

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

September 2015, Number 252

Refresh Your Garden Design

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Safeguard Your Home from Fire – page 9

On the Cover: Colorful foliage = garden pizzazz with no deadheading

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- + Auctions with unique treasures and adventures
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SHARE YOUR GARDEN SEE PAGE 3

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Member Frank Mitzel designed this lovely Mission Hills garden, which was a Featured Garden in 2013. Share your garden with SDHS members for a few hours and show off your creativity and hard work! Details on page 3.

**WHEN IN
DROUGHT**

Save every day, every way.

This is **Serious** Water Conservation is Mandatory

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.



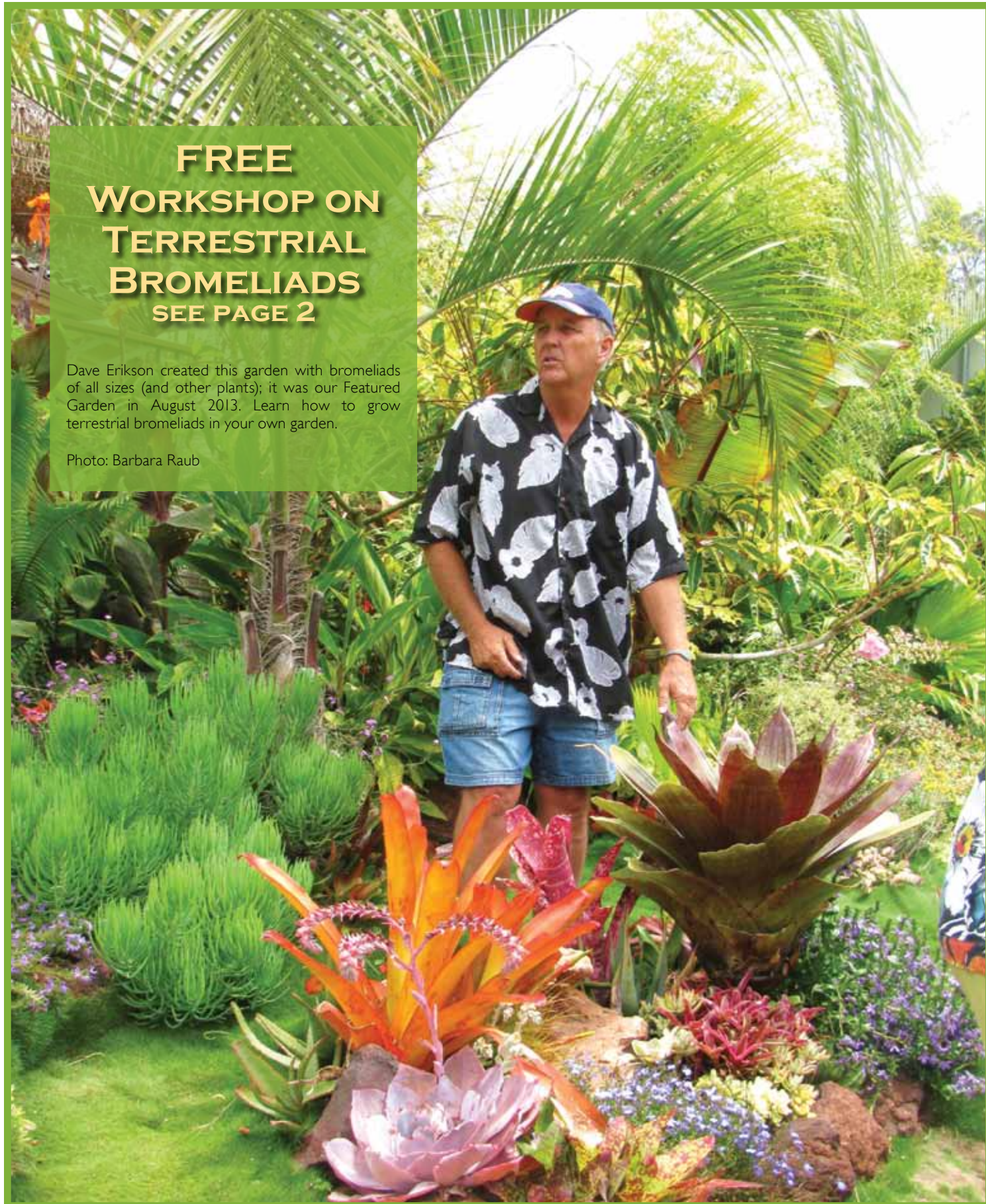
San Diego County
Water Authority

**Severe
Drought**

FREE WORKSHOP ON TERRESTRIAL BROMELIADS SEE PAGE 2

Dave Erikson created this garden with bromeliads of all sizes (and other plants); it was our Featured Garden in August 2013. Learn how to grow terrestrial bromeliads in your own garden.

Photo: Barbara Raub



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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)

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| September 11-13 | Fall Home/Garden Show, Del Mar Fairgrounds (see page 3) |
| September 18 | Terrestrial Bromeliads (FW) – see page 2 |
| October 10 | Volunteer Appreciation Party – your invitation will be emailed to you |
| 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: Colorful foliage with interesting texture is just one way to bring excitement to an established garden. Learn lots of ways to refresh your landscape at our September meeting. This photo appears in the speaker's book, *Refresh Your Garden Design with Color, Texture and Form*.

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 14, 2015, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

SPEAKER: REBECCA SWEET ON *REFRESH YOUR GARDEN DESIGN: SIMPLE STRATEGIES TO WAKE A WEARY GARDEN*

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 are excited to welcome Rebecca Sweet, author and garden designer with her company, Harmony in the Garden, in Los Altos, California. A lifelong gardener, her artistic eye and creative flair translate her design ideas into unique and engaging spaces that delight the senses year-round. Based on her new book, *Refresh Your Garden Design with Color, Texture and Form*, Rebecca takes a fresh approach to explain and simplify traditional design concepts for home gardeners of all levels. You will learn how to break down garden design principles into practical, easy-to-understand and easy-to-implement solutions. Inspirational photographs highlight and reinforce real-life situations, helping you not only to identify what has gone wrong with your garden, but how to fix the problem.

Rebecca's gardens have been featured in *Sunset*, *Fine Gardening*, *Horticulture*, *Woman's Day* and *Country Living* magazines and many regional publications, and on the critically acclaimed PBS series, *Growing a Greener World*. She has been a radio guest on numerous programs, including *Martha Stewart Living*. In addition to designing gardens, her book *Refresh Your Garden Design* was an Amazon Top 10 Garden Book 2013 selection, and she is the co-author of the national best-selling garden book, *Garden Up! Smart Vertical Gardening for Small and Large Spaces*. Rebecca also shares her secrets to successful garden design in her column "Harmony in the Garden" in *Horticulture* magazine. In her lighthearted blog, *Gossip in the Garden*, Rebecca shares inside information about garden design, gardening tips, amusing observations and how-to videos for both the novice and experienced gardener.

A book signing will follow the meeting, where Rebecca will have her books available for sale. For more information see harmonyinthegarden.com and page 6. 🌿



SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

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Cindy Benoit - Membership Chair
Patty Berg - Volunteer Chair
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Jim Bishop - President
B.J. Boland - Corresponding Secretary
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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: Terrestrial Bromeliads Friday, September 18

In recent years bromeliads have become more popular in Southern California gardens because of their ease of care and their water wise habits. Robert Kopfstein gave us a dynamic workshop a year ago about bromeliads, with an emphasis on growing them in containers. Now he's going to expand our options as he shows us how to grow them in the ground. Robert has been a grower of bromeliads for forty years. He has been involved with the San Diego Botanic Garden, first as a trustee (for nine years) and now as a docent. He is a master judge with the Bromeliad Society International, and is a member both BSI and the San Diego Bromeliad Society.

This workshop will be held at San Diego Botanic Garden. Additional details and registration are at sdhort.wildapricot.org/Workshops. 🌿



Dave Erikson created this garden with bromeliads of all sizes (and other plants); it was our Featured Garden in August 2013. Learn how to grow terrestrial bromeliads in your own garden.

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)

Fall Home/Garden Show

SDHS Volunteer Appreciation Party

We need volunteers on September 11 through September 13 to help at the Fall Home/Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. You'll tell attendees about the SDHS and what a fun group we are! We also need helpers for our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party on October 10 for a wide range of tasks. Contact Patty Berg at pattyjberg@gmail.com if you can spare a couple hours.

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

Featured Gardens

Many members have told us that one of their favorite things about being a member of the San Diego Horticultural Society is visiting other members' gardens. That's why we started the Featured Garden tours, providing the opportunity for members to share their gardens. Some of you have noticed that we haven't had many of these events in 2015. We rely on members to volunteer to share their gardens and we haven't had many volunteer to host us lately. I know lots of our members have interesting gardens: designer gardens, artist gardens, plant collector gardens, vegetable gardens and more. I also know that people can be a bit shy about having guests in their gardens, especially fellow Hort members. However, if you've never shared your garden you'd be surprised what a rewarding experience it is. Our members are always polite, respectful and complimentary of the gardens they visit. Not everyone attends at the same time, so you can have a delightful day talking to people and sharing information about your garden. Also, we limit attendance to the number of people you are comfortable hosting. So while you are thinking about it right now, why not send an email to president@sdhort.org and offer to host a featured garden. A brief description of your garden, the location, possible dates that work for you and maybe a photo or two are appreciated.



Above: Jim Bishop & Scott Borden's garden was featured last January.
Left: Jeanne & Barry Meadow's garden was featured last September.

Bookkeeper, Administrative Assistant Position

SDHS is looking for a part time person to replace our current bookkeeper and also assist with administrative tasks. This is a paid position and you work from your home. Desired skills are knowledge of Quickbooks software, Email, and some experience with website posting and support. The final list of responsibilities and duties are still being determined, but some are: entering SDHS deposits and making payments, maintaining our financial records, picking up and distributing Society mail, scheduling and entering events on our website, and creating and sending out monthly email message to members. Additional tasks include entering membership information, attending monthly meetings, collecting and depositing payments. The number of hours per month will vary based on applicant experience, skill level, and final task list. If you are interested, please contact Jim Bishop at president@sdhort.org to learn more. ☺

2015 FALL HOME/GARDEN SHOW

Get Ready for Fall Planting
SDHS Members Get in
FREE!

Fall
HOME/GARDEN SHOW
26TH ANNUAL
Del Mar Fairgrounds
September 11-13, 2015

During its three-day extravaganza on September 11-13, the 26th-annual Fall Home/Garden Show will feature interior design and garden displays, remodeling inspiration, hands-on demonstrations, educational seminars and one-stop shopping for everything pertaining to the home and garden. Produced by SDHS sponsor Westward Expos, the event and its hundreds of exhibitors will showcase the newest products and hottest trends for both inside and outside the home.



Members of SDHS can attend the Show for FREE! Visit fallhomegardenshow.com/SDHS for your Free VIP pass for 2 people.

Garden lovers will enjoy the Entry Garden area with its enticing variety of plants and ideas by members of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD). APLD also offers "30 for \$30" – 30-minute design consultations at the show for only \$30. Bring your photos, plans, and problems for instant help. Last year's program was a sell-out.

A Garden Marketplace will have hundreds of varieties of plants on sale direct from local growers, who will be present to give planting tips and advice. Local nonprofit plant groups will also be on hand.

Once again, the SDHS plays an important role. This is a great time for our volunteers to "meet and greet" Society members as well as plant enthusiasts and hobbyists from all over the county. To volunteer, contact Patty Berg at pattyjberg@gmail.com if you can spare a couple of hours.

In addition to being an extensive home/garden product marketplace, the Fall Home/Garden Show offers several unique features this year, including: an interior-design walk-thru exhibit of rooms featuring the work of talented San Diego American Society of Interior Designers (A.S.I.D.) members.

The show features special pricing and big savings on exhibitors' products and services. Another big plus: attendees will have the opportunity to arrange for multiple bids on projects from exhibitors. It's one-stop planning and decision-making at its best.

The show runs Friday, Sept. 11, 11am-6pm; Saturday, Sept. 12, 10am-6pm; and Sunday, Sept. 13, 10am-5pm. For more information visit fallhomegardenshow.com.

Continued on page 12

THE REAL DIRT ON...

The Bishop's Garden

By Donna Tierney

The National Cathedral, an impressive gothic style structure, sits on one of the highest elevations in Washington, DC, and is surrounded by fifty-nine landscaped acres. The Cathedral is non-denominational and has long served as a spiritual center where Americans unite to worship and pray, mourn the passing of world leaders, and confront moral and social issues. The original land where the cathedral is located was called



Mount Saint Alban. A location for a national cathedral has been sited in George Washington's original development plan for the Nation's capitol. Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. designed the cathedral grounds in the early twentieth century. His vision was to create an urban oasis modeled after the walled grounds of medieval cathedrals.

Though the designs were Olmstead's, Florence Brown Bratenahl, wife of the first Dean of the Cathedral, took on the task of carrying out Olmsted's plan. In 1916, she formed All Hallow's Guild to raise the funds, collect the plants, and maintain the gardens. The beautiful grounds surrounding the cathedral are a tribute to her tireless efforts and determination.

One of the highlights on the grounds is the Bishop's Garden, which is terraced into the south side of the cathedral. The entrance to the garden is through a twelfth century Norman arch. Stone walls encircle an impressive array of boxwood, roses, yews, cedars, and perennial borders, as well as a copy of a monastery herb garden from the Middle Ages.



To give the Bishop's Garden a feeling of being an ancient place, Bratenahl studied medieval gardens and plants lists. She located and moved mature boxwood from George Washington's Hayfield Manor and from Ellerslie Plantation in Virginia. She

worked closely with the Olmsted firm to insure that the plants she found met the designer's specifications. Bratenahl secured medieval sculpture from George Gray Barnard: a 9th century baptismal font and 15th and 16th century bas-reliefs. The garden planting beds are edged with coping stone quarried from George Washington's Aquia Creek quarry.

Olmsted's original designs for the Bishop's garden represented a private garden, behind and accessible from the Bishop's house. Under Bratenahl's leadership it became a more public garden and

BOOK REVIEW

The Viking in the Wheat Field: A Scientist's Struggle to Preserve the World's Harvest

By Susan Dworkin

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

Every once in a while I'm stymied by how to approach a book in my review. In those cases, I cheat a little. I go on line to see how other people have written about it. Doing that clarified for me what I thought about *The Viking in the Wheat Field*. It's a fascinating subject, maintaining genetic diversity in plants, in a book that reads almost like a high school term paper. Susan Dworkin is much published—14 books and numerous magazine articles—but I found her writing difficult to wade through. Still, I encourage you to have a look at this book. It covers a subject that all of us who like to garden, as well as those of us who like to eat, need to have some familiarity with.

Dworkin's problem is that she's trying to tell two or more stories here, one being the biography of Dr. Bent Skovmand, the titular Viking, and the other being the history and rationale behind seed saving.

Skovmand, a plant pathologist, started his career working to develop a wheat plant resistant to rust. For me the project is fascinating, but the struggle to obtain funding is not. The text is almost overwhelmed with government acronyms. My eyes began to glaze over at times.

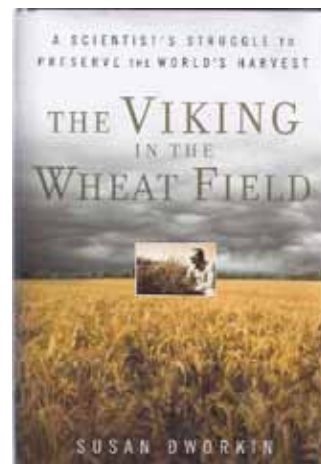
You're probably asking yourself why I think this book about Skovmand, his work, and his ideas is worth reading. If I mention the Svalbard International Seed Vault, does that ring a bell? Skovmand is the founder.

The Seed Vault, also called the "Doomsday Vault," is the backup repository for the world's seeds. Many are also saved in smaller banks in the regions where they originate, but sometimes that's not enough. I don't know what's happened to the seeds saved at Tel Hadya in Syria. As of March this year, the seeds of various types of wheat, barley, lentils, fava beans, and their wild relatives were still safe even though the installation has been looted several times. That's just one example of the importance of a backup repository.

Most readers will be familiar with the Irish potato famine of the late 1840s. A blight struck the potato—the staple food of Ireland. The plants in Ireland were clones; none were resistant to the disease. A million people died. Another million emigrated.

Much of modern agriculture involves growing monocrops, millions of acres of the same type of wheat, soy beans, or others. If the non-commercially-valuable strains are allowed to disappear, we won't have genes available to breed into the crops to develop resistance to diseases of the future.

A third story in this book, how seed development is done, is also interesting. I think there's enough wheat among the chaff to make this book worthwhile. 🌾



Continued on page 20

TREES, PLEASE

Crape Myrtles Are Neither But do not eat them for breakfast...

By Robin Rivet

Although there are no perfect trees, the crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) comes close. They often bloom for several months during the heat of summer; then summon up additional fall colors, seldom proffering untidy leaf drop or particularly troublesome roots. Their name however, is a mess, since they're loosestrifes, not myrtles. And that "crape" part refers to their papery flowers, resembling crepe paper, not the tasty, French *crepe suzettes*. Either way, "crepe" is not how the tree genus is spelled. Go figure?

Regardless, these are hardy trees for most of San Diego County, widely appreciated for their small stature, even thriving in miniscule 18"-24" parkway cutouts. They share a key asset of drought tolerance with a surprising Lythraceae family relation: the pomegranate! Surprised? But unlike those luscious, red-staining arils, you can't eat crape fruits.

Do you want a tree or a shrub? Vigilance is essential at the tree nursery, because ultimate size, shape, and flower color of hybrids varies widely. Haste could result in a three-foot pale-pink shrub, instead of a 25' rosy-red shade tree. For starters, beware of stores that offer only color options, as there are many hues and tints of purples, whites, pinks, and reds; and within those choices are extreme, mature size differences. When selecting that dazzling specimen to bump up curb appeal, also consider the variably smooth, exfoliating, or mottled white, pink, gray, tan or cinnamon-colored bark, since you'll end up seeing that all winter when the leaves and flowers go dormant. More good news is the branching structure is equally interesting, with low branched, single trunk and multi-trunk nursery specimens available upon request at quality tree nurseries. The challenge is pinning down a perfect choice from the bountiful, but ever-changing, 80+ hybrids, some crossed with the Japanese species, *Lagerstroemia fauriei*.

Here are a few favorites, but like any tree, beauty is in the eye of the beholder:

- Red Rocket: large, 20+foot canopy, long blooming, intense cherry-red flowers, very fast growth
- Lipan: pale lavender-flowering, shrubby tree, nearly white bark can substitute for thirsty birch
- Powhatan: deep purple flowers, gray-brown bark, with a 15'-18' canopy
- Natchez: very tall, arching to 30' H x W, white blooms,



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Don't Miss Our Volunteers Breakfast Party!

By Patty Berg, Volunteer Coordinator

Horticulturist Mary McBride will be hosting this year's Volunteer Appreciation Party coming up on Saturday, October 10. At her lovely home in Vista, we'll be treated to a delicious breakfast and a drawing for great door prizes, but the real feast will be in wandering the dozens of pathways as we explore Mary's amazing gardens.

A longtime vendor at our monthly meetings, Mary is a retired Master Gardener who has operated her own specialty nursery for many years. She specializes in flowering bulbs from around the world that are uniquely suited to our climate, including lots of drought tolerant varieties.

Mary's resume includes stints with some of the most highly regarded plantsmen and women in greater San Diego. After training at U.C. Riverside, she worked for Cordon Bleu Farms/Buena Creek Gardens for 9 years, becoming Nursery & Propagation Manager. She then became Nursery & Propagation Manager for Tom Piergrossi Nursery for its first 2 years. Today, she operates Mary's Garden as she continues to provide even the most experienced gardeners with interesting and unusual bulbs and plants.

As you might imagine, her gardens reflect those long-term relationships with some of North County's favorite nurseries, along with her delightful sense of whimsy and her skills as a horticulturist. There are specimen ornamental trees that rival the best at well-known public gardens. There's an eclectic assortment of shrubs and flowers galore from layered bulb plantings that pretty much bloom all year.

If this sounds too good to miss, then you've got the right idea. Your last chance to earn an invitation is by volunteering to take a shift at the SDHS table during the Fall Home/Garden Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Contact me by email at pattyjberg@gmail.com if you want to lend a hand. Shifts are available throughout the weekend of September 11 through 13. 🌿



Mary McBride in her garden



Patty Berg (2)

A tiny bit of Mary's garden

Continued on page 12

GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

Gearing up for School Gardens

By Susan Krzywicki

Another school year rolls around with some new challenges: combine limited water use, the desire to help the environment and a quest for beauty. If you or someone you know is involved in school gardening, I've got some resources for you.

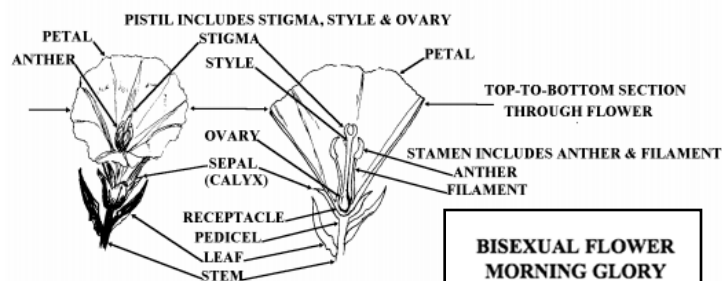
The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has been involved with school garden projects for decades. This has provided a unique perspective on how best to match the project needs with requirements for educational aspects, beauty, and manageability. According to CNPS, "Native plants help students learn the vital connection between plants and higher forms of life. Plants are at the bottom of the food chain, and native plants are a primary component of healthy ecosystems. Just as edible plants are important for human health and survival, native plants are equally necessary to other forms of life. Native plants help pollinator populations survive and thrive, which in turn help pollinate edible crops."

The Complete Guide

Betsey Landis, from the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains CNPS chapter, published the very thorough guide, *Southern California Native Plants for School and Urban Gardens*. You will find this publication, online and downloadable, for FREE. Because the files are large, it is divided into four parts and can be found at cnps.org/cnps/grownative/school_gardens.php. The detail in this guide is impressive. For example, Betsy has added classroom-level illustrations such as the bisexual flowering on our native morning glory (*Calystegia macrostegia*). Everything you need, including checklists, is provided. The photo shows a recent project Betsey worked on at the Marquez School in Pacific Palisades; visit marquezschoolediblegarden.blogspot.com.

Even More Local Resources

The local San Diego CNPS chapter has partnered with landscape architects and designers who specialize in native gardens to provide free design advice and planting plans for native gardens in qualifying San Diego area schools. One of these designers will volunteer their



services to work with the project team to develop the design and plant lists. The volunteer will keep working with the team for continuity and to address new opportunities for community involvement, emerging issues and maintenance techniques. The program can be found at cnpsd.org/schoolgardens.html.

And Money...

Alrie Middlebrook, noted Northern California native garden designer, has a long-running non-profit that has a school garden grant program. If you don't have a local source of funds, do look into the program available at The Middlebrook Center: middlebrookcenter.com/elsee/cngf-2/design-grants/overview.

Please explore the available resources for school gardening. Native plants give so much to young learners, from color and beauty to heritage and history. 🌿

TO LEARN MORE... Garden Design in San Diego

By Susi Torre-Bueno

September brings an excellent opportunity to talk to local designers about changing your garden – see page 3 for the article about the Fall Home/Garden Show and how to sign up for a 30-minute design consultation.

Here's links to images of local gardens to inspire you:

houzz.com/photos/landscape/san-diego
sd.watersavingplants.com/gallery.php
landscapingnetwork.com/san-diego
watersmartsdlandscaping.org 🌿



The Marquez School garden team with learning aids

REMEMBERING JIM WRIGHT



Jim Wright
around 2008

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing on August 8th of long-time member Jim Wright. Many members will fondly remember Jim's extraordinary palm garden in Clairemont, the site of several SDHS garden tours and other informal gatherings. In 2013, Jim taught a workshop on Success with Orchids, which was indeed a great success as members got to learn his secrets in his roof-top orchid house. Jim's garden was on many garden tours

by other groups, including the International Palm Society. He also grew exceptional bromeliads and orchids, plus other fascinating plants, and his enthusiasm was contagious. Jim was a friendly and gregarious fellow, and always had a big smile for his many friends and acquaintances. He and his late wife, Lise, created a tropical paradise that burst out of their original garden to continue to the adjoining house, which they purchased in order to have more room for plants. Their garden was unusual in that he built wooden walkways that elevated you off the ground and brought you next to the hundreds of palms, many of which he had grown from seed, some of which were decorated with faux lizards and other critters. Jim (and Lise) brought many lovely specimens to our meetings over the years, starting in 1995 and continuing through this past March. Jim's booming laugh and his generous spirit will be much missed, and our hearts go out to his family and friends..

Stacy Wright, Jim's daughter, has let us know that his fabulous garden (and lovely home) will be staying in the family and lovingly cared for. She said, "My dad passed away with the utmost dignity, he decided how things were going to happen. There was much humor, stories told and ... he was surrounded for several days by those who loved him... I knew, of course, what an incredible man he was but I had no idea how many other people did too. My dad gave us very strict instructions to not be sad and to not be sniveling. He said he wasn't sad or scared and I really believe he wasn't. He was so brave and strong!"

Phil Bergman, owner of Jungle Music (and our May speaker), was a good friend of Jim's, and here's an excerpt of what Phil wrote on a palm society website (view his full comments, and tributes by many other friends, at the website of the International Palm society, tinyurl.com/palm-Jim-Wright):

It saddens me deeply to tell you of the passing of a dear friend of mine and the Palm Society, Jim Wright. Jim was one of the original members of the PSSC and the IPS. He started collecting palms and planting out his garden in the Bay Park area of San Diego in the early 1960's. His garden has been on tour many times for the enjoyment of Palm Society members. He has written many articles for Society publications and was an excellent grower of rare palm species. He propagated many plants himself. He was a true friend of many. Known for his hospitality and friendly nature, Jim welcomed total strangers to tour his garden. His garden, although not huge, was one of the most cherished palm gardens in our area. His now



Jim Wright with friend Nancy Groves at the Volunteer Appreciation Party in 2011

deceased wife, Lise, and Jim spent countless time over many decades developing the garden and making it a real showpiece of gardening excellence. The garden was photographed and featured in many national magazines over the years.

... In the approximate mid 1970's he married Lise, who shared his passion for the plants. This passion led them to purchasing the house next door to the south and expanding their garden. Not only did they grow palms, but both also had a passion for other tropical plants including bromeliads, roses and orchids. Jim was famous for mounting epiphytes on the trunks of overhead palms. And, he meticulously maintained the garden. It didn't matter when you dropped by, the garden was always beautiful and ready to show.

Because of his broad interest in many types of plants, not only was Jim a member of the Palm Society, he was also deeply involved with the Bromeliad and Orchid Societies and had literally hundreds of friends throughout the plant communities in the San Diego area. He had a vast knowledge about plants that he was always willing to share with others. He was very generous with his time and energy when it came to plant matters. He was always a friend to all.

Jim was the one who originally got me involved with palms. I met him in the very early 1970's while I was in medical school. We did research together at Scripps Institute of Oceanography. We later traveled to Antarctica. This was followed by trips to South America and many other exotic locations. From the beginning, Jim told me "you've got to try some palm trees." I did listen and thereafter developed my keen interest in palms. But, he was the impetus that got me involved from the beginning. I have always felt indebted to Jim for this and thank him for his time and energy in getting me into palm trees. It's a great loss for me to know he's no longer there to chat over the phone about plants, weather or whatever. ... 🌿



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Photo: James Soe Nyur

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Where: Sumner Auditorium, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 8625 Kennel Way, San Diego, CA 92037

When: Saturday, September 19, at 7am – 3pm

Tickets: \$35 *Seating is limited so advance purchase is recommended*

Website for tickets and more information: gardennative.org/symposium

Native Plant Sale

And just when you think you can't wait any longer to plant, the annual Native Plant Sale will satisfy your itch on Saturday, October 17. Come to Casa del Prado Courtyard, 1700 Village Place in Balboa Park. The sale starts at 10am, with a private opening for CNPS members at 9am. Pre-ordering and pickup are also available to members. Email plantsale@cnpsd.org for information and to receive updates. ☺



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THE DIRT ON WATER BLOG

California Is On Fire!

By Jeanne Meadow

Literally! When I wrote this, there were more than 25 fires burning in our state and Gov. Brown declared 15 California counties—including San Diego—disaster areas.



So what does this have to do with your garden? Everything! With our drought extending while we continue to do the rain dance and hope El Niño will help us, our landscapes are drying up. They are becoming fire hazards for our homes.

Many homes are lost in fires started by flying embers. This is why one of the first things you should do is to clear out your rain gutters and any roof debris, and make sure nothing can get in through any cracks. Make a defensible space around your home by reducing or eliminating high resin/sap vegetation, or at least cut it way back. If you have to make a choice, irrigate the landscape closest to your house and keep the “if they make it, they make it plants” further from your home.

A free visit from your local fire department can be helpful. I hesitated to have the inspector visit, because I was afraid it would mean another government bureaucrat would be poking around my property, looking to fine me. But that's not what happened at all. The inspector was delighted that we were being proactive. Here were the recommendations the fire inspector gave us:

- Replace roof vents with ember-retardant ones
- Cut any tree branches that touch the roof
- Move our firewood 50 to 100 feet away from the house
- Remove wood structures like trellises and gates that attach to the house
- Push mulch that touches the house back 6 to 12 inches, and replace flammable mulch with gravel
- Remove candlesticks: these are continuous rows of shrubs or trees with no break as they lead from one part of your property directly to your house

You may have different concerns. No matter what, check with your local fire department to see if they will send someone out to inspect your property.

Another thing to do is to review your fire insurance policy. Some policies include the cost of foaming your home should a fire be imminent. Take pictures or videos of everything, both inside and outside your house, even the inside of drawers and cupboards. Copies of all important documents and files can be put in a fireproof safe in your home or in a safe deposit box at a bank. You are automatically backing up all your computer files to the cloud, aren't you?

Have a written emergency plan. There are great guides for this online and from your local fire department. We have boxes labeled according to how much time we have to get out: 5 minutes, 30 minutes, or 2 hours. We know what to do and what we are taking.

Prepare your property, and prepare your family.

Visit my blog at TheDirtonWater.com to see my latest rants or contact me at jeanne@jeannemeadow.com.

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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.



Pool Be Gone – Part I

This is a continuation about challenges of creating a garden in Mission Hills.

By 2000, we had completed most of the remodel of the rooms inside the house. When we had started to do the remodel, one of the original goals had been to fix the pool area's numerous problems. Most obvious was that all of the concrete block planters in the pool area had cracked and/or were leaning. The decking around the pool had some serious cracks, including at one corner of the pool where it had come completely detached and lifted from the pool, leaving a large gaping gap that you could put your entire arm in. A previous owner had added buttresses to the backside of the pool wall and though it had a noticeable lean it seemed to have been stabilized. The pool was over one story below the house and access was out the downstairs back door, across the veranda, and down the set of stairs at the far west end. This is quite a journey to make when you are wet after a swim and you would be very cold by the time you got inside the house.

By 2003, we had almost totally quit ever swimming in the pool. The pool was on the north side of house and had an eleven-foot deep end. Also, it picked up the almost constant breeze off the ocean, so it was cooled by evaporation. We added a pool cover to help warm it and also slow down the evaporation, but it only received enough direct sunlight in the months of July and August to bring the water temperature up to the mid-70s. There was a pool heater and we did try to heat it 80 degrees for a summer weekend. The heater ran for several days non-stop and the gas bill that month was several hundred dollars. We looked at adding a solar water heater, but since everything on the hill faced north, it wouldn't receive enough sunlight unless elevated and we would look directly down on it from inside the house. I did occasionally swim in the pool alone at night and watch the SeaWorld fireworks, but after hearing about William Shatner's wife dying while swimming alone in the pool and not being found for several days, I decided this wasn't a good idea.

Of course, the worst problem was that the pool area was ugly, scary looking, and noisy. Since the retaining wall that separated the pool from the house faced directly towards the freeway, the noise would echo off the wall and into the pool area, so even though you couldn't see the freeway from the pool you could hear it. As a side story, the neighbors told us that when the pool was built in 1970 it was supposed to be much higher on the hill and closer to the house. However, it was installed while the owners were away and they had to dig much lower on the hill to find stable ground. Additionally, the fill dirt that was used around the pool was heavy clay that expanded



and shrank with the rainy season, which caused much of the cracking of the pool decking around the pool. When the city observed the clear cut on the hill they required that a 15-foot tall by 100-foot long retaining wall be built to stabilize the hillside. The neighbors said it was very costly; however, we have all the receipts for the work and it cost a total of \$3000...maybe that was a lot of money in 1970. We also later found out that the rebar used in the pool decking was in direct contact with the soil, causing it to rust, which caused more cracking.

We toyed with several ideas to make the pool area smaller and shallower and more attractive, but in the end decided we really didn't want a pool and all the maintenance it required. The pool was on the only flat area of property, which I was coveting for gardening space. So the decision to fill it in was an easy one. We decided that it would make a lovely walled garden and could be an area similar to some of the gardens in Balboa Park. We hired a landscape architect to put together a plan. However, after several iterations it was obvious that he didn't understand our priorities and instead of hiding the freeway views and noise, his design ideas looked as though they would make them worse.

We decided that what we really needed was someone that could design some good hardscape that matched the house style, creating a cohesive design. I didn't need any help with plants or planting design and wanted to do that myself. So, we returned to the restoration architect, Marc Tarasuck, who had done the design for the remodel of our house. We gave him simple instructions: hide all the freeway view and noise possible and create something that looked like it was built at the same time as the house. Marc had a bit more vision and ideas than we ever imagined and quickly came up with a concept that we had never considered. He proposed a 30-foot tower built against the existing retaining wall. The tower would be just outside the back door and contain a spiral staircase that led down to the former pool area. The roof of the tower would be tall enough to hide much of the freeway and hotel view from the existing kitchen balcony and dining room. Much of the pool area would be replaced by 13' x 13' outdoor room that we quickly dubbed the casita – Spanish for little house. Also, against the pool wall would be a large fountain to further mask the freeway noise. The existing gate from the pool area to the garden would be replaced by a large Spanish-style arch. A new door would be added to the back of the pool wall to give additional access to the garden below. Most of the existing pool house, where the pool equipment had been, would become a stor-

Continued on page 12

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:

Joann Bush	Polly Martin	Stuart Robinson
Patricia Chien	Sharon Oliva	Jill Schmidt
Keven Cobbledick	Katharine Prescott	Lewis Vine
Jennifer Kennedy	Marguerite Rivera	

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)	Heather Hazen (1)	Deborah Polich (1)
Jim Bishop (4)	Joyce James (1)	Kathy Puplava (1)
Deborah Brenner (1)	Nelda Johnson (1)	Barbara Raub (1)
Bonnie and Ray Brooks (1)	John Kramer (1)	Marylyn Rinaldi (2)
Bruce Cobbledick (1)	Dannie McLaughlin (1)	Catherine Robinson (1)
Sharon Corrigan (2)	Naomi McLean (1)	David Ross (1)
Shirey Doig (1)	Barbara Metz (1)	Tammy Schwab (1)
Claire Ehrlinger (1)	Allison Miles (1)	Jeanne Skinner (1)
Susan Getyina (1)	Francie Murphy (1)	Barbara Strona (1)
Marilyn Guidroz (3)	Ocean Hills Garden Club (1)	Paula Taylor (1)
Devonna Hall (1)	Joan Oliver (1)	Lynda Waugh (1)
Wyatt Hayes (1)	Laird Plumleigh (1)	Deborah Young (1)

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*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

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What's Up at

16TH ANNUAL GALA IN THE GARDEN

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Saturday, September 12,
5 – 9:30 pm

San Diego Botanic Garden's 16th annual Gala in the Garden will bring hundreds of local business leaders, Garden supporters, and local residents together to celebrate the region's agricultural heritage on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 5-9:30 pm. The 2015 presenting sponsor is Olive Hill Greenhouses, and this year's theme is "Deep Roots... Growth & Gardens," which commemorates the origins of the Garden, its foundation in the community, and its bountiful growth throughout the years.

The recipients of the Paul Ecke, Jr. Award of Excellence, which is bestowed annually at the Gala, are Tony and Sue Godfrey, owners of Olive Hill Greenhouses, which has grown, as the Garden has, through strong connections and engagement in the community.

For more information about Gala in the Garden or sponsorship opportunities, please call 760-436-3036 x218 or visit SDBGarden.org/gala. Tickets to the event are \$200 per person. Tickets are available online at SDBGarden.org/gala.htm.



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■ **Fall Show** Continued from page 3

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- Making Energy Savings and Water Conservation Easy and Affordable
- Dig This: Creating the Pool of your Dreams
- Be Drought Smart to Save Water and Money ... and Still Love Your Yard!
- Looks, Feels and Textures: The Secrets to Using Building Materials to Transform your Yard and Home
- Kids, Pets, Money and Water ... Synthetic Turf Questions Answered
- The Contractor Checklist ... How to Hire and Manage Your Contractor 🌿

■ **Trees** Continued from page 5

cinnamon bark, orange-red fall color

- Pecos: clear pink inflorescence, 10' shrubby tree, striking dark-brown bark
- Tonto: intensely fuchsia blooms, dense 8'-10' small tree, taupe bark
- For plant lust: Queen's Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*) is rare and tender, but unusually tall (to 50'+), with generously oversized, purplish-pink flowers. Wow!

Cultivar descriptions:

tinyurl.com/SeptCrape1

tinyurl.com/SeptCrape2

tinyurl.com/SeptCrape3

crapemyrtle.com

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

■ **My Life with Plants** Continued from page 10

age shed. Additional storage would be added beneath the stairway. We would add a new balcony off the upstairs living room to take advantage of the bay view. An arched portico would be added under the balcony. All of the walls of the new construction would be extra thick to give the illusion of them being thick adobe.

As you can imagine, this was a lot to take in, but the artist rendering Marc drew was wonderful and it was hard to believe this could all be created out of such an ugly pool area. *To be continued...*



Jim Bishop is President of the San Diego Horticultural Society and a garden designer. 🌿

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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 September was: What is the favorite garden you have visited and why?

Jeannine Romero: Two come to mind immediately; the Japanese Garden in Seattle in early spring is stunning, with an explosion of azalea blooms in this serene setting with Japanese maples and traditional water features. Filoli, in Woodside, near San Jose, is a sprawling garden with a European feel and California vistas. There are several formal gardens with boxwood, roses, fruit trees, and a sunken garden. Lots of wisteria bloom in the early spring, and there are old trees of considerable size and sculptural interest and a grove of olive trees. Oh, and a fab mansion to tour that was used as the backdrop for the Carrington residence in the *Dynasty* TV series from the 1980s. You can search these gardens on my blog, gardenenvy.net.

Una Marie Pierce: My friend Krista Mills has my favorite garden. It's in the middle of Clairemont, where you wouldn't expect it. It's on two levels and has palms, succulent, fruit trees and chickens. She keeps it in perfect shape and has beautiful containers and specimen plants. She and her husband, Doug, have done most of the work themselves, including stairs to the lower level. They have a deck and plantings that go down the canyon; a little of everything.

Wayne Julien: Just visited a world famous garden in Vista, CA on July 18, 2015. It is owned by Dr. Mardi Darian, who has been collecting, planting, propagating and introducing new plants into our area. He is famous for his fantastic palm, cycad, and tropical plant collection. The day was rainy, which reminded me of being in a rain forest with a little humidity to go along with the atmosphere. It was attended by approximately 150 palm enthusiasts as part of the Palm Society of Southern California, which meets every three months at a different garden within the Southern California area. Everyone had a great time with guided tours throughout the garden area. The garden was spectacular.

Kate Engler: Barnsley House in Gloucestershire, England, the home of Rosemary Verney. Taking my mother to the Chelsea Flower Show for her 70th birthday and then visiting Rosemary's home, with her as our guide, was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Linda Lawley: My favorite garden to visit is the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. We have visited many times over the years when we vacationed in the area, but now that we have moved to Fort Bragg and only live a short distance away, it is even more my favorite. I may be partial, but the gardens have so much variety to offer. There are 47 acres that stretch from Highway 1 to the bluffs above the ocean. There are formal gardens as well as wild gardens and a fabulous vegetable garden. Part of the garden overlooks the ocean with its crashing waves.

There are all kinds of birds in the garden, in the forest, and at the ocean. There is a very nice café, and people are allowed to bring their well-behaved dogs to the gardens. It makes me smile every time I am there. Here is a link to their web site: gardenbythesea.org. Come visit!

Sue Nelson: Longwood Gardens at Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. The sheer expanse, beauty, and variety of plants are breathtaking. I was fascinated with the water lily garden.

Susi Torre-Bueno: I really love Lotusland, up near Santa Barbara. What I like the most is that the gal who created the garden, Madam Ganna Walska, believed in doing things in a big way and her vision still persists in the large areas devoted to specimens of single species, or the long rows of fruit trees. There are a couple of good books about this fascinating garden, which is open by appointment only and well worth a visit. On September 19, Lotusland will host their annual "Ultimate Plant Party;" details are at lotusland.org. You'll be nearby a delightful nursery with wonderful and extensive display gardens, Seaside Gardens (seaside-gardens.com). You could easily spend an hour or more here, and you can purchase most of the plant varieties you see on display.

Sue Getyina: The Huntington Library Gardens. So many different areas devoted to all kinds of plants.

Katherine Gannett: I would have to say that one of my favorite gardens to visit is Sissinghurst in Kent, England. Knowing how much thought and planning and time Vita Sackville-West and her husband, Harold Nicholson, put into the garden, it is interesting to see how their plant pairings evolved. The garden itself is large and lovely, from the Priest's House to the daffodil meadow, to the traditional herb garden, to the large yew hedges, to the bleached lime walk, I find it all very inspiring (and daunting). My favorite plant is probably the little checkerboard fritillaria that appears in several areas of the property. It doesn't hurt the total old-world effect to have the adjacent architecture as part of the picture: 13th century tower, guest houses, and the half-timbered Priest's House all contribute to the loveliness of the backdrop. I think this garden is one of my favorites because it is so well-documented, both in Vita's gardening notebooks and in her correspondence to family and friends. Sissinghurst is where I first became acquainted with the concept of the "white garden."



David Ericson: My Mom and Dad's garden in Santa Barbara. It's where I first fell in love with nature.

Donna Tierney: One of my favorite gardens is Koko Crater Botanical Garden in eastern Oahu, Hawaii. It is a lovely garden featuring a dry land collection of plants that is a model of xeriscape concepts on a very tropical Hawaiian island. I love it because it features plants that aren't found in many other places on the island and are in stark contrast to the palms, hibiscus, orchids, and other tropical plants usually associated with Hawaii. The garden is a two-mile loop trail, which meanders through various dry land plant collections from around the world as well as native Hawaiian plants. The major collections are arranged according to geography-the Americas, Hawaii, Madagascar, and Africa. There are significant collections of cacti, baobabs, dry land palms, aloes, euphorbias, and Adeniums. The plumeria trees are stunning! They are huge and the colors are amazing.

Mollie Allan: Great Dixter and Sissinghurst Gardens in Kent, England. Glorious!

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Donald G. Yeckel: The favorite garden I have visited is the Montreal Botanical Garden. It has a stunning variety of theme gardens, greenhouses, and displays, but I especially loved its world-class Japanese and Chinese gardens.

Lisa Rini: Lotusland. Madam Ganna Walska had such diverse taste in plant material, and I loved her use of rocks, glass, and shells. I use many of her ideas in gardens I design.

Nicole O'Neil: Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden in Seal Harbor on Mt. Desert Island, Maine. Designed by Beatrix Farrand, the garden is beautifully situated in the forest, from which there are views out to sea. Open to the public just one day a week in late July, August, and early September.



Pat Greer Venolia: The Huntington Gardens in San Marino, California, has been a magic place for me since my grandmother took me there in 1947 (see photo). When I go there now, I'm always eager to see how the climbing Pasadena Tournament rose from 1945 is doing. (My father discovered the climbing variety in a field of Pasadena Tournament rose bushes that he was growing.) Not to be missed: the magnificent old trees, huge camellia bushes, the new Chinese Garden, the fun and interesting children's garden, springtime, when the wisteria is blooming on the arbor leading to the Japanese garden, and those magnificent, cherished rose gardens... and there's so much more.

Amelia B. Lima: My all time favorite garden is Roberto Burle Marx's private gardens at his home in Graratiba, R.J. Brazil, for the exuberance and all his creativity in arranging plants together.

Tynan Wyatt: I've been to probably 15 botanical gardens or arboreta around the western hemisphere and I still have to give the nod to the San Diego Botanic Garden (which will always be Quail Botanical Gardens in my heart). The only other garden I like more, but isn't fully open to the public, is my own backyard! SDBG is my favorite because its plantings are diverse, span an enormous botanical richness, are well labeled, well kept, the children's garden and underwater garden are not only original by extremely well done, it has a surprise waterfall (best way to make a date go from good to great!), the subtropical fruit garden always has something interesting happening, and I almost always learn something new on each visit to the garden. No other botanical garden I've been to in California, Florida, Georgia, Arizona, Oregon, or the Dominican Republic does all that and in such a humble way.

Rachel Cobb I have had opportunity to travel and see many gardens private and public all over the world. The most memorable garden I have visited was at the Alhambra in Granada, Spain, the Palacio de Generalife gardens. The water-garden courtyard has a long pool framed by flowerbeds, fountains, colonnades and pavilions. The Generalife is one of the oldest surviving Moorish gardens. Locally my favorite place to be is the San Diego Botanic Garden. It has so much to offer and is an easy place to just get lost in your thoughts strolling through the gardens.



FALL IS FOR PLANTING ...

Lettuce, spinach, arugula, chard, broccoli raab, kale, peas, radishes, carrots, beets, turnips, cilantro, Asian greens, and more!

"Fall is for Planting" banners begin to sprout up in nursery sales yards when gardens are still wearing their summer colors. The intent is to encourage shoppers to buy and plant trees and shrubs, but vegetable and flower growers should take action as well. Start seeds in late summer to take advantage of the balmy days, cool nights, and warm soils of fall. To read about the Top Ten Fall Varieties to grow from seed, visit ezfromseed.org.



Gardening for a Second Season

(Adapted from one of many useful articles at SDHS sponsor Renee's Garden website: reneesgarden.com)

Mid to late summer (and early fall in our mild San Diego climate) is an ideal time to plant seeds for a second gardening season that can be as productive as your major early spring plantings. For a delicious and very nutritious cornucopia of fall meals, late summer is the time to plant juicy lettuces, the cool-season aromatic herbs - dill, garlic chives, chervil, cilantro, arugula, and parsley; hearty greens like chard or kale; baby pak choi, and other Oriental greens; carrots, beets, leeks, peas, green onion, spinach, radishes, fennel and all the brassica family members.

Late planted crops have less competition from weeds and pests and grow beautifully with less garden work. In mild-winter areas of the country, you'll have great harvests in time for Thanksgiving and many crops will hold perfectly through the low light winter months without bolting to seed or becoming bitter tasting as they would in the heat of early summer.

It may seem odd to be starting new seeds when a lot of your summer produce like squash and tomatoes are still cranking, but it's well worth the effort. For reliable harvests in cooler weather, seedlings must have good initial growth and well-established root systems. The goal is to have fully grown, ready to pick plants that basically store themselves in the garden throughout the fall, so you can pick them as you need them over a long sustained harvest season.

Start seeds in containers or in a garden area with dappled sun or light shade - wherever seeds can germinate comfortably out of the hot sun but still get plenty of light after seedlings are well-established. Plant in well-prepared moist soil and in the evening so they will have the advantage of cooler night temperatures to settle in and minimize shock. If daytime temperatures are still in the high 80's, shelter your newly transplanted seedlings with row covers or a shade cloths for a few days so they can adjust heat and sun. ☘

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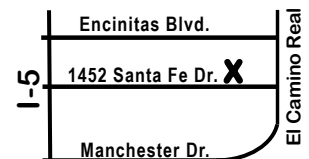
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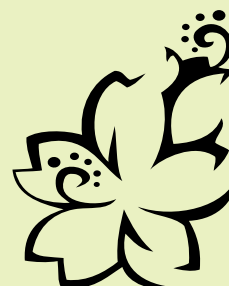
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AUGUST 2015 PLANT DISPLAY

By 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.

Phygelius 'Red Alert' CAPE FUCHSIA

(Scrophulariaceae) Horticultural Hybrid

The Cape Fuchsias are originally from South Africa, and this is another showy cultivar for your perennial garden. The 1- to 2-foot long flower stems are topped by clusters of downward facing scarlet flowers with pale yellow throats. The flowers bloom from spring to fall and are cold hardy to 10 degrees F. The plant grows well in full sun or light shade, and should be given regular water when in flower. It is strikingly attractive when planted in containers or small borders, and is a magnet for hummingbirds.

(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 8/15) – J.H.

Portulacaria afra 'Variegata' VARIEGATED ELEPHANT BUSH

(Portulacaceae) Horticultural Hybrid



Portulacaria afra is a succulent native to dry areas of South Africa and is the only plant in the genus *Portulacaria*. It is well adapted to heat, sun and drought. In its native habitat the species is a large upright shrub or tree, and a source of food for large range animals, hence its common name. However, this cultivar, besides having small round variegated leaves, is smaller than the parent plant, and has a distinctly different structure. The flexible stems allow it to cascade and cling close to the ground, and an attractive feature is the contrast between the deep purple stems and the small light yellow-green leaves. It is cold hardy to 25 degrees F, has low water needs (drought-tolerant once established), and can be grown in sun or

shade. The plant's growth habit is well-suited for planting in hanging pots, on small banks, over retaining walls, or as an accent plant in the garden. To learn more visit smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=2642. [Randy Baldwin, owner of whole grower San Marcos Growers, recommends another form for hedges: "I really love this group of plants. We grow a number of selections and are working on a few more. The form *macrophylla* (smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=3836) has been particularly popular lately as a drought tolerant hedge though it is a bit more cold tender."] (Marilyn Wilson, Vista, 8/15) – 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, available online for FREE at tinyurl.com/Plant-Descriptions.

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the August newsletter was *Sempervivum subsofa*fauna DUST BUNNY HOUSELEEK.

3 *Abutilon palmeri* INDIAN MALLOW
(Pat Pawlowski, El Cajon, 8/15)

Aloe hybrid (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 8/15)

3 *Anisacanthus quadrifidus* var. *wrightii* (syn. *A. wrightii*)
MEXICAN HONEYSUCKLE, WRIGHT'S TEXAS
FIRECRACKER (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 8/15)

3 *Bauhinia galpinii*, syn. *B. punctata* Red Bauhinia
(Sheila Busch, Escondido, 8/15)

3 *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* PRIDE-OF-BARBADOS,
DWARF POINCIANA (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 8/15)

Duranta erecta 'Sweet Memories' GOLDEN DEWDROP,
PIGEON BERRY, SKYFLOWER
(Marcy Singer, Carmel Valley, 8/15)

3 *Justicia brandegeana* SHRIMP PLANT
(Marcy Singer, Carmel Valley, 8/15)

3 *Justicia brandegeana* BOOZY SHRIMP PLANT
(Plant Lover, Carmel Valley, 8/15)

Lantana camara BUSH LANTANA (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 8/15)

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AUGUST MEETING REPORT

The Ecology of California Garden Bees,

Dr. Rollin Coville

By Donna Tierney

Dr. Rollin Coville has spent the last seven years photographing bees and working with Dr. Gordon Frankie from Berkeley and Dr. Robbin Thorp from Davis in their ongoing studies of bees in urban gardens. The recently published book, *California Bees & Blooms: A guide for gardeners and Naturalists*, is one result of their work. The following are some key pieces of information provided during Dr. Coville's presentation.

There are over 1600 California native bee species. They are very diverse. Some nest in the ground, some in wood, others in cavities of existing structures or in holes. Some bees use water (which they drink and store in a special organ in their bodies) to soften the dirt when they are building nests, and they like to hide the entrances to their hives.

Bees and wasps share a common ancestor – fossil bees. There are six families of bees that exhibit very diverse nesting and social behaviors. Some bees are social and have specific roles within the colony. Other bees are solitary. One odd bee, called a cuckoo bee, is lazy and likes to live off of other bees by stealing their food or invading their hives. They are built like tanks!

Bees have some specialized body parts to help them collect pollen. While honey bees have pollen baskets (corbiculae) in which to carry pollen back to the hive, many native bees carry pollen on the underside of the abdomen instead. The abdomens of these bees are covered with a thick tuft of elongated hairs called a scopa. Instead of packing the pollen into a ball, the pollen is spread over the entire abdominal area.

Most bees start emerging in early spring. Usually the males come out first and wait for the females to arrive. Some only produce one generation of offspring during a season, while others produce multiple generations. If weather or other conditions are not appropriate for mating, the bees may not emerge until conditions become more favorable. The recent drought conditions in California appear to have discouraged bees from emerging during spring, so we have seen fewer bees.

The larvae of bees eat nectar and pollen, while wasps are carnivorous. Wasp eggs are laid in the bodies of prey that they have stung. The victim's body becomes the food source for the young offspring.

The stinger of a bee is used to lay eggs, incapacitate prey, or to fend off predators. Males have no sting. They act ferocious to fend off predators.

The floral visitation patterns of bees is very diverse. Some bees may only collect pollen from one type of plant. Providing an assortment of plants in your garden will attract various types of bees. The following website provides seasonal plant list for attracting bees: helpabee.org/best-bee-plants-for-california.html.

The San Diego Horticultural Society would like to express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Coville for sharing this important information and his gorgeous photos with us. If these tidbits from his lecture have peaked your curiosity, you can order a copy of *California Bees and Blooms* by going to helpabee.org or heydaybooks.com.



Donna Tierney

SoloBee native bee shelter offered for sale at the meeting

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Pacific Horticulture Society covers the globe in 2016, starting in February with a first-ever trip to Oaxaca, Mexico, a UNESCO World Heritage site. We'll tour gardens and historical sites while exploring art and culture and even learning to cook. In March, PacHort heads to Costa Rica for an in-depth exploration of this fascinating country. We'll visit places that are way off the typical tourist path and see gardens not usually open to the public. April brings Savannah (shown here) and Charleston, and if you've never been, you simply have to go. In June we head north to see Vancouver and Victoria. We have insiders arranging access to the best private gardens. Later in the summer, we get very exotic with a trip to Bali and Singapore. We cap off the travel year with Japan. Join us for this exploration of the must-see highlights, emphasizing the long history of horticultural tradition in Japan through a visit to some of the best gardens Japan has to offer while traveling through the landscape that has inspired garden designers for generations.



Pacific Horticulture Society 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.

■ Real Dirt Continued from page 4

had a more public, larger entrance through the Norman Court. The deadline for completing the Bishop's garden was October 1928, in time for the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

In recent years the garden has been plagued by a series of challenges. First, a nematode infestation, followed by huge snowfall in 2010, and in 2011 a rare earthquake hit the DC area. Additional damage occurred when a crane being used to repair cathedral earthquake damage toppled over. These challenges led to a major rejuvenation effort, which resulted in three renovated sub-gardens, a rebuilt entrance, restored walkways, and plant replacement. After three years of renewal work, the Cathedral and the All Hallows Guild rededicated the Bishop's Garden in October 2013.

The Bishop's Garden has long been a favorite of professional gardeners and landscape designers. The intricate pathways, resting spots, framed views, and changes in elevation combine all the attributes of great gardens! Landscape architect and renovation team member Michael Vergason describes the powers of the Bishop's Garden as "age, intricacy, detail, and a certain ruinous quality which gives it an ancient feel." If your travels take you to our nation's capitol, I would highly recommend a long stroll through the cathedral grounds and a reservation for high tea!

Bibliography:

cathedral.org/about
tinyurl.com/bishopgarden1
tinyurl.com/bishopgarden2
allhallowsguild.org/docs/grounds/Pickard_lores.pdf
allhallowsguild.org/Grounds/the-cathedral-grounds

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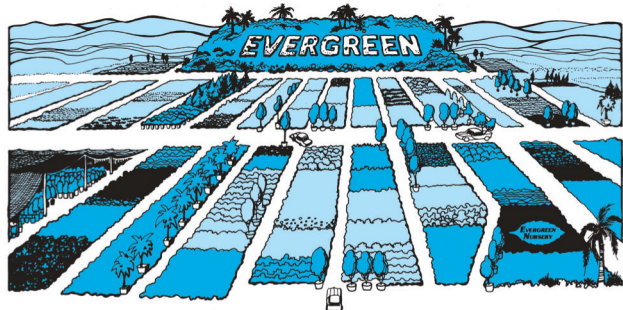
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What's Happening? for SEPTEMBER 2015

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.

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Events at Public Gardens

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

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** Contact info on other side
September 12, 5-9pm, Gala in the Garden: Food, Wine, Floral Design, Silent Auction, and Entertainment. \$200/person.

September 15, 9am-2pm, Succulent Wreath Class: Take home a beautiful succulent wreath that you make. Members \$60, non-members \$72. register by Sept. 11.

September 17, 9am-1pm, Smartphone Nature Photography: How to take an ordinary nature snapshot and turn it into a work of art. Members \$59, non-members \$71. register by September 11.

September 20, 10-11am, Creative and Colorful Succulent Landscapes: Learn to create a waterwise garden full of color, texture and creativity! Members \$30, non-members \$36. register by September 11.

Through Sept. 26, 9am-5pm, Double Takes: botanical art display with a twist – showcasing the photography of Rachel Cobb and Lesley Randall. Free with admission or membership.

❖ The Water Conservation Garden

Contact info on other side

Saturdays, 10:30am, Garden Tour: Docent led tour of the Water Conservation Garden. Meet at the main gate at the Garden entrance. No reservations required.

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See page 3 and inside front cover**

◆ Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops

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◆ Cedros Gardens, Saturday & Sunday FREE classes.

See www.cedrosgardens.com.

◆ City Farmers Nursery Workshops

See www.cityfarmersnursery.com.

◆ Evergreen Nursery: FREE Seminar

See column at left for details.

◆ Sunshine Care FREE Seminar Each Month

Sept. 19, 10:30, The Beauty of California Native Plants for a Water- Challenged Future Lecture RSVP: (858) 472-6059 or 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.

Point Loma, 9am

Sept. 5 Soil Amendments
Sept. 12 Summer Rose Care
Sept. 19 How to Cut & Dry Herbs
Sept. 26 Garden Trends Now

Poway, 9:30am

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◆ Weidners' Gardens classes & workshops

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

Next SDHS Meeting

September 14

Refresh Your Garden Design

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

Terrestrial Bromeliads

Friday, September 18

In recent years bromeliads have become more popular in Southern California gardens because of their ease of care and their water wise habits. Robert Kopfstein gave us a dynamic workshop a year ago about bromeliads, with an emphasis on growing them in containers. Now he's going to expand our options as he shows us how to grow them in the ground.

To register go to www.sdhort.org and click on the workshop link.

September 5 (8am-4pm), 6 (9am-4pm), Plumeria Society's Hawaiian Plumeria Festival: Entertainment, an amazing plumeria flower show, and an extensive potted plumeria plant sales. Balboa Park, 1549 El Prado. Info: www.socalplumeriasociety.com.

September 6, 2-4pm, East County Rose Society: Organic Solutions for Rose Gardening and Ice Cream Social for members and guests. (Please bring toppings or ice cream related items). Knifings Nursery, 14940 OakCreek Rd., El Cajon. Info: www.eastcountyrosesociety.com.

September 10, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club: "Battle of the Blooms". A few of our own Club members will arrange flowers in a timed setting. 2818 Avenida de Portugal. Info: www.plgc.org.

September 10 - October 8, 5:30-8pm, Solana Center Master Composter Course: First in five week course. 2997 Glasgow Drive, Carlsbad. Free. Info: www.solanacenter.org.

September 11-13, Fall Home/Garden Show: Interior design, garden displays, plants for sale, and more. SDHS members can attend for FREE – see page 2. Del Mar Fairgrounds. Info: www.fallhomegardenshow.com.

September 12, 10-11:30am, Solana Center Vermicompost Workshop: Avocado Court, 215 East El Norte Parkway, Escondido. Free. Info: www.solanacenter.org. Register: Email Selena Miranda at smiranda@chworks.org or call (760) 755-5431.

September 13&20, 10am-4pm, San Diego Iris Society's Iris Rhizome Sale: Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Patio. Info: www.sandiegoirissociety.org.

September 19, 7am-3pm, California Native Plant Society Garden Native Symposium: See page 8. Learn to use native landscaping. \$35. Info: www.cnpssd.org or www.gardennative.org.

September 21 & 22, 8:30am-4:45pm, National Garden Club's Flower Show School: Open to all who want to study horticulture and design. Ecker House, San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. \$70-\$145. Info: www.ramonagardenclub.com/events.html or <http://gardenclub.org> or californiagardenclubs.com/calendar.

September 26, 8:45am-1:30pm, Macadamia Society's Annual Field Day: Classes germane to the macadamia industry and more. \$20. 3410 Alta Vista Drive, Fallbrook. Info: www.macnuts.org.

September 28, 2pm, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club: The many options for lawn owners in a drought. Rancho Bernardo Public Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Drive. Info: www.lhnpc.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 10th of the month BEFORE the event to Neal King at calendar@sdhort.org.

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

Resources & Ongoing Events:

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

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

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

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

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

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

DESERT WILDFLOWER HOTLINE: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park: (760) 767-4684. 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) 768-3533 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. and first Sat., 10am-3pm, FREE. Info: (619) 232-5762.

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

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

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

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

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

Garden 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.

San Diego County Farmers Markets

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