

The background of the entire cover is a photograph of numerous monarch butterflies (Danaus plexippus) resting on the rough, textured bark of a tree. The butterflies are in various positions, some with wings spread, others partially hidden. Their orange wings with black veins and white spots along the edges are prominent against the brown, fissured bark.

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

August 2016, Number 263

Roar of the Monarch Butterfly PAGE 1

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Stars in the Garden – page 6

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On the Cover: Monarch butterflies on tree

SDHS NIGHT AT THE ZOO - SEE PAGE 19

There's more to the Zoo than animals!

Jim Bishop (2)



Slipper orchids in a greenhouse



Tall Alluaudia and other drought-tolerant plants

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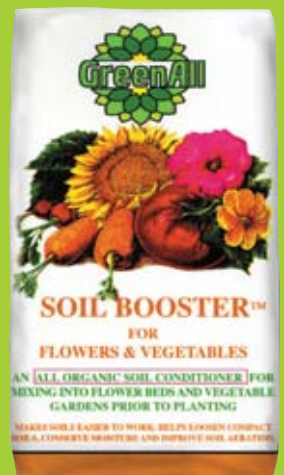
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Cuyamaca College

Ornamental Horticulture

Fall 2016 Class Schedule

<u>Number</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Unit</u>
OH 102	Xeriscape - Water Conservation	Tue	5:00 to 6:50 pm	2
OH 105	Edibles in Urban Landscapes (Oct 17 to Dec 10)	Wed	5:00 to 7:50 pm	1.5
OH 114	Floral Design 1	Tue	4:00 to 8:50 pm	3
OH 116	Floral Design 2	Mon	4:00 to 9:05 pm	3
OH 120	Fundamentals of O.H.	Wed	10:00 am to 2:50 pm	3
OH 120	Fundamentals of O.H.	Mon	7:10 to 9:15 pm	3
	8/27 - 9/10 - 9/24 - 10/8 - 10/22 - 11/5 - 12/3	Sat	8:00 am to 3:45 pm	
OH 170	Plant Materials: Trees and Shrubs	Tue	12:00 to 2:50 pm	3
OH 172	Introduction to Landscape Design	Wed	4:00 to 8:50 pm	3
OH 173	Intermediate Landscape Design	Mon	4:00 to 9:05 pm	3
OH 174	Turf and Ground Cover Management	Mon	5:00 to 7:05 pm	3
	9/3 - 9/17 - 10/1 - 10/15 - 10/29 - 11/19 - 12/10	Sat	8:00 am to 3:45 pm	
OH 200	Intro to CAD Landscape Design	Fri	12:00 to 3:15 pm	3
OH 221	Landscape Construction: Irrigation and Carpentry	Wed	7:00 to 8:50 pm	3
	9/3 - 9/17 - 10/1 - 10/15 - 10/29 - 11/19 - 12/10	Sat	8:00 am to 3:45 pm	
OH 235	Principles of Landscape Irrigation	Tue	5:00 to 8:50 pm	4
OH 240	Greenhouse Plant Production	Wed	5:00 to 6:50 pm	3
	8/27 - 9/10 - 9/24 - 10/8 - 10/22 - 11/5 - 12/3	Sat	8:00 am to 3:45 pm	
OH 255	Sustainable Urban Landscapes	Thur	5:30 to 8:35 pm	3
OH 263	Urban Forestry (Oct. 31 to Dec. 10)	Thur	5:00 to 6:30 pm	1
	11/19 - 12/10	Sat	8:00 am to 3:45 pm	
OH 264	Safe Tree Climbing Practices	Sat	8:30 am to 3:35 pm	1
	9/3 - 9/17 - 10/1 - 10/15 - 10/29			
OH 266	Science in Practice in Arboriculture (August 25 to October 27)	Thur	7:00 pm to 8:30 pm	1
OH 290	Cooperative Work Experience	Hours to be arranged		1-4

**For additional information call 619.660.4023 or
visit the Ornamental Horticulture website
www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb**

CUYAMACA COLLEGE - ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Spring Garden Festival 2016 Student Volunteers



Ornamental Horticulture Department Orientation

All are welcome, including new and continuing students.

Wednesday, August 17 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Cuyamaca College - Room M-105

900 Rancho San Diego Parkway - El Cajon 92019

Classes start Monday August 22

Register now for the fall semester!

Space available in all classes.

To register: www.cuyamaca.edu/services/admissions/default.aspx
cuyamaca.admissions@gcccd.edu 619-660-4275

- ◆ **Greenhouse Plant Production**
Learn about the business of nursery production and retail nursery operations.
- ◆ **Sustainable Urban Landscapes**
Covers all aspects of developing and maintaining a sustainable landscape.
- ◆ **Fundamentals of Ornamental Horticulture**
Details the basics of plant growth, landscape maintenance, propagation, irrigation, pruning and much more.
- ◆ **Principles of Landscape Irrigation**
Give yourself the knowledge of irrigation hydraulics and design and be prepared to manage water more efficiently in landscapes.
- ◆ **Landscape Construction: Irrigation and Carpentry**
Hands-on activities for learning irrigation construction and repair.
- ◆ **More great classes available, see the other side for full schedule.**

Visit the Ornamental Horticulture website

www.cuyamaca.edu/ohweb



HORTICULTURE

FALL 2016
miracosta.edu/hort



Horticulture Associate Degree or Certificate Program

At MiraCosta College, you can earn an associate degree or a certificate in a variety of programs including irrigation technology, landscape architecture, landscape management, nursery production, wine technology and more. Some certificates take as little as two semesters to complete!

To receive the 2016-17 course schedule with complete details and enrollment information, visit surf.miracosta.edu or call **760.795.6615**. For more information about MiraCosta College's Horticulture Program, email or call **Claire Ehrlinger** at cehrlinger@miracosta.edu or **760.795.6704**.

Fall classes at MiraCosta College start August 22

Community colleges are still California's best buy in higher education. Enroll now!
See back for courses offered this fall.

Fall 2016 Horticulture Department OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, August 4
5-7 PM

MiraCosta College Horticulture Building, Room 7051
Parking available in lots 7A and 4C, no permit required.

Join us for our Open House and find out how our program can get your life moving in a new direction. Come meet our professors; tour our facility; and learn about career, internship and scholarship opportunities. Everyone is welcome, including prospective and current students!

For more information contact **Carolyn Kinnon**,
760.757.2121, x6533 or ckinnon@miracosta.edu



Horticulture Department & Plant Sales Nursery
Horticulture Building, room 7051
MiraCosta College, Oceanside Campus
1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056
Parking available in lot-7A and 4C

MiraCosta College Horticulture Credit Courses

Course	Title	Evening ¹ Day	Hybrid ²
FALL 2016			
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS			
HORT 110	Introduction to Sustainable Horticulture (Units: 3.0).....	•	
HORT 115	Soil Science (Units: 3.0)		•
HORT 116	Plant Science (Units: 4.0)	•	
HORT 117	Plant Identification: Trees, Shrubs, and Vines (Units: 3.0)	•	
HORT 118	Arboriculture (Units: 3.0).....		•
HORT 126	Landscape Irrigation (Units: 3.0)		•
HORT 127	Landscape Design (Units: 3.0)	•	
HORT 128	Landscape Construction (Units: 3.0).....	•	
HORT 144	Nursery Management and Production (Units: 3.0)		•
HORT 230	Landscape Architecture (Units: 3.0)		•
INTERNSHIP/WORK EXPERIENCE			
HORT 292	Internship Studies (Units: 1.0, 2.0 or 3.0)	•	•
HORT 299	Occupational Cooperative Work Experience (Units: 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 or 4.0)	•	•
SPRING 2017			
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS			
HORT 110	Introduction to Sustainable Horticulture (Units: 3.0).....	•	
HORT 115	Soil Science (Units: 3.0)	•	
HORT 116	Plant Science (Units: 4.0)	•	
HORT 117	Plant Identification: Trees, Shrubs, and Vines (Units: 3.0)		•
HORT 121	Sustainable Landscape and Turf Management (Units: 3.0)		•
HORT 127	Landscape Design (Units: 3.0)		•
HORT 134	Integrated Pest Management (Units: 3.0).....		•
HORT 140	Subtropical Fruit and Plant Production (Units: 3.0)		•
HORT 149	Vineyard Production and Management (Units: 3.0)		•
INTERNSHIP/WORK EXPERIENCE			
HORT 292	Internship Studies (Units: 1.0, 2.0 or 3.0)	•	•
HORT 299	Occupational Cooperative Work Experience (Units: 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 or 4.0)	•	•
SUMMER 2017			
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS			
HORT 116	Plant Science (Units: 4.0)	•	

Notes: Course offerings are subject to change. Check **SURF** at surf.miracosta.edu for the most up-to-date information. Many classes have pre- or co-requisites or enrollment limitations. These are listed in **SURF** or the course catalog, available at catalog.miracosta.edu.
¹Evening classes begin 5 p.m. or later. ²Hybrid classes meet online and on campus. *Online courses may require on-campus proctored tests.



MiraCosta College



760.757.2121

miracosta.edu

SDHS NIGHT AT THE ZOO SEE PAGE 19

There's more to the Zoo than animals!



A display of caudiciform plants.

Jim Bishop

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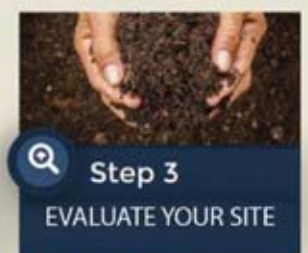
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SDHS NIGHT AT THE ZOO - SEE PAGE 19

There's more to the Zoo than animals!



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SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

OUR MISSION is to inspire and educate the people of San Diego County to grow and enjoy plants, and to create beautiful, environmentally responsible gardens and landscapes.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Renewal information is at www.sdhort.org.

For questions contact membership@sdhort.org or call Cindy Benoit at 760-473-4244.

MEETING SCHEDULE

5:30 – 6:45 Vendor sales, plant display

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

MEETINGS & EVENTS

September 12 Jeff Moore on his new book, *Aloes and Agaves*

October 10 Brian Kemble and Johanna Silver on the Ruth Bancroft garden

November 14 Greg Rubin & Lucy Warren on their new book, *The Drought-Defying California Garden*



www.sdhort.org

COVER IMAGE: Roy Toft took this photo of monarch butterflies covering a tree trunk in Mexico. Learn more at our August meeting at our NEW meeting place. Details below and at www.sdhort.org.

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 8, 2016, 5:30 – 8:30 PM

Speaker: Bill Toone on *Roar of the Monarch Butterfly*

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

NEW MEETING PLACE: Congregation Beth Israel, 9001 Towne Centre Drive, San Diego 92122 (across the street from the Westfield UTC mall). Parking is free – validate your parking ticket at check-in desk.

For the first meeting at our NEW meeting place, we welcome Bill Toone, wildlife biologist and founder of ECOLIFE Conservation, an organization dedicated to a world in which humans and nature live harmoniously. The monarch butterfly is the most recognizable butterfly in the world. In this presentation you will learn more about the relationship between plants and butterflies and follow along on the remarkable long distance, multi-generational migration of the monarch butterfly. Within a short generation of its discovery, this migration is now in danger of extinction. There are many elements associated with the decline of the monarch butterfly, but only one of them kills thousands of people and hundreds of thousands to millions of butterflies on an annual basis in Mexico. Bill will share insights into one of nature's poorly understood and critically threatened miracles. Join us to learn about the journey and what each of us can do to preserve these valuable resources for future generations.

Starting his career as a wildlife biologist with the San Diego Zoo, Bill studied the endangered California condor and the causes of its decline. That work grew into a conservation program of world renown, and Bill soon found himself featured in newspapers and magazines. He appeared on the Tonight Show, and filmed wildlife documentaries in the Costa Rican rainforests with Olivia Newton-John. Bill has performed conservation work in some of the most remote regions of the world. From Honduras and Paraguay to Cameroon and Papua New Guinea, he not only witnessed incredible wildlife spectacles, but also came in close contact with some of the poorest, and poorly understood, populations of people. ECOLIFE Conservation is based on the premise that people and their environments are inextricably joined – that one cannot work to save endangered species, or endangered places, without working as well to protect and improve the lives of the people who live near them. Bill and ECOLIFE build stoves in remote villages that improve the lives of families and reduce tree cutting for fuel. They install water-harvesting systems, and create programs to help people feed themselves healthy food, rather than plants and animals poached from the forests. Bill continues to work and study in such places as Mexico, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

For more information see ecolifeconservation.org and page 7. 🌿



SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established September 1994

BOARD MEMBERS

Lisa Bellora - Member-at-Large
Cindy Benoit - Membership Chair
Patty Berg - Volunteer Coordinator
Jim Bishop - President
B.J. Boland - Corresponding Secretary
Ray Brooks - Member at Large
Julian Duval - San Diego Botanic Garden Representative
Mary James - Program Committee Chair
Princess Norman - Secretary
Susanna Pagan - Public Relations Coordinator
Sam Seat - Treasurer
Donna Tierney - Member at Large
Susi Torre-Bueno - Newsletter Editor, Past President
Roy Wilburn - Outreach Coordinator

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

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

Advertising: Ellie Knight;
advertising@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
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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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

August 8 – Help at New Meeting Place

Here's a chance to earn an invitation to our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party and help us all get acquainted with our new meeting space! Volunteers are needed on Monday, August 8 to welcome and direct members to our first meeting in the new space at Congregation Beth Israel near UTC. Extra hands are needed from approximately 4:00-6:30pm. Please contact PattyJBerg@gmail.com or call 760-815-0625 for more details. 🌿

LOOKING FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**HURRY –
Application deadline is July 31st**

With 1,200+ members, there must be at least a dozen or so individuals willing to participate on the SDHS Board. **Are you one of them? Is this your chance to get involved and share your talent and time?** We have several key volunteer Board positions that need to be filled in order for our organization to thrive. If you have an interest and skills to offer for any of these positions, please apply using the automated form on the website: sdhort.org. It is fast and easy! (You just need to log into the website and follow the prompts for security.) The open positions are:

- Vice President/ Program & Events
Coordinates the Program and Events committees
- Vice President/ Membership
Coordinates Membership and support activities
- Secretary
Board meeting preparation and minutes
- Publicity/Marketing
Media coverage, signage and electronic communications
- Newsletter Editor
Oversees the development of newsletter content, layout and production. Coordinates advertising, calendar and sponsor inserts.
- Garden Tour Chair
Plans and manages the annual Garden Tour
- Meeting Room Coordinator
Oversees meeting room set-up and Plant vendor sales
- Member-At-Large (3 positions)

All positions serve a 3-year term, except for the members-at-large, who serve for 1 year. If you are new to the organization or to serving on a board, a member-at-large position may be just perfect for you. The board meets 6 times a year for about 2 hours each time, and this is an excellent opportunity to share your skills and to enhance the board's expertise. Out-going officers will "orient" new officers on duties to ensure you have all the information you need.

Don't wait! We need you now! Apply by July 31 on the website. In August, the current board will be electing from a slate presented by the Nominating Committee. The new officers take over in September. If you have any questions, please contact Princess Norman at 760 789-1342 or mtnpeak2@cox.net. 🌿



FROM THE BOARD

By Jim Bishop

New Meeting Location!

Starting this month, our monthly meetings will be held at Congregation Beth Israel (CBI), a state-of-the-art meeting facility located at 9001 Towne Centre Drive, San Diego 92122—in the UTC area. It is a beautiful space with a large auditorium-style room featuring padded seats, a proper stage and an excellent audio-visual system. There is an adjacent room that will be used for a pre-meeting social hour where vendors and other tables will be set up. Free coffee and tea will be available before the meeting and we have access to a kitchen for the occasional meeting that includes food. In addition, there is a large courtyard – featuring Mediterranean plants – in front of the meeting room.

Our new home is centrally located and has good freeway access. Our central and south county members can avoid the “merge,” and our north county members have just a few minutes (5 miles) longer to drive. And for those that carpool, 805 South has a new commuter lane. Best of all, there are many stores and restaurants in the area so you can make an afternoon of it or have an early dinner before the meeting. Ample free parking is available in the adjacent parking garage.

We encourage you to come early to the August meeting so you can enjoy pre-meeting refreshments and check out our new facility. Doors open at 5:30.

For more information about CBI and a map, go to sdhort.org/Meeting-Information. Remember that parking for CBI is free, but it's in a commercial lot. Take a parking ticket when you enter the parking structure and validate it at the meeting check-in.

Help us get the word out by telling other members and your friends.

Join the SDHS Board

San Diego Horticultural Society is one of the largest plant-related organizations in the USA and you have an opportunity to help guide us into the future. A number of positions on the Board will become available soon and this is your chance to serve on the best horticultural board in the county. Visit our webpage to submit your application to serve on our board at <https://sdhort.wildapricot.org/event-2226718>. If you need additional information about various positions email info@short.org or contact me or any other current board member.

Monthly Meeting Schedule

Our speakers for the remainder of 2016 have been scheduled:

Our August 8 speaker, Bill Toone, is a wildlife biologist and founder of ECOLIFE Conservation, an organization dedicated to a world in which humans and nature live harmoniously. His talk is entitled *The Roar of the Monarch Butterfly*. Join us to learn about the relationship between plants and butterflies and follow along on the remarkable long distance, multi-generational migration of the monarch butterfly. This will be our first meeting at CBI. More details are on page 1 and our website.

On September 12 Jeff Moore, proprietor of Solana Succulents Nursery, speaks about his latest book, *Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation*.

October 10 features two speakers regarding the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek California. Johanna Silver, new garden editor for *Sunset*, will speak briefly about her new book, *The Bold Dry Garden*, all about the Ruth Bancroft Garden. Her talk will be followed by our main program presented by the garden's curator Brian Kemble.

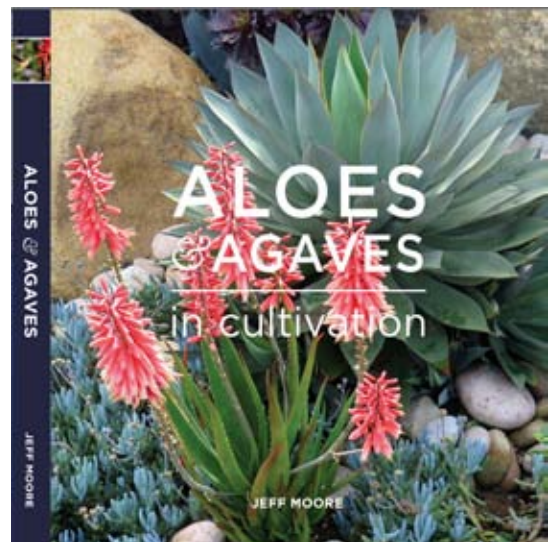
On November 14 we welcome back local native plant celebrities Lucy Warren and Greg Rubin to talk about their new book, *The Drought-Defying California Garden*.

There is no regularly scheduled meeting for December, but we are planning a special December event and more information about it will be added to the website as we finalize it.

And don't forget, the best and most up to date source of information about all our monthly meetings and the speakers is available anytime on our website, SDHORT.ORG.



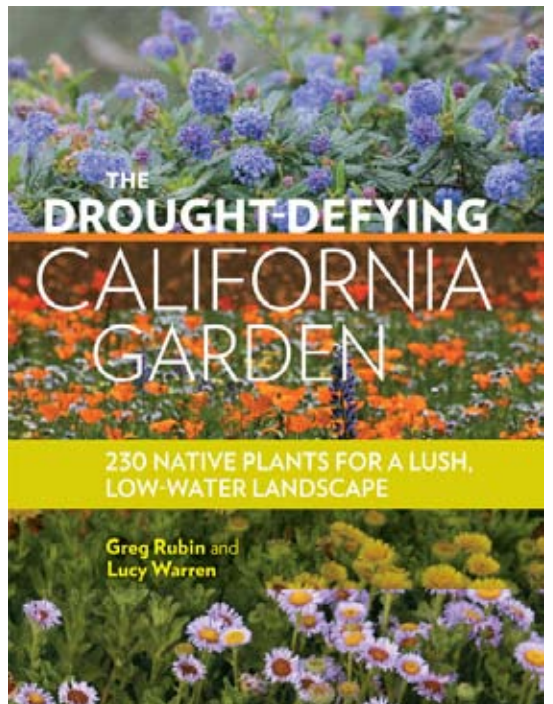
Let's Talk Plants! August 2016, No. 263



September 12



October 10



November 14

THE REAL DIRT ON...

Emily Dickinson

By Carol Buckley

There were carpets of lily-of-the-valley and pansies; platoons of sweet peas, hyacinths in May to give all the bees dyspepsia.

—Martha Dickinson Bianchi

Posthumously published, Emily Elizabeth Dickinson was better known for her garden than her verse during her lifetime. Later, her flowers were delivered to the world in her poetry, but her prolificacy was unknown even to her younger sister Lavinia (Vinnie), who found 1,100 poems tucked away in Emily's bedroom after her death on May 15, 1886.



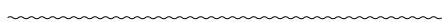
Emily said she was born in the garden, and it is true that she “arrived” on December 10, 1830 (at the homestead built by her grandfather, Samuel Dickinson) to a mother, Emily Norcross Dickinson, who compensated for the domesticity of a Victorian woman with a passionate devotion to her garden, especially rose bowers, which later Emily entwined with honeysuckle.

Emily's family was a community beacon. Her father, Edward Dickinson, was a lawyer and served in the U.S. Congress, and her grandfather Samuel founded Amherst College. Her brother, Austin, was a lawyer and, with his wife Susan, hosted luminaries such as Ralph Waldo Emerson. Emily was well educated for her day and, with Vinnie, attended Amherst Academy; she studied for a while at Mary Lyon's Mount Holyoke Female Seminary.

During her seven years at Amherst Academy, Emily studied botany and Latin. She and the other girls collected plant specimens, including many ferns, from the local woods, pressed them, and classified them in Linnaean fashion. Emily's herbarium, which reached over four hundred specimens, resides in the Dickinson Collection at the Houghton Library at Harvard University.

For a time Emily lived in a house where her bedroom faced the graveyard. When her father moved the family back to the homestead, Emily grew seeds in her bedroom window and helped servants in the orchard. The flower garden came under Emily's care when her mother fell ill, and flourished as a meandering cottage garden full of scent and wildflower color. Her father constructed a conservatory for her, where among her heliotropes and alyssum, she grew more exotic plants, such as tiger lilies. In her 30s, Emily withdrew, and her only tangible existence for many townspeople were the gorgeous floral arrangements and notes she sent them. Even during those years, however, “the Myth of Amherst” could be glimpsed, all in white, gardening at night.

In 1852, her garden became “Vinnie's sainted garden,” in addition to the large vegetable garden that robust Vinnie had always tended. Under the younger sister's care, Emily's “Puritan garden” became a riot of Pre-Raphaelite color; and tiger lily came out into the light of day.



The quote at top is from Judith Farr and Louise Carter's book, *The Gardens of Emily Dickinson*, Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2004. 🌿

BOOK REVIEW

The Sensuous Garden

By Montagu Don

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

I'm looking in my thesaurus for adjectives that are even better than “lush,” “sumptuous,” or “opulent” to describe this book. Perhaps “splendid” is what I'm looking for. This is quite a book.

In October 2005, I reviewed another book by this author, writing then as Monty Don, called *The Complete Gardener*. I gave it a rave, too.

The Sensuous Garden, published in 1997, is the third of Don's 17 books. The latest one, *The Road to Le Tholonet: A French Garden Journey*, was published in 2013. He's also created two DVDs about gardens.

As a side note, I'll tell you that Don has suffered from depression through most of his adult life. He's quoted as saying “Earth heals me better than any medicine.” It's astonishing that someone fighting the demon of depression can produce such beauty.

The book is organized around six chapters: Touch, Sight, Sound, Taste, Scent, and Intuition. Intuition reiterates a theme that appears throughout the book: Gardens exist for our pleasure. There's almost nothing you can do that cannot heal itself in a year. So forget about rules, Garden to your heart's delight.

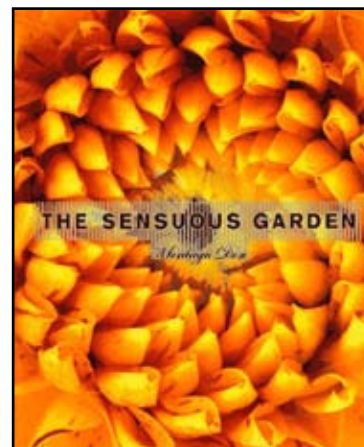
The most obvious things to enjoy about this book are the photographs that illustrate the concepts he writes about. I don't have an exact count, but there are over 200 in full color—gorgeous. The dust jacket photo, repeated in the text, is an extreme close-up of an orange dahlia. Wow! It would entice anyone to stop and pick up the book.

Probably the most spectacular is a two-page photo of *Meconopsis grandis*, a deep blue poppy-like flower with orange stamens, but there are many other candidates—moss-covered rocks, close-ups of barks and various stems, dream-like topiary. The list could go on, but the one I keep going back to is a close up of a gardener's hands holding a large onion. It doesn't sound like much, but believe me, it is.

The book includes an index and a complete and detailed plant directory. Remember, though, these are English plants, so probably most will not grow here. Just admire them from afar.

Well-written and thoughtful text accompanies the pictures. The best of that is the introduction. Don writes that we cannot avoid the sensuousness of the process of gardening, but that “gardening has become a part of life in which control is paramount. Every aspect of the garden is under the rigid dictatorship of gardeners who nevertheless constantly complain about the ‘battle’ they are waging against incipient disorder and engulfment by the wild forces of nature.”

Don would say, and I would echo, “Knock it off, and get back to enjoying the sensuousness that nature offers us.” 🌿



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Just Your Typical Nature-loving, Trumpet-playing, Globe-trotting Renaissance Man

By Patty Berg, Volunteer Coordinator

Meeting volunteer Jason Chen actually feels like meeting several people rolled into one. No, he does not have multiple personalities – let's be clear about that. But what he does have is a wide range of interests and passions that seamlessly converge in horticulture.

When he was six months old, Jason's parents adopted him from Taiwan. He grew up in the Bay area, except for two years in Italy when his father's job took the family overseas. By sixth grade they were in North Carolina, where Jason's love of horticulture was so clear that his folks built him a greenhouse while he was still in middle school! Although gardening was an obvious outcome of his artistic nature, on the musical side he learned to play trumpet and joined the school band.

As Jason found a love for the outdoors, exploring all that North Carolina had to offer - from Coastal plains to Piedmont to the Mountains - he developed a greater understanding and respect for nature. When it came time for college, it was horticulture and art that won out, so he pursued a double major at North Carolina State University.

At NCSU, Jason acquired a degree in Ornamental Horticulture while developing his art skills to a higher level. Today, that serves him well as he grows his landscape design business here in San Diego. When you visit his web site at www.jcbotanicaldesigns.com you'll see the gorgeous use of photo-realism in depicting his work. It's hard to tell where the line is between his beautiful designs and the art that displays the designs.

Many readers will remember Jason from his years at the late [and greatly missed] Cedros Gardens, where owner Mia McCarville was his mentor. Jason still fondly calls her "my Garden Mom." Besides that experience, his extensive travels influence his gardening aesthetic. He cites English gardens among his favorites, mainly because of the gardeners' pride in their work - no matter how small or humble the garden may be.

Since maintenance is the key to having a design fully manifested, it's no surprise that it is Jason's favorite part of the gardening process. But he also enjoys teaching others. And that's a great quality to have in a profession where both students and teachers are constantly learning from Mother Nature herself.

Jason seems poised to become one of the next young luminaries on the San Diego landscape design scene. But if that falls through for any reason, he's always got the trumpet and drawing/painting to fall back on. With all of that going for him, I believe he's the very definition of a Renaissance man. 🌿



THE DIRT ON WATER BLOG

El Nino is officially over – now what?

By Jeanne Meadow

El Nino, or as I have previously referred to it, El Nada, is officially over according to NOAA (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration). El Nino disappointed Southern California's hopes for drought recovery and wreaked havoc all around the world. While Northern California received a good amount of rainfall, the snowpack was weak and melted too fast. Most of California is still in some kind of drought. The experts now predict the sister to El Nino, La Nina, is on its way.

In a La Nina, the Pacific Ocean surface temperature begins to cool below normal. This irregular climate pattern can sometimes cause a continued or worsening drought. However, after the disappointing effects of the El Nino for Southern California, the experts are being much more conservative in predicting what may or may not happen.

Knowing that we live in an arid climate and given the unpredictability of weather patterns, I plan to continue to look for new ways to conserve our precious and limited resource—water. Summer is here in full force, with several days already in the 100s. Like you, I have already made lots of changes to use less water. How can I keep my garden alive?

Remember those frost cloths I told you about in the winter? They also work in the summer by protecting your sensitive plants from the heat. Frost cloths also let in enough light to keep your plants happy. Most local garden supply stores sell large rolls and you can easily cut them to your specific needs. You can tie them on, anchor them with rocks, or use large garden staples. It seems like a daunting task, but it only took me four hours with one helper to do my entire garden. If you don't have frost cloth, you can use shade cloth in the same way. It is usually much more expensive, but is extremely durable and comes in different degrees of shade coverage. It tends to be stiffer, a bit harder to work with, and bulky to store. I prefer shade cloth, but I already invested in the frost cloth and it seems to work well for me.

Individually covering your plants may not work for you. Go out in your garden and look for ways to create shade. Maybe plant a new tree or put up a sail shade or simply move a patio umbrella to protect your most precious plants. I have transferred some special plants into pots that I keep on a cart with wheels that can be quickly and easily moved to a safe place. La Nina—I'm ready for you!



Succulents protected from the heat

~~~~~  
Visit my blog at [Thedirtonwater.com](http://Thedirtonwater.com) to read my latest rants or contact me at [jeanne@jeannemeadow.com](mailto:jeanne@jeannemeadow.com). 🌿



## GOING WILD WITH NATIVES

### Stars in the Garden – California Native Asters (Asteraceae)

By Bobbie Stephenson

The Asteraceae, commonly called the aster, daisy or sunflower family, is the largest family of flowering plants (except possibly the orchid family). The Asteraceae is thought to have about 24,000 species in about 1,620 genera. The family used to be called the Compositae because the flowers are composites of disc and ray flowers (disc flowers in the middle surrounded by ray flowers, or what we usually call the petals, of a daisy). The ray flowers can be many different colors depending on the species; disc flowers are usually yellow or brown. The ray flowers may be sterile and not produce seeds.



*California encelia (Encelia californica).*

The easy to grow California encelia (*Encelia californica*) brightens a garden with its yellow flowers.

Tarplants are annuals that occur in grasslands and wildflower fields and in disturbed areas. An interesting fact is that the rare silverswords of Maui and the Big Island of Hawaii are closely related to tarplants (or tarweeds) of the California Floristic Province. The tarweeds dispersed to the Hawaiian Islands about 5 million years ago from the west coast of North America. Their ability to adapt quickly to various habitats gave rise to forest trees, lava-field subshrubs, and the silverswords in Hawaii. The relationship of these two groups is discussed at length in *Tarweeds & Silverswords* by S. Carlquist, B.G. Baldwin and G.D. Carr (editors), published by the Missouri Botanical Garden Press (2003).



*Argyroxiphium*



*Deinandra conjugens*



The very fine ferny foliage of *Artemisia californica*



*Helianthus californicus*



## TO LEARN MORE...

### Being a Gracious Host

By Lisa Marun

A recent report by the Xerces Society shows a sobering 74% decline in the number of overwintering monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) in California over the past two decades. Drought, neonicotinoid insecticides, genetically modified herbicide-resistant crops, and overwintering habitat destruction are among the monarchs' greatest stressors. Although the Xerces Society report focuses on the monarchs' population trends in 50 California overwintering sites, the finding that the loss of milkweed is linked to many of these stressors has implications for what we can do in our own gardens to help reduce this trend.

As gardeners, we are naturally gracious hosts to all of our hard-working pollinator friends. Having milkweeds in your garden is a great way to welcome a variety of pollinators, including bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. Milkweeds' striking flowers provide nourishing, high quality nectar for pollinators while their drought tolerance makes them earth friendly. As an added bonus, milkweed nectar is also attractive to beneficial insects such as ladybeetles.

California has 15 milkweed species, three of which naturally grow in San Diego: California milkweed (*Asclepias californica*); Narrow-leaved milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*); and Woolypod milkweed (*Asclepias eriocarpa*). By enhancing your garden with any or all of these milkweeds, you'll be an attentive host and steward to monarchs and other pollinators in need of friendly gardens to visit.

Access *State of the Monarch Butterfly Overwintering Sites* by the Xerces Society at: [http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/StateOfMonarchOverwinteringSitesInCA\\_XercesSoc\\_web.pdf](http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/StateOfMonarchOverwinteringSitesInCA_XercesSoc_web.pdf)



Monarch butterfly on milkweed.

Native California milkweed seed sources:

Hedgerow Farms: <http://www.hedgerowfarms.com/index.html>

Sierra Seed Supply: <http://www.sierraseedsupply.com/>



## CALIFORNIA WATERBLOG

### An Interesting and Useful Resource

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Even though we're in the midst of San Diego County's dry season, water (often in the form of rain) is never far from a gardener's mind. Did we get enough rain this year? Will the drought continue? What more can I do to capture and conserve the rain we do get?

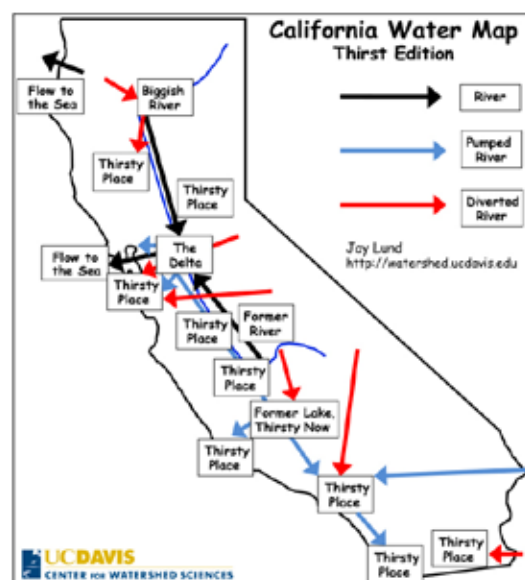
As I write this, rain falling in my garden is a distant hope, and I don't expect any significant precipitation before late November. It's too soon to know what quantity of rain Mother Nature will be providing for us in 2017, but here in San Diego we sure didn't get much in 2016. As Jeanne Meadow has been noting in her excellent monthly column, *The Dirt on Water Blog*, we need to do all we can to use water thoughtfully.

I'm indebted to member John Swan for pointing me in the direction of a very interesting resource called the **CaliforniaWaterBlog.com**, and I think you'll find it as intriguing as I did. You'll find entries about the status of water in various parts of the state, what weather patterns mean, how animals are affected by rainfall, and much more. There are many links included that make it easy to follow up on topics of interest.

In the "About" section, the site notes that, "Scientists, faculty, students and researchers at UC Davis' Center for Watershed Sciences collaborate across the UC Davis campus and with experts from other universities, research institutes, government agencies and NGOs. Together they address critical issues affecting streams, rivers, lakes and estuarine ecosystems within California's Central Valley, the Sierra Nevada and San Francisco Estuary. By working across disciplines, they are at the forefront of providing up-to-date scientific approaches to watershed science and policy to best meet the diverse demands placed on these resources. This blog is intended to provide thought-provoking ideas and information on water issues in a digestible form for a policy and educated lay audience." Recent posts have included such things as:

- How bad is water management in California?
- California water made simple
- Cue the frogs! Water signatures, environmental cues and climate change
- Inevitable changes to water in California

Shown here is what the blog calls "The ultimate California water cheat sheet." I urge you to check out the blog and browse the entries to learn more. 🌿



## SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES PROGRAM PARTNERS LAUNCH WEBSITE

### Apply for New Incentives in August

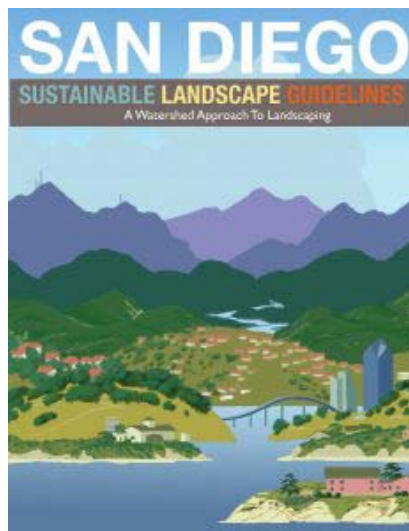
The San Diego Sustainable Landscapes Program, a grant-funded partnership created by the San Diego County Water Authority, the City of San Diego, the County of San Diego, the Surfrider Foundation, the California American Water Company and the Association of Compost Producers, now has a website to help the region's residents easily find the information they need to transform turf-based urban landscapes to ones that provide multiple environmental benefits, such as increased water-use efficiency and improved stormwater management.

At the website, SustainableLandscapesSD.org, residents can find a suite of resources that the partners in the San Diego Sustainable Landscapes Program, or SLP, began rolling out late last year to encourage homeowners to take a more sustainable approach to landscapes. These include: a comprehensive 71-page guidebook with photos, diagrams and checklists; landscaping classes; and technical assistance through personalized design coaching. Other resources include training for landscape professionals and access to discounted landscaping materials such as mulch and compost.

Homeowners can go to the site to sign up to be notified when the SLP launches a new financial incentive program to help participants transform existing lawns into landscapes that meet SLP standards. Key SLP landscape features include rainwater capture and detention, soil enhancements, climate-appropriate plant selection and water-efficient irrigation methods. The rebate program is expected to start later this summer. Funding is limited, and those interested in participating must not remove their turf grass before being accepted into the incentive program. Additional eligibility requirements and site inspections will also apply. For more information, go to SustainableLandscapesSD.org/incentives.

Sustainable Landscapes Program incentives are designed to promote landscape improvements based on the latest sustainable practices. Incentive program details are expected to be available in August 2016 when the Water Authority opens enrollment for participation. Find out more at <http://sustainablelandscapesd.org/incentives>.

For qualified applicants, incentives will provide a reimbursement of \$1.75 per square foot to replace water-intensive turf grass with landscaping that provides an array of environmental benefits. The incentive program requires rainwater capture and detention, soil enhancements, climate-appropriate plants, water-efficient irrigation methods and site inspections. 🌿



## SDHS ANNOUNCES OUR 2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

By Bill Homyak

The San Diego Horticultural Society is proud to announce its 2016 Community College Scholarship Awardees. The SDHS provides scholarship funds for deserving students in local community colleges who are pursuing a degree in the horticultural trades. With the ever-increasing costs of tuition, books, and living expenses, our Society hopes these scholarships will enhance the students' ability to complete their educational goals.

Scholarships are provided to the Landscape and Nursery Technology Program at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, the Horticulture Program at MiraCosta College in Oceanside, and the Ornamental Horticulture Program at Cuyamaca College in El Cajon. This year's recipients are:

**Joshua Becerra** – Joshua is a current student in the Landscape Architecture Program at Southwestern College. He is pursuing a degree in both Landscape Architecture and Landscape Occupations, with the goals of combining design skills with landscape installations. He currently works in the landscape installation and maintenance field. Joshua will be receiving the Bill Teague Memorial Scholarship, and he has expressed his sincere thanks for helping him reach his goals.

**Olivia Miethke** – Olivia is currently a student at MiraCosta College and is majoring in Landscape Architecture. Upon completion of her certificate, she plans to transfer to Cal Poly Pomona to complete her bachelor's and master's degrees in Landscape Architecture. Her eventual goal is to work with the National Park Service and improve the function and sustainability of our parks. Olivia thanks the San Diego Horticultural Society for the financial support, as it will allow her more time to concentrate on her studies. We have awarded Olivia the Fred B. Meyer Memorial Scholarship and wish to congratulate her on her outstanding achievement.

**Joanne Brannigan** – Joanne is currently attending Cuyamaca College and is pursuing a degree in Landscape Design. Joanne, in her thank you card, expressed her thanks for the wonderful support she has received from the San Diego Horticultural Society. She will receive the Don and Dorothy Walker Scholarship. SDHS adds their best wishes for her continued success.

All three recipients have been invited to the August meeting. We hope you can come out and meet them. 🌿

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## EMAIL OR ADDRESS CHANGES?

We know that you want to be informed about SDHS events and activities, such as the free Featured Gardens and upcoming tours, and to receive your newsletter in a timely manner. Please help us keep our membership info up to date by sending us your new email when you change it, and your new mailing address and phone number if you move. Send this info to [membership@sdhort.org](mailto:membership@sdhort.org).



# TREES, PLEASE

## Beetlemania (Happiness is a Dead Bug)

By Tim Clancy

I have been fielding a large amount of inquiries lately regarding bark beetles. The press has been reporting on the devastation these insects have been causing to pine trees throughout California and the West. These reports speak in generalities and, while informative, often do not tell the whole story. A Google search will yield all sorts of useful information about the bark beetles and a plethora of companies willing to treat your trees.

This is where the word diagnosis is important. Just like there are many pine species, there are multiple bark beetle species. The beetles are specialists in the types of trees they attack and within those types they are picky eaters. What that means is that while the beetles will attack a healthy vigorous tree, a successful attack will only occur on trees that are severely stressed. In most cases that stress is usually caused by, wait for it, drought! Another type of stress can be induced from, wait for it, over pruning!

When a tree is vigorous it is able to defend against a beetle attack by using sap to push the beetles out. This can actually occur several times. I recently looked at a tree that for all intents and purposes appears to be vigorously growing, and there is evidence of over 25

attempts by beetles to attack. So, while attacked, the tree in a well-irrigated setting with soil that has not been compacted by human activity and a deep layer of natural pine needle mulch has come out the winner.

Trees that have not been fortunate enough to have chosen a setting favorable to their long term health may not fare so well. In these cases, the tree is unable to defend itself against the beetle attack. Once a beetle is successful it will emit pheromones to let its beetle sisters know it has

found a suitable host. Then the beetles come en masse and take up residence. The little baby beetles eat the inside of the tree and disrupt water flow, which eventually leads to the tree's death.

Wait! What is this treatment you speak of? There are chemicals that can prevent beetle attacks from being successful if they are applied correctly and at the right time. The chemicals can either be injected (in my book the last resort method) or applied as a spray. Either way, the chemical needs to get into the tree where it will dispatch the beetle when the beetle consumes it. When a tree is already infested the chemicals will do nothing other than enrich the applicator.

I recently saw a report in San Diego about a chemical that claims to deter beetle attacks with a very low tech application method that is non-destructive to the tree. I was intrigued and did some research. The chemical does indeed work (multi-year efficacy is doubted) and will deter the aggregation of beetles. The problem is that the beetle it deters doesn't reside here and the manufacturer confirmed to me that it would not work in the manner presented.

The best defense is a good offense, and in this case it is to make sure the trees are well irrigated. The correct diagnosis is important as well. What species of tree do you have? Which beetle attacks it? Is the timing of application correct?

Member Tim Clancy is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist #WE-0806A. Tim welcomes comments and questions and can be reached at [treemanagers@gmail.com](mailto:treemanagers@gmail.com)



Dead and dying trees at Bass Lake, July 2016

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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.*

### Pacific Horticulture - Shaping a New Garden in a Challenging Environment

One of my favorite things to do, other than garden, is to visit gardens and learn more about gardening. Besides our monthly meetings, I've attended several garden symposiums over the years. Several were coordinated by Susi Torre-Bueno. At these seminars, I've heard some of the best horticultural speakers, toured some wonderful gardens, and met many other people that share my interest in horticulture.

This October, the **Pacific Horticulture Society** will continue its Changing Times, Changing Gardens seminar series with the weekend-long **Summit 2016: Shaping a New Garden in a Challenging Environment**. Set in the bucolic Sonoma wine country, the **October 15-16** event will center on inspiring presentations at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa. Each day will offer a curated itinerary of visits to gardens, nurseries, wineries, and more, a rich exploration of the important connection between gardens and nature.

Illustrated talks by a half-dozen of the most forward-thinking horticulturists in the West and beyond will offer fresh ideas about creating resilient landscapes that support the surrounding environment while expressing a distinctive aesthetic.

Saturday begins with a talk by Thomas Rainer, landscape architect and co-author of *Planting in a Post-Wild World* (Timber Press, 2015). Based in Washington, D.C., Thomas has designed landscapes for the U.S. Capitol grounds and New York Botanical Garden, and is guided by design principles focusing on climate-appropriate plant communities. Michelle Sullivan, principal at Mia Lehrer + Associates, will show how public spaces in Los Angeles are being transformed into multi-use landscape systems while knitting nature into the urban fabric. Portland, Oregon garden designer and horticultural consultant Bob Hyland has worked at Longwood Gardens and Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and his

container plantings have been featured in *The New York Times* and on Martha Stewart TV. He will share his ideas for making a big impact in small spaces. Tom Fischer, senior acquisitions editor at Timber Press, a preeminent publisher of gardening and horticulture books, will lead a discussion among the day's speakers.

Following the day's talks, participants will travel by chartered bus to Glen Ellen to visit the 25-acre Quarryhill Botanical Garden, renowned worldwide for its wild-collected Asian plants. The day will close with an evening reception at Shone Farm, an environmental education laboratory operated by Santa Rosa Junior College, with sprawling views of a working farm, kitchen garden, and vineyard set amidst rolling hillsides.

Sunday's first speaker, Phil Van Soelen, is co-owner of California Flora Nursery. His photo presentation will show how to effectively use native and summer-dry plants for year-round interest. As president of Urban Water Group, the final speaker, Marilee Kuhlmann, is committed to designing and creating water-conserving landscapes in Southern California. She will discuss the methods and benefits of rainwater harvesting and how to create a watershed-sensitive garden.

Sunday afternoon, participants will set out with boxed lunches and maps of several proposed self-driving routes that will offer a look at Sonoma County through a lens both horticultural and ecological.

Among the highlights will be a private opening of the landmark Western Hills Garden in rural Occidental, a naturalistic garden founded in 1959 at the intersection of three watersheds. The nearby Occidental Arts & Ecology Center will host a plant sale at its organic nursery of culinary and medicinal herbs and perennial food crops. Another special welcome will be at the new Sunset Test Gardens at Cornerstone Sonoma. Staff and designers will be on hand for tours of the themed gardens: Farm, Backyard Orchard, Flower Room, Cocktail Garden, and Gathering Space.

Private gardens on view will include the stunning 2.5-acre hilltop garden of Mary and Lew Reid; she is a designer and he is an avid propagator. Famed Bay Area horticulturist and partner in Planet Horticulture, Roger Raiche, will open his enchanting garden in the Russian River hamlet of Guerneville.

Several of Sonoma County's one-of-a-kind nurseries offering region-friendly and specialty plants will be mapped out. Among the dozens of Sonoma County wineries, several will be suggested not only for their sustainable grape-growing practices, but also for their stunning naturalistic settings, ornamental and edible gardens, or native habitat restoration efforts.

*Continued on page 20*



Northern California Countryside



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We encourage our 1200+ members to be active participants and share in the fun; to volunteer see page 2. A warm hello to these new members:

|                    |                    |                 |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Edith Andrew-Akita | Lisa Kallenberg    | Lisa Marun      |
| Christina Callahan | Shelley Kelso      | Peggy Poorman   |
| Giana Crispell     | Jennifer Kinberger | Zelda Waxenberg |

## HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to these members whose friends joined in 2016; 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.

|                       |                       |                          |                          |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Karen Baccei (1)      | Dave Ericson (2)      | Toni Muncell (2)         | Shelly Sulit (1)         |
| Gail Bakker (1)       | Lois Friske(1)        | Joan Oliver (1)          | Linda Teague (1)         |
| Debra Lee Baldwin (2) | Sharon Hayakawa (1)   | Arline Paa (1)           | Susi Torre-Bueno (1)     |
| Ken Blackford (1)     | Sue Lasbury (1)       | Mo Price (1)             | Tere Trout (1)           |
| Lorraine Bolton (1)   | Cheryl Leedom (1)     | Stella Ramos (1)         | Marcia Van Loy (1)       |
| Kathee Closson (1)    | Maria Mata (1)        | Sue Ann Scheck (1)       | Christine Vargas (1)     |
| Alice Dukelow (1)     | Dannie McLaughlin (1) | Laura Starr (1)          | Mary Vaughn (1)          |
| Julian Duval (1)      | Rachele Melious (1)   | Susan Starr (2)          | Wishing Tree Company (1) |
| Brett Eckler (1)      | Susan Morse (1)       | Sterling Tours, Ltd. (1) | Linda Woloson (1)        |

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Pat Welsh

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Renee's Garden

### San Diego County Water Authority

### Serra Gardens

### Landscape Succulents

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### Southwest Boulder & Stone

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### Sunshine Gardens

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Westward Expos

## LIFE MEMBERS \*Horticulturist of the Year

\*Chuck Ades (2008)

\*Walter Andersen (2002)

Norm Applebaum &

Barbara Roper

\*Bruce & Sharon

Asakawa (2010)

Gladys T. Baird

Debra Lee Baldwin

\*Steve Bringham (2009)

Laurie Connable

Deeter Buckner Design Group

\*Julian Duval (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

\*San Diego Zoo Horticultural  
Staff (2016)

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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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: Chelsea Rubino, [crubino@SDBGarden.org](mailto:crubino@SDBGarden.org).

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## SCULPTURE IN THE GARDEN AT SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN NOW – APRIL 2017

"Art is a harmony parallel with nature." –  
Paul Cezanne, French Artist (1839 – 1906)



Rachel Cobb

San Diego Botanic Garden has a rich heritage of garden art, both natural and man-made. Our 37-acre urban oasis provides the beautiful natural setting for this year's Sculpture in the Garden – a collection of 53 works supplied by 32 artists, including renowned local artist James Hubbell.

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

Sculpture in the Garden is on display from 9 am – 5 pm daily through April 2017. Visitors are invited to take a self-guided tour with a sculpture map that can be obtained at the Welcome Center. ☺



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## FREE SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE WORKSHOPS

The San Diego Sustainable Landscapes Program ([tinyurl.com/August-Sustainable-booklet](http://tinyurl.com/August-Sustainable-booklet)) builds on Surfrider's Ocean Friendly Gardens, and funded by a state grant, the G3 Green Gardens Group is able to offer free Landscape Design Workshops and hands on turf removal workshops over the next few months. Is creating beautiful landscapes that use less water, capture and treat stormwater and sequester carbon of interest to you?

Sign up for free workshops at the website above; upcoming Landscape Design Seminar Workshops include:

- July 30, El Cajon
- August 6, Spring Valley
- August 20, Oceanside
- September 19, Lakeside

Also, you can enroll at the website above in a hands-on Lawn Be Gone Workshop to be held in a real garden on August 26 in San Marcos. Learn how to remove turf without harmful chemicals, build healthy soil, capture rainwater from your roof, and more!

With concerns about the current drought, along with the strong possibility of an El Niño, San Diego is ready to look to the urban landscape to provide solutions by:

- Building healthy, living soil that acts like a sponge by absorbing water when we irrigate or it rains
- Growing plants that thrive in our local weather conditions and 'feed the local pollinators'
- Collecting rain water from roofs and other hard surfaces, and redirecting it into the soil

Educating and informing San Diego residents is the name of the game. The San Diego Sustainable Landscape Guidelines (download the free info at: [tinyurl.com/August-Sustainable-booklet](http://tinyurl.com/August-Sustainable-booklet)) provide the backbone for a holistic package of in-depth professional training, homeowner Hands On Turf Removal Workshops, Design Seminars and one-on-one Garden Guru coaching. A number of the workshop leaders are SDHS members. 🌿



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

See page 2 to learn about our current volunteer needs.

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)



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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 August was:**

**What is your go to garden workhorse?**

**Tammy Schwab:** My go to workhorse plants are aloes. There are many varieties that do well in sun to shade, are waterwise, and have fabulous architectural presence. Actually, I just rethought my answer... I am the garden workhorse in my yard. HA!

**Candace Kohl:** Scissors and long tweezers for my potted succulents and cacti.

**Pat Venolia:** Lately, I've added two wonderful things to my gardening: TubTrugs and a yard cart. I cannot say enough about the TubTrugs, because they are light and flexible, with good handles. I originally bought two, but now I have four; bright and cheerful colors that are being used; mixing soil, run-off from my rain barrel, soaking to clean my empty containers, dead-heading, weeding, pruning. I load the cart up with my gardening basket of stuff, TrugTub, water bottle, weeding bucket, shovels, loppers, and anything else I might need down the hill. No more trudging back up the hill for what I need. Another favorite is my Nejiri Gama Hoe; Japanese 18" long-handled garden hoe.



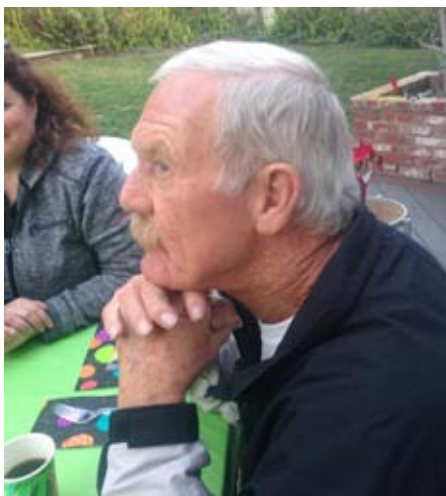


**Bruce Hubbard:** Strongway Yard Cart (49¼" L x 31" W, 400lb, 14cu. ft. capacity). This is the best wheelbarrow I have ever used. It is relatively light weight and has a huge capacity. The large wheels enable it to go over rough terrain without being stopped by rocks, etc. The only negatives are that it is made from plywood and should not be stored where it is wet, and that loads should be balanced, otherwise it can tip forward.

**Susi Torre Bueno:** I love my big heavy-duty plastic containers with built-in handles. They are about 2' wide and 10" high and I use them for everything: mixing soil, soaking pots that I should have watered sooner, picking fruit, etc. I bought them at least 8-10 years ago for just a couple of bucks each (probably at Target). Inside the house we also use them for lugging laundry. Fill them with ice and they're perfect casual ice buckets or drink coolers for a party.

**M.C. Wieland:** New, lightweight Fiskars pruner/lopper power gear that cuts 1-1/2" branches like butter. Fifteen or 18" handles. (Home Depot)

**Cathy Tylka:** Here's my workhorse... the "man!"



**B.J. Boland:** "Workhorse" is too ugly a word for my husband. If something is too heavy, he's my Hercules. If I need a lattice built, he's the carpenter. If the netafin doesn't work, he's my plumber. Climbing roses need support, he designs a solution using fishing line and cobblestones. He HATES gardening, but heroes do what needs to be done.

**Susan Oddo:** Dare I say my husband, Frank? The challenge in many areas of the garden is to be able to get in between plants and close to the base to remove debris. I cut off the wood handle of a six-inch rake, leaving a twelve-inch handle that makes a terrific close-in hand tool. Add a dust pan and it is also the best way to pick up piles of raked leaves, etc. I bought a long handled, wooden back-scratcher, which works great for snagging everything from pine needles to snails. Then there is the 14" serrated kitchen knife for trimming off agave leaves close to the trunk. A short steak knife is great for digging out stubborn grass that is growing too close to the plants to safely use a hand hoe. I can't live without one of those long-handled litter grabber tools to get pine needles, etc., out of plants with teeth. A shorter version that gets litter out of the centers of those plants is a 12" hemostat. Pick one up at any medical supply or the flea market.

**Farmer Roy Wilburn:** My garden workhorse is a Troy-Bilt Horse tiller. After adding amendments to my organic garden beds, we run the tiller down the row to create a fluffy home for my transplants. Their

happy roots wiggle their toes in the soft ground and the plants react accordingly.



**Al Myrick:** I am always using my secret weapon to saw, trim, cut, file, and prune... and tighten, loosen, shorten, sharpen, (doesn't fell trees). It is almost always finger-tip close, on my belt; Leatherman Wave multi-tool. Never go to the yard or leave home without it!

**Giana Crispell:** My Felco clippers. I use them daily and would be lost without them. I use them to prune, trim, and cut fresh veggies and ornamentals. I garden between two and six hours daily on my ½ acre on Mt. Helix.

**Lucy Warren:** Looking at my garden equipment, I'd have to say this Corona hand trowel must be my go to tool, so much so that the rounded tip has been worn to a concave arc. I have numerous others, but this is the one which usually seems to jump into my hands

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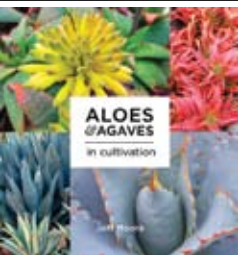
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whenever it is time to dig. Its handle was once a bright red-orange and the back is pitted, but I am sure I will be using it for years to come.



**Tynan Wyatt:** My posthole digger.

**Dannie McLaughlin:** Attached is a picture of my gardener, Martin, who is definitely my workhorse in the garden. In addition to being a wonderful person, Martin is knowledgeable, industrious, and always has a smile on his face. I don't think there is anything he can't do and I would be lost without him. In fact, I told my husband that the day Martin leaves (I hope is a day that never comes), I am out the door, right behind him.





**Sue Lasbury:** No this isn't some medieval instrument of torture. It's called a "Cobra Head," which I purchased from a vendor years ago at an international Master Gardener conference in Las Vegas. It's used for weeding, digging planting holes, pushing around compost and a whole host of other assorted tasks. As far as I know you can only buy them on-line. I've never seen them in a garden shop; just Google "Cobra Head." Warning: if you have drip irrigation, be careful not to dig too close to your irrigation apparatus with the "Cobra Head" blade.



**Giana Crispell:** My Felco clippers. I use them daily and would be lost without them. I use them to prune, trim, and cut fresh veggies and ornamentals. I garden between two and six hours daily on my ½ acre on Mt. Helix.

**Rachel Cobb** knows her hands are her hardest working tool in the garden, along with a few go to tools for more intense planting, cutting and weeding. The most unlikely workhorse in her garden is her camera. "I have found documenting the garden to be essential each year. Of course a pretty picture is always nice, but being able to follow progress or lack of progress has been so valuable. Without the pictures of the garden areas, no one else would see the hard work the hands do." 🌿



Rachel's old bike, now serves as a tool caddy, along the veggie garden.

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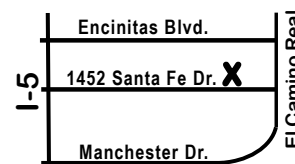
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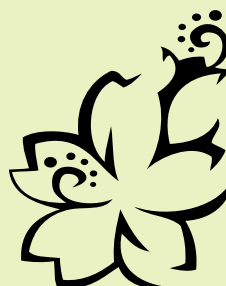
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## SDHS NIGHT AT THE ZOO - SEE PAGE 19

There's more to the Zoo than animals!



Kathy Ascher



A large Aloe waiting to be relocated elsewhere in the Zoo.



Kathy Ascher

Jim Bishop



Jim Bishop

This Cyphostemma species has a swollen caudiciform trunk.

The Zoo has an outstanding collection of Cycads, like this silvery one.

*Brachychiton rupestris* specimen with a marvelously swollen trunk.



# SDHS NIGHT AT THE ZOO

By Jeannine Romero

The famous San Diego Zoo is known for lions, tigers and bears. Locals and tourists alike flock to the Zoo to see koalas and pandas and, with any luck their babies, too. But horticultural lovers know that the animals are really there to complement the fantastic plant collection at the Zoo.

So says the Zoo's horticulturist Seth Menser, one of 17 horticulturists on the Zoo's staff who were honored by the SDHS last month as Horticulturists of the Year. Menser noted that it was a special honor because it coincides with the Zoo's 100-year anniversary. He hosted one of three special bus tours at the Zoo for members of the San Diego Horticultural Society during the July 11<sup>th</sup> event, which was held in place of our regular meeting. In addition to the tour, members were invited to visit the horticultural department's orchid house and on site nursery as well.

Menser has been on staff at the Zoo for 10 years and noted many of the horticulturists on staff have been there 30 or 40 years. "We love what we do," and pointed out that San Diego has the "finest climate for growing plants." He specializes in ficus, acknowledges that he is "obsessed" and that he could talk for hours about the species that liberally populate the Zoo and Balboa Park.

At the tour's outset, he pointed out a Moreton Bay Fig tree he said this species was the largest one in the world, noting numerous aerial roots that hang from its branches. The tree is an example of a symbiotic relationship in the natural world, where the tree needs the fig wasp to develop its fruit, and the wasp needs the fig to propagate and survive. He said a special wasp pollinates the flower inside the fig, and a seedling from that fruit then sprouts at top of a host tree. The seedling eventually sends down aerial roots that reach to the soil, where it plants itself. It will eventually strangle the host tree to become a free standing tree itself, he said. The Zoo has five species of wasps that pollinate figs, although most flowers with not be pollinated.

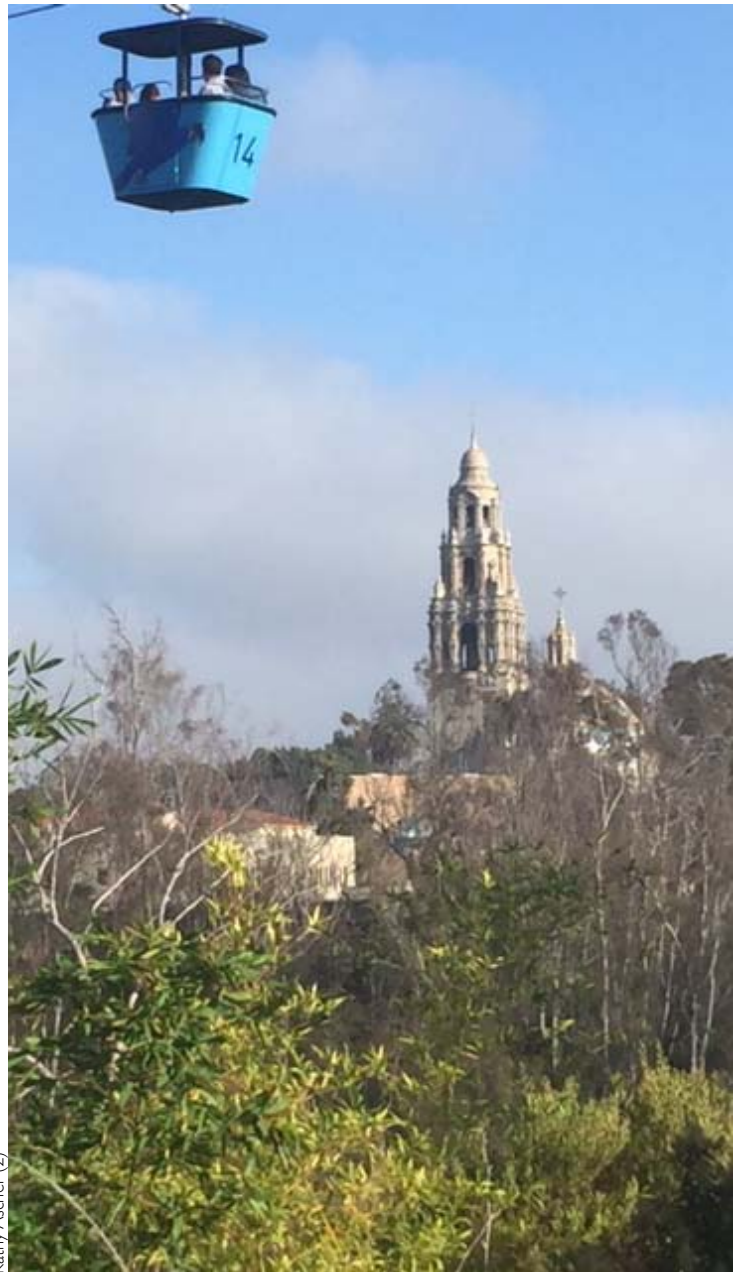
The cycads—one of the accredited plant collections at the Zoo—are the most valuable plants the Zoo owns. The plants are prehistoric and drought tolerant, and the cycads at the Zoo are "priceless." Many of them are 80 to 90 years old.

Inside Tiger River Trail, Menser said, is a bioclimatic zone created in 1988. He noted it is a nice place to walk and pointed out large plantings of fishtail palms, bamboo and shade grown coffee trees. He added that the Zoo grows plants not only for its collections and aesthetics, but also to feed animals.

A special "browse" crew collects plants throughout the Zoo. The bamboo is the most grown plant at the San Diego Zoo and is fed to the pandas. Elephants love giant birds of paradise, and the primates love hibiscus. Some animals love the plants too much: many tree trunks inside animal habitats need the protection created by wire guards, because animals will strip them bare and eat the bark.

The temperate garden in Wildflower Hill is both the coldest and the lowest part of the Zoo. Polar Hill is the hottest part. Menser said that they do not plant many California natives, explaining that they are actually hard to grow in the city. There are some ceanothus plants, however, and agaves. A collection including over 250 species of aloes is especially beautiful in winter when they bloom.

The Zoo offers a garden bus tour on the third Friday of every month and hosts a garden festival every year around Mother's Day. ☺



Kathy Ascher (2)

What a fun way to view plants - from above!



This tiny flower was on an Aristolochia vine in a greenhouse.



## PACIFIC HORTICULTURE

### Save The Dates!



San Miguel de Allende, February 2017. Join us in San Miguel de Allende which is arguably the prettiest town in Mexico. Walk the narrow cobblestone streets to visit private gardens, sample regional foods, and enjoy the historic center filled with well-preserved architecture.

Sea of Cortez, March 2017. Join WILDCOAST Board President Scott Borden on an island hopping adventure in Baja California's Sea of Cortez aboard the Safari Endeavour. Learn about the amazing aquatic world all-around and beneath you with on-board marine experts and in-depth presentations.

Japan April, 2017. Join us for an in-depth exploration of Japanese gardens, culture and cuisine. Guests will also have the opportunity to experience Japanese-style accommodations and warm up in one of several onsen (hot springs) along the way.

Portland June 2017. Our tour combines the best of Portland's public and private gardens. We'll see the International Rose Test Garden, the world-famous Portland Japanese Garden and the Lan Sun Chinese Garden. We'll have exclusive tours of private gardens, including those of radio show host Mike Darcy, who also serves as our local host for the tour.

PacHort is a SDHS is a Pacific Horticulture Partner. Visit [www.pachort.org](http://www.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 SDHS2016. ..

## Life with My Plants Continued from page 10

To learn more and register for the event, visit [pachort.org](http://pachort.org) and click on Events.

Pacific Horticulture's Summit 2016 will take place Saturday, October 15, 8:00am–7:30pm, and Sunday, October 16, 8:00am–3:30pm. Luther Burbank Center for the Arts is located at 50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa, California. Meals provided will include Saturday breakfast, lunch, and evening reception, and Sunday breakfast and box lunch.

Early-bird price is \$200 for Pacific Horticulture Society members, \$225 for the general public. After September 2, the price is \$225 for Pacific Horticulture Society members, \$250 for the general public.

For registration, lodging and travel information, visit [pachort.org/Summit](http://pachort.org/Summit).

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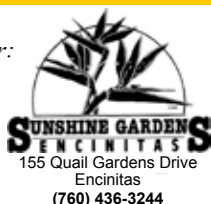
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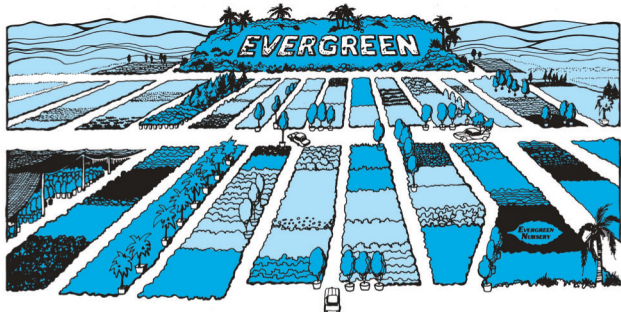


## What's Happening? for AUGUST 2016

The SDHS is happy to publicize items of horticultural interest. See other side for resources & ongoing events.  
Send calendar listings by the 10th of the month before the event to Neal King at [calendar@sdhort.org](mailto:calendar@sdhort.org).

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## Events at Public Gardens

❖ **Alta Vista Gardens** Contact info on other side  
TBA – check their website calendar.

❖ **San Diego Botanic Garden** Contact info on other side  
**To Aug. 25: Thursday Family Fun Nights.** Pack up the kids and enjoy some outdoor fun at Thursday Family Fun Night, every Thursday from 4:30 – 8 pm. From 6-7 pm don't miss family-friendly entertainment designed to amuse both children and adults. Free with paid admission or membership.

**August 13, 9am-12pm, Build Your Own Hydroponic Summer Garden:** Learn the principles of the hydroponic wick method by building your own sustainable garden to take home. Members \$80, Non-Members \$96; includes materials .

**August 13, 9am-12pm, Living Wall / Vertical Garden:** Learn the basics of planting a living wall. Members \$30, non-members \$36, plus \$75 per student for materials.

**August 13, 10am-4pm, Pine Needle Basketry:** Learn how to coil a beautiful basket around an unusual stone center. Members \$50, non-members \$60 plus \$37 per student for materials . Please register by one week prior to class.

**Last Saturday of month, 10:30am, Garden Tour:** Docent led tour of Garden. Departs from the Visitor Center/Gift Shop.

**Saturdays, 10:30am, Waterwise Tour:** There are so many alternatives to using large amounts of water in the garden. Come see our gardens and take home lots of tips for conserving water in your own garden.

### ❖ The Water Conservation Garden

Contact info on other side. For ALL events below, register online or at (619) 660-0614.

**July 31, 9am-4pm, Water Agency Customer Appreciation Day:** Discover different varieties of drought-tolerant plants, learn how to "Toss the Turf", and more. Free for Helix Water District and Sweetwater Authority customers.

**August 20, 9:30-11:30am, Companion Planting & Community Growing:** A hands-on, companion planting, container gardening demonstration workshop. Non-Members \$10 admission.

**August 14, 10-11am, Free Special Access Tour:** Explore The Garden from the comfort of the Verbeck Shuttle with a Garden docent.

**August 18, 4-7pm, Wags and Wine:** Enjoy fine wine and a leisurely stroll with your furry friend. \$5 per guest online or at the door.

**August 27, 9:30-11:30am, Planting Water:** Techniques for modifying land contour to laundry-to-landscape systems. Non-Members \$10 admission.

## Events Hosted by SDHS Sponsors

Please thank them for supporting SDHS!

### ◆ Barrels & Branches Classes & Workshops

Info: [www.barrelsandbranches.com](http://www.barrelsandbranches.com). See ad on page 17.

◆ **City Farmers Nursery** – see [www.cityfarmersnursery.com](http://www.cityfarmersnursery.com)

◆ **Evergreen Nursery: FREE Seminar** Details in left column

### ◆ Sunshine Care FREE Seminar Each Month

**August 20, 10:30am-noon:** Successes and Failures in your Spring/Summer Garden and Time to Prepare for Fall Veggies. RSVP: (858) 472-6059 or [roy@sunshinecare.com](mailto:roy@sunshinecare.com). [www.sunshinecare.com](http://www.sunshinecare.com). See ad page 13.

### ◆ Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes

Details at [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com); address in ad on page 16.

#### Point Loma, 9am

Aug. 6, Summer Flowers & Heat Lovers

Aug. 13, Discover Olla Irrigation

Aug. 20, Fragrant Plants, Flowers & Foliage

Aug. 27, Fall Veggies, Prep & Planting

#### Poway, 9:30am

TBA

TBA

TBA

TBA

## Next SDHS Meeting

August 8:

## Roar of the Monarch Butterfly

See page 1 & website for details

## Other Garden-Related Events:

Check with hosts to confirm dates & details

**July 30 (noon) & 31 (10am), San Diego Orchid Society:** Orchids In The Park Show & Sale. Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Info: [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com).

**Aug. 6 & 7, 10am-3:30pm, Master Gardener:** Ask a Master Gardener. Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Info: [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org).

**Aug. 6 (1-4pm) & 7 (10am-3pm), Dahlia Society Show:** Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: (858) 672-2593 or [www.sdbgf.org](http://www.sdbgf.org).

**Aug. 10, 7:00pm, Epiphyllum Society:** General meeting. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: [www.sandiegoepi.org](http://www.sandiegoepi.org) or (619) 741-8417.

**Aug. 13, 10-noon, Solana Center's Composting Workshop:** Ridgehaven Green Building, 9601 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego. Info/register: [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org).

**Aug. 20 (noon – 5pm) & 21 (10am-4pm), San Diego Fern Society Show and Sale:** Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: [www.sandiegofernsociety.com](http://www.sandiegofernsociety.com).

**Aug. 20 (1-4pm)-21 (10am-3pm), 9am-4pm, Sustainable Living Institute Hands-on Rainwater and Greywater Harvesting Workshop:** How to improve onsite water retention using soil, earthworks, basins, mulch, and plants to accentuate your active water harvesting. \$50 full day. Limited spots of 1/2 day for greywater or rainwater only, \$35 each. Point Loma (exact address provided upon sign up). Info: [brook@sdsustainable.org](mailto:brook@sdsustainable.org),

**Aug. 27 (noon - 5pm) & 28 (10am-4pm), Bonsai And Beyond Show & Sale:** Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Info: (858) 259-9598

**Aug. 25, 6:30pm, Del Mar Rose Society:** Landscape ideas for the drought-tolerant garden that include California natives and species roses. 1658 Coast Blvd, Del Mar. Info: [www.delmarrosesociety.org](http://www.delmarrosesociety.org).

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

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

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

## Resources & Ongoing Events:

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

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

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

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

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

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

**DESERT WILDFLOWER HOTLINE:** Anza-Borrego Desert State Park: (760) 767-4684. Info., events, road conditions, etc.: (760) 767-5311 or [www.desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html](http://www.desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html).

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

### BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Garden Radio Shows:

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

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

## San Diego County Farmers Markets

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