrines.” He often uses massive pieces of salvaged redwood, which he embellishes with hammered copper. Six of his giant sculptures are perfectly placed throughout the garden, and create wonderful surprises as you move along the pathways.

Next time you head north for wine and food, enhance your experience by spending some time in this gorgeous garden!

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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 June was: What are you doing to attract birds and butterflies to your garden?

Donna Tierney: I have water containers out in multiple places. I have planted milkweed and have a lot of natural milkweed on the property. I put out orange halves for the California orioles and nectar for the hummers. I have a number of red nectar flowers also. The birds clean-up leftover grain that my horses leave behind! The quail are here in droves this year eating lots of berries from the native plants (Manzanita, spice plant, etc.) I have a pair of road runners who love to try and catch the lizards!

Bruce Cobledick: Planting milkweed, senna, Palo Verde, aloes and native annuals for the hummers and pollinators.

Marilyn Wilson: I’m a “cut-flower girl” and I’ve found that hummingbirds seem to like EXACTLY the same flowers I enjoy. Throughout the year there are always lots of flowers blooming in my yard. (Having a sugar water feeder doesn’t hurt either)

Linda Johnson: 1) Monarch butterflies enjoy the milkweed; skippers love the plumbago; swallowtail caterpillars like fennel for munching. 2) Bubbling water fountain attracts butterflies and several birdbaths are constantly visited by many types of birds. 3) Bird feeders (seed feeders and liquid for hummingbirds are a must. 4) Lots of cover for nest building attracts lots of different birds. In the spring, place pillow stuffing in branches for birds to use for nests. 5) No cats outside! Domestic cats kill millions of birds every year: 6) Birds love loquats. They are welcome to the fruit on the high branches. Besides, who can eat all that fruit anyway?

Patty Vickery: Last year I planted a butterfly garden in my backyard and within days I had a couple of monarchs flitting around the flowers. We have consistently had monarchs and others ever since, when the weather warms up.

Sharon Swildens: I keep my hummingbird feeder full at all times and have had two sets of babies born on the premises. Therefore, my hummingbird population has grown to six since they all think they are permanent residents and buzz me if the feeder becomes empty. I randomly fill my bird feeder so the birds empty it very rapidly, but the blackbirds seem to be picking my mandarin oranges all the time and make a mess of the areas around the trees. The lone milkweed plant is picked leafless as soon as the new leaves are formed and right now looks like it may have died with the water cutback. I don’t know if the butterflies feed on the occasional ripe banana that I toss into my staghorn fern, but perhaps they do. My roses also seem to like overly ripe bananas cut up. I have some butterflies and various birds that seem to come and go. It is so hot inland, that when it is cool; I work in
the yard caring for my many plants, so I am not out looking for birds and butterflies.

**Carrie Seeman:** I have a lot of citrus trees. All year round I have more than I can use, so every day I slice an orange or two, in half and hang them on bushes, vines, and branches to share with the birds. I have not seen butterflies land on the oranges but birds of all types enjoy them, including woodpeckers. Ends of bread loaves broken-up into crumbs are always enjoyed by birds. Crows and scrub jays keep an eye out for me for these treats and are always the first to take advantage of the bread crumbs when they are tossed into the yard. If the bread becomes too dry sitting out in the yard, the crows will stuff their beaks with the bread and go to the water fountain (plant saucer filled with water) to soak the bread before eating. Crows are so smart!

**Sue Getyina:** I am planting all the low water type plants I can get my hands on that attract birds and butterflies. I went to Marcia Van Loy’s yard; what an inspiration.

**Virginia Ruehl:** I need more examples of milkweed. I am not sure what is what. I am trying to start a butterfly garden. It’s fun.

**Sharon Ward:** I have two hummingbird feeders and 5 milkweed bushes and have seen the monarch progeny.

**Greg Hebert:** We specify milkweed (*Asclepias* species), lantana (*Lantana montevidensis*), butterfly bush (*Buddleia* species), and add a small water feature, when possible.

**Barbara Huntington:** Let’s see, eight hummingbird feeders, four thistle food (for goldfinches) feeders, one feeder that holds sunflower seeds and sometimes dried meal worms, quite a few milkweed plants, butterfly bush, the Palo Verde is loaded with bees, lots of California natives, a little invasive fennel for the swallowtails, not sure the passion fruit made it for the fritillaries (I need to go check). Oh, two birdbaths and a butterfly feeder, I keep forgetting to fill.

**Fotine Fahouris:** I don’t use pesticides or buy plants that have neonicitinoids in the potting soil. We grow milkweed for the butterflies and have a bottlebrush tree that is covered in bees and hummingbirds. Other birds come because of the water feature and my vegetables. It is a small yard but there is a fair amount of birds and butterflies.

**Vivian Black:** I grow a lot of borage; bees love that and I have many Peruvian lilies for butterflies.

**Laird Plumleigh:** Think of yourself providing an Airbnb for birds. Running clean water from a re-circulating fountain for both drinking and bathing is five stars. Hummingbirds drink the microscopic droplets from splashing water. Get up early, just after sunrise and set out their morning food, we are talking gourmet seeds tailored to the special needs of the birds you want to attract. The dove and quail mix at Backyard Birds is appealing to almost all birds and has none of the filler found in others. Check the feeders to monitor the activity, in nesting season the consumption can double. Create a landscape that facilitates nesting, they will go to a destination where they feel safe and has material for nest building. Attraction is one thing but as your guests, you need to provide daily feed, water and a secure environment for them to raise their families.

**Wayne Julien:** A bird feeder and water work wonders in attracting various types of birds. Butterflies are attracted to my native plants, especially the milkweed plant for monarchs. In other words, give them what they want and they will come. It is amazing to see what a little bit of food and water will do to bring life into your garden.
Kathleen Arciero: We rely on seasonal foliage to attract butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Pride of Madeira, rosemary, olive trees, Meyer lemon, and the shelter of our Canary Island palm is a haven for mating doves. California ravens like our bird baths, as does the occasional Copper’s hawk. We recently had a flock of Cedar waxwings pay a visit!

Susan Krzywicki: A great way to attract birds and butterflies is to use natives, of course! People are really into saving monarch butterflies and know that we must use the narrow leaf or the showy milkweed so our monarchs can lay their eggs. And there are many more pairings like this. For example, in my garden I have over a dozen Tecate cypress. The Thorne’s hairstreak butterfly only lays its eggs on this tree. Both the tree and the butterfly are very rare, so I’ve got a double benefit, habitat and conservation all in one beautiful, scented, evergreen, and easy care, low maintenance (shall I go on?) plant.

Robin Rowland: Finches, hummingbirds, and orioles frequent our fountain in the morning. The orioles love our Grevillea, “Long John” and the mealy worms that we put out for our house wrens. The hummingbirds and butterflies enjoy the aloes, calandrinia, salvia, milkweed, lantana, lavender, and butterfly bush. We enjoy all of it.

Lynne Blackman: My yard has plants that I purposely put in to attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees. The plants under the living room window are frequently visited. The hummingbirds entertain the cats. There’s also a bird seed feeder that attracts the usual sparrows, doves and a variety of finches; also good for bird watching cats.

Louise Anderson: San Marcos. I don’t have any “secrets.” We keep both introduced and native cover with seeds and berries for birds and host plants and nectar plants for butterflies. We provide water sources for both. Asclepias for monarchs does well with very little water. The Florence fennel I planted two decades ago has naturalized and can almost survive on winter rain. We harvest early bulbs and that feeds Anise swallowtail butterflies.

Al Myrick: Well we have a fully mature, canopied 3/4 – acre, canyon lot. We have about 1/3-acre of native plants including, lemonade berry, toyon, Tecate cypress, and holly-leaved cherry. We have 1 or 2 million other plants including, cactus and other succulents, palms, conifers, bromeliads, ferns, epiphyllums, dragon fruit, passion vines, and naturalized free-running fruit trees, such as loquat, fig, pomegranate, citrus, and guavas. Our 3/4-acre property is a permanent home for a pair of red shoulder hawks and their yearly offspring, crows, doves and a variety of finches; also good for bird watching cats.

Catherine Tylka: Well I have a garden with California natives, succulents, and Australian plants. The local birds and butterflies love them all. The hummingbirds zoom you when you try to read on the back porch; you have entered their territory. Also I am very lucky to live on the migration path. Sometimes you do something right!
Sue Fouquette: Besides keeping three birdfeeders full of seed, we have so many plants that attract birds and butterflies. Lately we have been watching Black-headed grosbeaks and Western scrub jays. We stopped feeding Lesser goldfinches because thistle seed is so expensive. Our owl box has never attracted an owl. We were told it may be too high, too far from trees, and shouldn’t face south. Also love watching butterflies flit from various milkweeds and Verbena bonariensis.

Sharon Reeve: My garden is a bird, bee, and butterfly sanctuary. I base ALL my planting decisions on whether or not it is beneficial to wildlife or not. I do not use pesticides of any kind, except boric acid bait strictly for Argentine ants. Argentine ants are so destructive to the ecosystem and they must be controlled or they kill plants and wildlife. I plant largely natives with either a long bloom time or a sequential bloom time and natives with fruit or seeds that are eaten by birds. Second to that, I use non-natives with wildlife value, like grevileas, aloes and some prairie plants. I make sure to plant both host, and nectar plants for butterflies. Water is a BIG attractor for birds as long as it makes noise. I have converted a built-in concrete spa into a pond with a waterfall and plants. I get dragonflies and lots of bird traffic. I think a garden that does not have wildlife is it, is a sad garden with only surface beauty. It is so fulfilling to see how the population of wildlife has exploded since I have lived in my house and tended the garden. It now has continuous bird song and butterfly action, not to mention the lizards!

Pat Pawlowski: Although it’s important to offer food in the form of nectar, fruit, and seed bearing plants, I feel that the most important thing we need to provide is moisture. There needs to be a water source. Birds, bees, butterflies, people—we all need water in some form or other. Even butterflies, though they obtain some liquid in the form of nectar; engage in “puddling” where they land on mud and siphon up moisture and minerals. Remember mud is good. For birds a textured birdbath with gently sloping sides, works best. The fancy glass ones are pretty but the birds can’t easily get a grip. Also the sound of water is like the sound of music to birds; a water feature (it doesn’t have to be large) with gently flowing water over a shallow surface, will draw the greatest number of winged customers. In my yard I have at least a dozen water sources of different sizes and depths for birds and butterflies and have seen dozens of bird species. The butterflies and other beneficial insects seem to like hanging around plants, which are close to water.

Jo Casterline: When I planted seeds from my Asclepias (butterfly weed) I did not expect them all to come up. I am now pushing 40 plants to reach an edible stage for monarchs. I have some eager butterflies that don’t want to wait. I hate to shoo them away.

Stephen A. Zolezzi: In place of a flashing neon sign we provide both natural and purchased food, along with shelter to attract our avian friends. As our plantings mature they are able to provide increased variety and quantity of food that is available year round, along with a water feature, which includes a stream used for bathing. Even when adding succulents and cactus to the garden, considering flowers, foliage, and fruit is important to the final decision, and it has worked to provide not only food but shelter and places to nest as well. We are seeing varieties of birds we have never seen before. We would like to host a bird watcher to inventory them.
Let's Talk Plants!

Kathy K. Puplava: I am planting California native milkweed! Native milkweed plants can be hard to find, most nurseries sell tropical milkweed. But tropical milkweed may disrupt the monarch’s migration pattern. The native Asclepias plants and seeds can be obtained through ECOLIFE at this link: ecolifeconservationblog.org.

Gregory Hunter: I keep running water, cascading down a stream to a pond. The birds love bathing and drinking the running water. Also, for over a dozen years I have regularly fed the hummingbirds from a feeder with a red top; they love it. I also have several favorite hummingbird nesting spots in my garden.

Chrisje Field: I have plants that attract both and put out feeders for the birds as well as water.

Dannie McLaughlin: First, attending and looking forward to, the workshop being put on by Marcia Van Loy today. Second, I’ve eliminated chemicals and pesticides from the entire garden. Third, I’m contributing to focus on specific host as well as nectar plants to attract a variety of butterflies. Finally, I love feeding the birds. I have at least four pairs of Hooded orioles this year and have finally attracted Bluebirds. I have two nesting pairs. In January I had mini-flocks of robins and Cedar waxwings stripping the pyracantha bushes of berries and enjoying drinks of water from the fountain in the rose garden. So, going forward I will plant more shrubs that produce seeds and berries for the birds, while gradually reducing the number of seed feeders that I am currently using, making them a supplemental rather than primary source of food. This more natural approach is advocated by many, including the Audubon Society.

May 2015 Plant Display

By Steve Brigham, Joan Herskowitz and 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.

Now available FREE on our website – all 20 years worth of plant descriptions! Go to tinyurl.com/Plant-Descriptions.

Erythrina crista-galli  COCKSPUR CORAL TREE  (Fabaceae)

Uruguay, S. Brazil, Paraguay, N. Argentina

From Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates: The Trees of San Diego (published by the San Diego Horticultural Society): The unusual Cockspur Coral Tree has been grown for well over a century in California for its bright spring to fall flower color, usually bright scarlet-red but sometimes wine red or even a warm pink on certain plants. Unlike most coral trees, its flowers bloom on long flowering stems which should be cut back after the flowers are gone. Individual flowers are bird-shaped and up to 2” long, with new flowering stems produced in up to three waves of bloom during the warmer months. This is a deciduous tree that is decidedly shrubby when young, only gradually developing a tree-like form (early training will help here) as it eventually reaches its mature size of 15’-20’ in height and width. As the tree matures, it develops a characteristic dark rough bark. The Cockspur Coral Tree is one of the hardest coral trees of all, and also one of the most adaptable to a variety of climate zones from temperate to tropical. Although it’s unlikely to remain shrubby in cold-winter areas, it is fully hardy to at least 14º F. because of its ability to resprout from its base and bloom the following year on new wood. It is tolerant of most any types of soil and may be grown with regular or very little watering. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 5/15) – S.B.

Gomphrena globosa ‘Fireworks’  (Amaranthaceae)

Horticultural Hybrid

A colorful addition to the summer garden that has stiff shoots 2-3 ft high which sport rosy pink pom-pom shaped flowering heads with firework-like gold tips. The texture of the flower is like that of a strawflower, which makes it useful as a cut flower or in dried arrangements. It is considered an annual, but there are reports that in mild climates it has been known to survive the winter. The plant is originally from Central America, is heat and drought tolerant, and blooms from late spring until frost. It often self sows, and seeds can be collected from the dried seed heads and replanted when the ground warms. (Marilyn Wilson, Vista, 5/15) – J.H.

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 SDHS Plant Forum Compilation at tinyurl.com/Plant-Descriptions.

Albuca sp. or cv.  (Marilyn Wilson, Vista, 5/15)
Rhamnus crocea  SPINY REDBERRY  (Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 5/15)
Rhamnus horrida  THORNY REDBERRY  (Plant Putterer, El Cajon, 5/15)

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the April newsletter was Trichostema margarinum  MOCK BUTTER CURLS.
Dr. Phil Bergman, a practicing emergency room physician, treated us to an incredible array of information about interesting and unusual palm trees. Dr. Bergman got interested in palms, cycads, and other tropical plants when he left medical school in the Bay Area and moved to USCD for his internship in the mid 70s. He bought a house in San Diego, and based on his familiarity with Northern California plants, he immediately set about planting azaleas and rhododendrons in the front yard! Once his landscaping was completed, he realized it was all wrong for Southern California and immediately removed it. A friend suggested that he consider using some palms and tropical plants in his new design.

When he started researching plants, he found that there were very few varieties of palms available in San Diego. At that time there was only one palm nursery. As many plant enthusiasts have done in years past, he decided to start writing letters to people all over the world to obtain seeds for many different varieties of palms. When he got the seeds, he planted them, grew plants and sold them. He was then addicted. His hobby had become a palm nursery!

He eventually outgrew his San Diego yard, so about 20 years ago he purchased a 3-acre parcel in Encinitas and continued to grow his nursery business. He started his company website in the mid 90s (when the internet was relatively new), and today, the site (junglemusic.net) is incredible! You can get pictures and information about hundreds of species of palms, help with landscaping ideas, advice on which palms grow best in our climate, and ideas for caring for palms. He now grows over 1000 different species of palms and has a quarter million plants! He sells his plants nationwide.

Dr. Bergman’s presentation covered over a hundred varieties of palms: tall, skinny, short, round, green leaves, blue leaves, flowering, cold hardy, heat loving, fluffy-leafed, prickly, spiny, solid leaf, water loving, and drought tolerant. The palms reviewed came from the Caribbean, Mexico, Canary Islands, Brazil, and too many other places to mention! He provided an excellent handout, too. So, if you are thinking about planting a palm, please visit Jungle Music Nursery and prepare to be overwhelmed by the many choices available! Jungle Music Palm Trees, Cycads and Tropical Plants, 450 Ocean View Ave., Encinitas, CA 92024, (619) 291-4605

A sincere thank you to Dr. Bergman for an outstanding presentation.

Thank You Meeting Donor:
We appreciate the generosity of:
Green Thumb Nursery (see inside front cover)

2015 Enviro Fair
Join the Fun on June 6
At the San Diego County Fair

Save the Date and join us for the 16th Annual Enviro Fair on Saturday, June 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair. Sponsored by Albertsons/Vons, the San Diego County Ford Dealers and Think Blue (sandiego.gov/thinkblue), Enviro Fair will stress the importance of sustainable living, pollution prevention and healthy eating. Non-profit organizations, eco-friendly vendors and local farmers will be on hand to share information.

Additionally, there will be a special Farm to Table Dinner in the evening incorporating local sustainable food. Join us in this unique dining experience with local farmers.

For Exhibitor booth space please contact the Enviro Fair Office at 858-792-4298.
LOVE TO GARDEN? LOVE THE COUNTY FAIR?

Jobs are available for this year’s Garden Show June 5-July 5.
Contact Coordinator Cindy Benoit @ 760-473-4244

PacHort believes in supporting the power of gardens, and SDHS is a Pacific Horticulture Partner. Visit pachort.org for more tour info or to subscribe to Pacific Horticulture magazine. A special rate of $24 is available for new and renewing members using discount code SDHS2015.

■ Horticulturist of the Year Continued from page 8 always more to learn about plant science. No one can be an expert in every type of plant; it is a lifelong quest. Set your pride aside and ask questions!

The founders of Balboa Park, George Marston, Kate Sessions, Samuel Parsons, Carleton Winslow, and Alfred Robinson, were not wimps, they had guts! Their vision and persistence resulted in one of the nations’ most outstanding parks and urban forest. I felt a deep sense of obligation to do the right thing for Balboa Park. In simpler terms, Kate and George haunted me!

Unlike many other industries, people in working in horticulture are incredibly generous with their knowledge, resources and their plants.

Always pronounce plant names with confidence. Show no hesitation and don’t blink... make the other guy think that THEY have been mispronouncing it all these years!

Don’t take yourself too seriously. Have a sense of humor and ask questions. No one knows everything about plants. After 40 years of working in this industry, I think I know a lot about a few plants, a little bit about a lot of plants, and very little about some plants!

Do not become emotional about tree removals with a Certified Arborist inspection and recommendation. You cannot freeze a tree in time. Trees grow everyday until they start to die more every day. When they start to die more every day, they eventually break apart or fail; the process is called senescense. Propagate them and replant them. Be pro-active about responsible tree removals in public spaces because you could be saving someone’s life.

My life lesson for 2015: Turning 60 isn’t for wimps, get out and contribute to the world! 🌱

25 Years Experience in So. California

Daniel F. E. Cannou Consulting Horticulturist

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Professional solutions to problems with plants, soil and irrigation

Landscape renovation
Complete landscape care
Events at Public Gardens

♦ Alta Vista Gardens  Contact info on other side
June 21, Summer Solstice Medicine Wheel Ceremony. See www.avgardens.org for events & classes

♦ San Diego Botanic Garden  Contact info on other side
June 6, 5-8pm, Encinitas Rotary Wine Festival: Stroll around the garden sampling fine wines and beverages. $90 and up.

♦ The Water Conservation Garden  Contact info on other side
June 13, 9am-4pm, Native Habitat Garden, Public Opening.
June 20, 10am-2pm, How to Hire a Landscape Contractor & Save: An informative approach to hiring a landscape professional. Learn what to ask, how to plan, and get money-saving tips. Class is FREE, but pre-registration is required.
June 27, 10am-noon, Toss The Turf: All the steps to create a turf-free space you'll be proud of. Non-Members $10. Registration is required.

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

♦ Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops
Info: www.barrelsandbranches.com or (760) 753-2852. See ad on page 17.

♦ Cedros Gardens, Saturdays & Sunday FREE classes.

♦ City Farmers Nursery Workshops

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

♦ Sunshine Care FREE Seminar Each Month
June 20, 10:30am, Vegetable Gardening Lecture: Establishing a Backyard Vineyard or Bigger. Will cover planning, development, installation and management of a wine grape vineyard either in your backyard or a much larger area. 12725 Monte Vista Rd., Poway. Limited to first 45 people. RSVP: (858) 472-6059 or Email roy@sunshinecare.com. Info: www.sunshinecare.com. See ad on page 13.

♦ Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes
Details at www.walterandersen.com; address in ad on page 15.

Free Monthly Seminar
First Saturday of every month
Starting at 10am at two locations: Carmel Valley and Oceanside

June 6: Summer Color & Fragrances For Your Garden
You will be amazed at the many different choices of color and fragrances for your garden. Learn how to choose the right color for your yard and your micro-climate.
Each FREE seminar is approximately 1 hour long. Come to the location nearest you! Refreshments will be provided. Seminar attendees receive a coupon for an instant discount for any purchases made the day of the seminar!
To view our entire seminar schedule and check our hours of operation, visit us at www.evergreennursery.com

Send questions and comments to: info@evergreennursery.com

Next SDHS Meeting
June 8:
SDHS Night at the Fair
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**

Colorful Foliage for your Low Water Garden
Saturday, May 5, morning or afternoon
Colorful foliage adds interest and excitement, so learn how to use it in your garden. To register go to www.sdhort.org and click on the workshop link.

June 5, 2–3:30; 5-6:30pm, Open House & Plant Sale: View 2 new green roof systems, an edible garden, new aquaponics system, and more. Info: www.goodearthplants.com. RSVP REQUIRED: Alexa@GoodEarthPlants.com.

June 5 & 6, 9am–5pm, 3rd Annual Succulent Celebration: See page 6 and ad on inside front cover. Great speakers, exceptional plants, interesting vendors, garden designers, much more! Waterwise Botanicals, 32183 Old Hwy. 395, Escondido 92026. FREE. Info: www.succulentcelebration.com

June 5 through July 5, San Diego County Fair, See insert for details on garden speakers & more.

June 6 (10am-5pm) & July 13, 9am-5pm, Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale: Strange & exotic plants for sale, pottery, more! Experts on hand to answer questions. Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101; www.sdcss.net.

June 13, 10-11:30am, County Farm and Home Advisors: Training: Control Ants the Healthy Way, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita. Info: (619) 622-6932 or www.cesandiego.ucanr.edu

June 13, 10-noon, Solana Center’s FREE Composting Workshops at 2 Locations: Ballitiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane, Carlsbad, CA 92101. ALSO at: Alta Vista Gardens, 1270 Vale Terrace Dr., Vista 92084. Info/register: www.solanacenter.org


June 20, 8am-noon, EOY Blowout Plant Sale: 28933 Cole Grade Rd, Valley Center. Info: Connie Lee (760) 742-3905 or www.dosvallesgardenclub.org

June 20, 10-noon, Solana Center’s FREE Composting Workshops at 2 Locations: Ocean Knoll Educational Farm, 701 Bonita Dr., Encinitas 92024. ALSO AT: Girl Scouts Campus in Balboa Park, 1231 Upas St., San Diego 92103. Info/register: www.solanacenter.org


June 29, 10am, Palomar District Of California Garden Clubs: Certified Arborist and Master Gardener, Robin Rivet on “How to Help Your Trees Thrive with TLC.” Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: http://californiagardenclubs.com/palomardistrict

June 29, 9am, Palomar District Summer Luncheon: Hosted by the Master Gardeners; refreshments, vendors, guided tour in Balboa Park, catered lunch, more. Cost: $30; reserve by June 20. Info: http://tinyurl.com/Palomar-summer.

For a FREE listing (space permitting) send details by the 10th of the month BEFORE the event to Neal King at calendar@sdhort.org.

**Resources & Ongoing Events:**

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

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

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


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

**SAN ELIJO LAKE 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.

**WILDFLOWER HOTLINE:** March to May call the Theodore Payne Foundation hotline: (818) 766-3533 for info. on blooms in Southern California and elsewhere; visit 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., first Sat., 10am–5pm. FREE. Info: (619) 232-5762.


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

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


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

**Garden Radio Shows:**

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

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

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

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