

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

May 2008, Number 164

Special Evening with Ken Druse

SEE PAGE 3

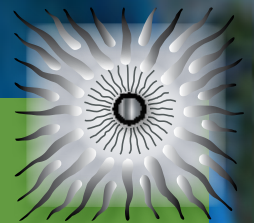
RENEW EARLY AND SAVE PAGE 4

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On the Cover: Making more plants



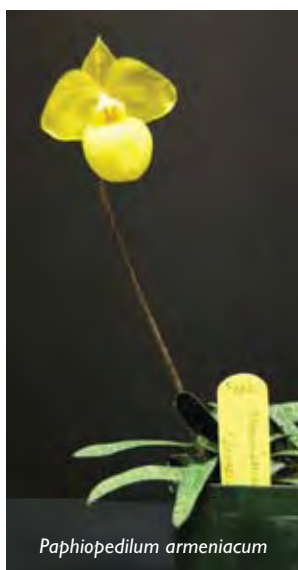
SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

APRIL MEETING PHOTOS

Photos by Cheryl Leedom



Paphiopedilum Armeni White



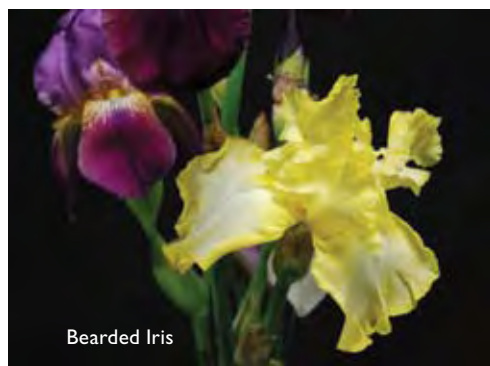
Paphiopedilum armeniacum



Paphiopedilum delenatii



Paphiopedilum micranthum



Bearded Iris



Watsonias



Pelargonium xlimoneum

Join SDHS for an Exciting Garden Tour **Philadelphia's Extraordinary Gardens**

June 2-8 - Timed for perennials & roses!

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Cheryl Hedgpeth, Sterling Tours, at sterling1@cox.net or (619) 299-3010

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Calendar/Resources Ongoing Events

Cover Image: May speaker Ken Druse took the cover image and says, "Plants want to live and reproduce - like these variegated boxwood shrub cuttings. Very little beats the thrill of making something for nothing: nurturing a cutting or planting a seed and watching it grow. Many people are afraid of 'propagation,' thinking it is too advanced, technical, scientific, hard. In San Diego, that could not be further from the truth. Success comes from timing, temperature, proper care. A begonia cutting, taken at the right time, and benefiting from the warmth of Southern California, could root in two weeks."

The San Diego Horticultural Society

MEETINGS

The San Diego Horticultural Society meets the 2nd Monday of every month (except June) from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd. Meetings are open and all are welcome to attend. We encourage you to join the organization to enjoy free admission to regular monthly meetings, receive the monthly newsletter and numerous other benefits. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

MEETING SCHEDULE

5:00 – 6:00 Meeting room setup
6:00 – 6:45 Vendor sales, opportunity drawing ticket sales, lending library
6:45 – 8:00 Announcements, speaker, drawing for three plants
8:00 – 8:15 Break for vendor sales, opportunity drawing ticket sales, lending library
8:15 – 9:00 Plant forum and opportunity drawing. Vendor sales continue to 9:15.
9:00 – 9:15 Final vendor sales, lending library

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

To join, send your check to: San Diego Horticultural Society, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869. Individual/one year—\$25, two years—\$45, five years—\$100; Family/one year—\$30, two years—\$55, five years—\$120; Group or Business/one year—\$30; Students/\$16 (w/proof of enrollment); Contributing/\$75 or more; Life/\$600. For membership questions contact membership@sdhortsoc.org or Sheldon Lisker at (951) 244-3502.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2008

- June 2-8** Philadelphia Garden Tour (see page 8 for details)
NO JUNE MEETING
June 14 – July 6 SDHS Display Garden and Horticulturists of the Day at the San Diego County Fair
July 14 Robert Herald, Philadelphia's Best Public & Private Gardens (members free, non-members \$5)
August 11 Pat Welsh, Growing and Harvesting Winter Crops (members free, non-members \$5)
September 8 Renee Shepherd, What's New and Unique From Seed (members free, non-members \$5)
October 13 Bob Dimattia, Bamboo (members free, non-members \$5)
November 10 Koby Hall, Garden Treasures of the Pacific Northwest (members free, non-members \$5)
December 8 Pete Anderson & other experts, Backyard Vineyards in San Diego County (members free, non-members \$5)

www.sdhortsoc.org

Website sponsored by ALL.EA Web Design & Horticultural Photography, www.allea.com

Making More Plants - Adventures in Horticulture

A Special Evening with the inspiring Ken Druse

May 12, 7:00 pm (doors open 6pm)

SPECIAL LOCATION in Mission Valley:
Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego

Ken Druse is a nationally known garden expert, award winning author, newspaper columnist, radio host and public speaker. Come share his passion for plant propagation. His gorgeous books, *Making More Plants* and *The Passion for Gardening*, will be available for sale.

Seating is Limited - \$15/members, \$20/non-members
Reserve your seat TODAY at www.SDHortSoc.org



The Mission of the San Diego Horticultural Society

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.

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 1994

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Let's Talk Plants!, the newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society, is published the first Monday of every month.

Editor/Advertising: Susi Torre-Bueno; 1941 Vista Grande Dr., Vista, CA 92084; voice (760) 295-7089, fax (760) 295-7119, newsletter@sdhortoc.org.

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

Sponsorship Info: Susi Torre-Bueno (above).

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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 free meetings, annual college scholarships, and other important programs. Sponsorships start at just \$100/year; contact info@sdhortoc.org or (760) 295-7089.

Sponsors are listed on page 9; those with ads in the newsletter have the words

SDHS Sponsor above their ads.

We thank them for their extra support!

Important Member Information

STILL NO PLANT SWAP

Last year we had to cancel the plant swap at our monthly meetings due to serious concerns about the possibility of spreading various insect pests, especially the Diaprepes Root Weevil. Many members were sorry to see this fun activity cancelled, and we are still hoping to bring it back. However, after consulting with San Diego County Agricultural Dept. scientists, we are still unable to restore the plant swap. At present they insist that no bamboo be swapped at all, and that no plants be swapped which originated in any of the agricultural quarantine areas (which include large areas of Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, La Jolla, Oceanside, Rancho Santa Fe, Scripps Ranch, Solana Beach, and other communities). Further, any plants to be swapped would first need a "rigorous inspection," and there isn't time for volunteers to adequately do this before a meeting. We'll periodically check with the Agricultural Department in case the situation changes in the future.

SAVE \$\$\$ BY RENEWING EARLY

In March we announced that on July 1st our regular dues will increase by \$5 for a 1-year individual membership and correspondingly for other categories. This will be the first dues increase we've had since our founding in 1994. Student dues remain \$16/year; those for business and group memberships increase to \$50/year. In addition, starting in July non-members will be charged \$5 to attend a regular meeting.

If you renew BEFORE July 1st you may renew at the current price and we'll extend your membership appropriately. Individual/one year—\$25, two years—\$45, five years—\$100; Family/one year—\$30, two years—\$55, five years—\$120; Group or Business/one year—\$30; Contributing/\$75 or more; Life/\$600. When you renew for 1 year you'll get 2 guest passes, renew for 2 years and get 4 passes, renew for 5 years and get 6 passes.

Save money and renew early at www.SDHortSoc.org or mail a check to: SDHS, Attn: Early Renewal, P O Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869. ☞

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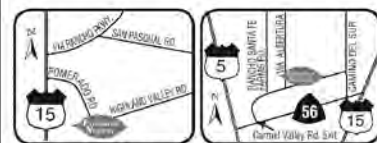
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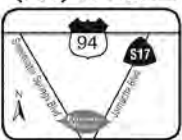


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SPRING/SUMMER HOURS
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 Friday & Saturday..7:30am-6:00pm
 Sunday.....9:00am-6:00pm

Steve Brigham's Wide World of Plants

THE "WATER DIET" WORKS!

I hope by now that you've all read my three-part series ("The 30% Solution") that appeared in the February, March, and April editions of this fine newsletter. In case you haven't, these columns will give you some important tips on how to save 30% off your water usage in your garden this year – a conservation measure which is already mandatory for some of us in these drought-stricken times.

So is my "water diet" working for me? Yes, it certainly is! So well, in fact, that from December 2007 through March 2008, Buena Creek Gardens saved not just 30% but a whopping **62%** over its water use during the same time period the year before! Sure, we got more rain this winter than last winter (about three times as much, actually, although March was still bone-dry), so credit Mother Nature with some of that savings. But even so, I still used every trick in my playbook to see "how low I could go."

Buena Creek Gardens has a one-bedroom home, an intensively irrigated container nursery which totals about an acre in size, and display gardens that cover nearly 3 more acres. In the months of December through March 2006-2007, our total water use for that four-month period (even with conservation measures) was 657,492 gallons. This past December through March 2007-2008 (with extreme conservation measures), our total water use was just 250,580 gallons – for a four-month savings of 406,912 gallons!

Our neighboring water district, Vallecitos, has an admirable campaign this year to urge all water users to save 20 gallons a day. Well, folks (again admittedly with an assist from Mom Nature) – I'm happy to report that this past winter, Buena Creek Gardens **saved an average of 3448 gallons of water every day** over the year before! And the result is a beautiful blooming garden and nursery full of plants as healthy as they've ever been – come see for yourself!

Member Steve Brigham is a founding board member of SDHS and owner of Buena Creek Gardens (see ad page 20). He's also the author of our book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*. 🌿

To Learn More...

PLANTS WANT YOU TO HELP THEM REPRODUCE

By Ava Torre-Bueno

Who knew this was such a hot topic?? Plants want you to help them reproduce! You can get involved in their sexuality, but if that makes you uncomfortable, you can help them reproduce asexually!

Start with Wikipedia's article about plant propagation at:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plant_propagation

Next is a quirky "how-to" for growing herbs from cuttings:
<http://www.nothyme.com/plantpropagation.cfm>

This site has lots of information about all different methods of plant propagation:
<http://plantpropagation.com/>

And GardenWeb has a forum where you can ask other gardeners all your propagation questions:
<http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/propa/>

Member Ava Torre-Bueno is a psychotherapist in private practice and has successfully practiced worm composting for a number of years. 🌿

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL

In March I e-mailed all members we had addresses for, attaching the April newsletter and asking if they'd like to get it via e-mail instead of in printed format. Within a few hours 100 members had enthusiastically said YES!, and more responses continue to arrive. If you didn't get the e-mail from me it's because we don't have a current e-mail address for you.

The benefits to getting the newsletter via e-mail include (1) immediate receipt of the newsletter (one week ahead of mailed copies), (2) store back issues on your computer, (3) all images are in color, (4) live links to websites, (5) enlarge the print as much as you like for easy reading, (6) save trees and other resources, (7) save SDHS over \$2.50 per copy, and (8) print out just the pages you want to keep handy. In the future we hope to also put the newsletter on our website.

To reap all these benefits send an e-mail to **info@sdhortsoc.org** and let me know you want the newsletter e-mailed from now on. We promise not to share your e-mail address with anyone.

We welcome your input and suggestions on ways we can further improve our financial situation. Contact me at **info@sdhortsoc.org** with your ideas.

YOU'LL LOVE KEN!

We're thrilled to be bringing the exciting Ken Druse to San Diego for our May Special Evening! He hasn't appeared in our area in many years, and we're very fortunate to be able to have him speak to us. One of the most prolific garden writers in America, and a fascinating speaker, Ken has authored 16 books, many of them award-winners.

Ken has a lot to say about a topic close to his heart – making more plants! Using plants from your garden and simple techniques you can increase your plant inventory and have tons of fun doing so. You'll save money by propagating your own plants, and have enough to share with friends, too.

This Special Evening is being held in a special location – the Scottish Rite Event Center in Mission Valley. Tickets are just \$15/ members or \$20/non-members, and you can purchase them on-line at our secure website, **www.sdhortsoc.org**. Order yours today – we sold out when we had our last Special Evening! You can also order two of Ken's books at a 30% discount. 🌿

SDHS SPONSOR ↓



Cuyamaca College Botanical Society

27th Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet

**Thursday, May 15
6 p.m.**

**Cuyamaca College
Student Center**

Come Early
(5 p.m.)
to join us for a
Behind the Scenes
Tour of the
Cuyamaca College
Horticulture Field Site
and Nursery

Tickets: \$60

For more information
call John Thomas at
(619) 660-4262

Upcoming Garden Tours

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND STUDIO & GARDEN TOUR

The San Dieguito Art Guild is offering their annual Mother's Day Weekend Art Studio and Garden Tour on May 10 and 11. The theme this year is "Coastal Color". The Guild will



have their Off Track Gallery open for extended hours (from 8:30am) and will feature five homes and a Secret Garden on the self-guided tour from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Tickets are \$20.00. Each home will feature several artists and offer refreshments. All of the studio homes are in the Del Mar, Solana Beach, Encinitas area. Many of the homes on this tour are award winners for their gardens or design. The art will all be for sale and will include paintings, prints, ceramics, sculpture, glass, textiles and jewelry. The San Dieguito Art Guild has been a community organization since 1964. The Guild is a showcase for a wide variety of artists of all levels and mediums. This tour has been a great success for over 11 years and is a wonderful way for families to spend Mother's Day. A portion of the proceeds from this tour will be donated to a local charity. For more information visit www.offtrackgallery.com. Purchase tickets

at Off Track Gallery, 500 Second Street., Encinitas, (760) 942-3636. Member Irina Gronborg's garden, pictured here, will be on the tour on Sunday only.

FIVE BEAR CREEK GARDENS IN MURRIETA

The Assistance League® of Temecula Valley presents our second annual Garden Tour fundraiser, "For the Love of a Garden," on Saturday, May 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All five stunning country club gardens are in the Bear Creek Country Club community in Murrieta.; each offers something individual and special. "Faeries Crossing" is patterned after Monet's gardens in Giverny, France. Classical music will be performed as you wander near the aviary, statues, the working water wheel and moat. "Tropical Treats in Terraced Paradise" invites views of spectacular tropical plants and shrubs. "Artist's Tranquil Retreat" is owned by a sculptor, and the drought resistant plantings are all done in a monochromatic blue and green color scheme. Another home is alive with the elements of water, fire, and sound. "Tuscan Terrace" is resplendent with panoramic views of the entire Murrieta/ Temecula Valley, and has an outdoor kitchen, fountain, and lush flowering gardens. Also visit "The Garden Market" at Kendrick's Gardens at 41529 Ivy Street in Murrieta. Advanced tickets are on sale for \$25 at Kendrick's Gardens, or at www.temeculavalley.assistanceleague.org, or by calling (951) 694-8018 or (951) 302-6182. Tickets are \$30/day of the event. ♡



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Plants That Produce

BABACO, THE PINEAPPLE PAPAYA

By Richard Frost

The Babaco (*Vasconcellea × heilbornii*; syn. *Carica pentagona*) is a papaya-like plant first introduced into North American gardens by Steve Spangler, founder of Exotica Nursery in Vista. It is native to the mountainous regions of equatorial America. The Babaco is widely available in Southern California nurseries during summer months.

The Babaco is a naturally occurring hybrid between the true mountain papaya (*Vasconcellea pubescens*, syn. *Carica pubescens*) and the Chamburro (*Vasconcellea stipulata*, syn. *Carica stipulata*). It has no seeds, and can correctly be thought of as a “mule.” In the wild, the plants grow for several years to a height of 15’ or so, and then break off near the base due to the inability of the stalk to support growth at that height. Its natural propagation has been carried out by repeated hybridization and the ability of broken stalks to regenerate in organically rich soils.

In cultivation, the plant is grown for 2–4 years to a height of about 5’, and then cut back near the base for regeneration. The removed stalks can be cut into approx. 1’ sections, coated with Rootone® or another rooting compound, and grown into additional plants which will bear viable fruit in 2 years. It is quite cold-hardy for a tropical plant, living through 3 nights of brief 27 °F temperatures in the “freeze of 2007.” When loaded with fruit, the plant does need lateral support to avoid tipping or breaking during a wind storm.

The plant is incredibly easy to grow in temperate climates. Nursery stock will survive in pots or planted in the ground with regular applications of humic fertilizers. In my experience, modest applications of GroPower 8-6-8 Citrus and Avocado Food seem more than sufficient.

The fruit of the Babaco begins forming in the spring with the introduction of pseudo flower buds. In Southern California the first buds fall off, but by May buds begin to take hold and generate fruit. By late summer the fruits are large, green, and quite solid. As the plant gains height it drops its lower leaves one by one, much like a palm tree does.

The fruit turns almost completely yellow when ripe. In the wild the natural climes are warm enough for the fruit to ripen by November. However, in coastal or coastal-influenced Southern California, the desired number of degree-days will not be accumulated until the following March or April. Ripe fruit will fall from the plant, taking out the guess-work of harvesting. Piles of peat around the plant will guarantee a soft landing and benefit the culture of the Babaco.

In my opinion the ripe fruit is excellent eaten fresh. The taste is reminiscent of pineapple and hence the name “Pineapple Papaya” would be an excellent choice when marketing this fruit adjacent to its more common cousins. As a fruit drink it is loved by people of all ages and is outstanding in sorbet. The nutritional content of the fruit is quite high – even compared to some of the more popular “healthy” fruits currently taking the market by storm.

SDHS member Richard Frost is also member of the California Rare Fruit Growers. For more information, see www.frostconcepts.com/horticulture.



Garden Gourmet

IT’S THYME FOR CHIVIN’ IN THE KITCHEN

By Alice Lowe

Gardening in containers, on the edge of a canyon, with sporadic sunlight and a penchant for succulents means that the time and effort I put into edibles is limited. Through trial and error, however, I’ve found that growing herbs is incredibly rewarding – the variety is practically limitless, they do exceptionally well in pots and tubs and boxes, and they don’t demand full sun (in spite of claims to the contrary). They produce lovely and/or unusual and often fragrant plants, and best of all, they add that certain something to culinary efforts. Here are some ideas to stimulate your creative juices.

I love to snip a handful of fresh herbs – mint, parsley, oregano, thyme, chives and sorrel, for example, & add them to salad greens; if I have enough, they are the salad greens. The same idea works for a quick and simple but unique pasta dish – toss the cooked noodles of choice with olive oil and lemon juice, mix in the herbs, a little or a lot as you prefer, and top with grated parmesan or romano and/or crumbled blue, feta or goat cheese. Garnish (either the salad or the pasta) with toasted walnut or pistachio bits.

Fried sage is all the rage with butternut squash or pumpkin ravioli, and deservedly so. But try it sautéed in olive oil with mushrooms – preferably shitake or portabella – adding a splash of wine, a squeeze of lemon and a pat of butter at the end.

Fresh herbs with fresh fish will make you feel vibrantly healthy. I like the combination of dill & chives or thyme & rosemary, chopped up and patted onto the fish either before cooking or when it’s done (maybe a little of both). For trout, choose whole stems of parsley and other herbs, tie them with chives, and place them inside the whole trout with butter and lemon before broiling or grilling.

There’s oregano, in a class by itself – fresh or dried, it enhances just about everything. And you’ll want to experiment with the different varieties (Mexican, Greek, also marjoram). Don’t think it’s just for pizza and Italian dishes – in fact I’ve been told that one shouldn’t put oregano in spaghetti sauce, but I always do anyway.

And don’t forget dessert – I like to add fresh or dried mint to berries with some lemon or orange zest and a splash of Limoncello, orange liqueur or balsamic vinegar. Let them sit, covered, while you eat dinner, and then serve them up with ginger snaps.

But something’s missing, you say, something important? Indeed, I’m holding out, because basil must be discussed with tomatoes, and that’s next month!

Member Alice Lowe loves to garden, cook and eat, not necessarily in that order.

SDHS Shares An Earth Day Message

By Susan Morse

The San Diego Horticultural Society participated in the Mission San Luis Rey "Connect with Mother Earth" at the Earth Day celebration, on Sunday, March 30. The SDHS booth was staffed by members Victoria Schaffer, Cathy Tylka, Louise Anderson and Susan Morse. Admission to this event was free to the public, with vendors and exhibitors providing many interactive and educational events for adults and children. This year's theme was "sustainability."

When children stopped by the SDHS booth, they were asked to ponder and answer the question, "What are some ways to save water in the garden/landscape?" One of the answers was to have drought tolerant plants in the garden. Two vases on our table displayed some inflorescence of low water use plants from the gardens of Susi Torre-Bueno, Cathy Tylka and Susan Morse. The brightly colored blooms were of some California natives, aloes and echevarias. Each child received a garden oriented gift for their participation at our booth. Thank you to member Susan D'Vincent for her donation of seed packets.

Our booth attracted the attention of Promice Yee, the Program Producer for television station KOCT. In May, watch for Promice's interview with Susan Morse talking about the mission of the SDHS.

Watch for this Earth Day event next year. Think about volunteering at our booth or attending the event as a participant. This is a fun, free, educational event for the whole family. 🌱



Victoria Schaffer sharing "the fun of gardening" message at the Earth Day celebration at Mission San Luis Rey.

The World's Most Abundant Protein

By Carl Price and Ellen Reardon

Springtime is the greenest time of the year. It is the time when plants accumulate high concentrations of chlorophyll, the green pigments of leaves, and the chlorophyll absorbs sunlight in the initial step that fuels photosynthesis. As important as chlorophyll is, and as vividly as it catches our eyes, it is not the only component in the process of photosynthesis. The *chloroplasts*, the tiny, green organelles that are the engines of photosynthesis, also contain dozens of enzymes that catalyze the many steps needed to convert carbon dioxide into sugars and starch. The first of these steps, the conversion of carbon dioxide to a six-carbon sugar, involves the world's most abundant protein: Rubisco or *ribulose-bisphosphate carboxylase*. Its role in the most important process of life on this planet, and the tales of its discovery, make a fascinating story.

ISOLATION OF FRACTION I PROTEIN

From the end of World War II until 1950, Sam Wildman was working as a Research Fellow in the laboratory of James Bonner at Caltech. Bonner asked Wildman to study the soluble proteins of green leaves. The methods for analyzing proteins in those days were very primitive, the most common being the differential precipitation of proteins with different concentrations of ammonium sulfate. Wildman found that about half of the total soluble protein of the leaf precipitated in a single, non-green fraction at about 35-percent saturation. To facilitate bookkeeping, Wildman called the material "Fraction I."

By a stroke of luck, Linus Pauling, the Chemistry Chairman in the building next door, was assembling analytical devices that had been invented in Sweden and were almost unknown elsewhere. One of these was a 30-foot-long device invented by Arne Tiselius that could analyze proteins by their electric charge. The procedure, now routine, is called *electrophoresis*. Wildman was invited to examine his leaf proteins in the Tiselius device and found Fraction I to be a single compound.

A second device in Pauling's laboratory was an *analytical ultracentrifuge*, invented by another Swede, Theodor Svedberg, which enabled one to measure the mass (size) of particles. In 1949 Wildman's Fraction I protein was analyzed in the ultracentrifuge and was seen to be a single species with the phenomenal molecular weight of 600,000, about 10 times larger than hemoglobin. While Fraction I protein was clearly seen to be a major component of the chloroplast, no one in 1949 had any idea about its function.

THE PATH OF CARBON DIOXIDE FIXATION IN PHOTOSYNTHESIS

During World War II, the University of California at Berkeley became one of the sites for research on radioisotopes for nuclear weapons. A by-product of these studies was the production of a radioactive isotope of carbon, ^{14}C , with an exceptionally long life span. After the war, Melvin Calvin assembled a laboratory at

Continued on page 22

Welcome New Members!

We now have over 1300 members! Hope to see all of you at upcoming meetings. We encourage you to become active participants and share in the fun; to volunteer see page 4 and below. A warm hello to the following folks who have joined recently:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Gracinda Maier | Lea Gottlieb |
| Carlsbad Creations | Amy Redding |
| Edible San Diego | Mildred Mikas |
| Pamela Jara | Rachel Jordan |
| Steven Lessner | Sara Zlotnik |
| Pamela Ciborowski | Joseph Winograd |
| Susan Foerster | Eugenia Shidlovskaya |
| Marion Mallon | Jenny Hawkins |
| Jill Horine | |

NEW ADVERTISERS:

Aristocrat Landscape Maintenance, PAGE 18

Designs by Shellene, PAGE 22

Edible San Diego, BACK COVER

Huntington Gardens Plant Sale, PAGE 14

**Quail Botanical Gardens
Chocolate Festival, INSERT**

**San Diego Cactus &
Succulent Society Show, INSERT**

San Diego County Fair, INSERT

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

Kudos to the members below who brought in new members and therefore received Hort Bucks worth \$5 towards raffle tickets, name-tags, *Plant Forum* CDs or dues. To get **your** Hort Bucks just ask your friends to give your name when they join. The number after the person's name indicates how many members they recruited in 2008:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Linda Bressler (1) | Bobbi Hirschhoff (1) | Taylor Murphy (1) |
| Helen Dizio (1) | Miriam Kirk (2) | Samantha Owen (1) |
| Sharon Graham (1) | Kathy La Fluer (2) | Nan Serman (1) |
| Pat Hammer (1) | Sharon Lee (1) | Donna Sullivan (1) |
| Ginny Hawkins (1) | Shelley Moore (1) | Darlene Villaneuva (2) |

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Doris Engberg
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Philip Tackitt & Janet Wanerka
René van Rems
Village Garden Club of La Jolla

What's Up at Quail Botanical Gardens?

BROMELIADS FOR GARDEN VERSATILITY

By Robert Kopfstein

Bromeliads (bro MEE lee ads) are a real plus for any type of garden. Whether you are striving for a tropical look, a desert landscape, or favorite color splashes, these plants can satisfy your horticultural needs.

There are more than 3000 named species of bromeliads. Latecomers on the evolutionary scale, bromeliads have adapted to a wide range of environments. Some are epiphytic and grow on other, usually larger, plants like trees and even cactus; some are saxicolous and grow on rocks; others are terrestrial. What enables bromeliads to be so versatile is a physiological structure that allows them to absorb water and nutrients directly through their leaves. This stoma or pore is what gives rise to the name "air plant" for many types of bromeliads.

For gardeners, the good news about these "air plants" is their easy care. They can be grown without pots or soil, very little water, and no fertilizer. For color enthusiasts "broms" are a real bonanza. Many hybrids created over the past two or three decades have a wide range of colored variegations. And when the plant blooms, the flower structure or inflorescence often lasts for months. For cactus and succulent enthusiasts, terrestrial broms are a garden must have. The shapes, colors, and blooms (many of which are hummingbird magnets) will enhance and lend character to any xeriscape.

Like cactus and agaves, bromeliads are found only in the Americas. Probably the most well-known bromeliad is the pineapple, which Columbus brought to Europe. In San Diego pineapples do quite well in the garden – not only are they attractive ornamentals, but they produce delicious fruit. To find out more about these versatile plants for the garden take the class listed below offered at Quail Botanical Gardens. 🌿

THE STUDY OF BROMELIADS

Thursdays, May 15, 22, and 29, 7 – 9 PM
Saturday, May 31, 9 AM – NOON

Intro by Robert Kopfstein; tillandsias by Pamela Hyatt of Bird Rock Tropicals; terrestrials and epiphytic tank type bromeliads by Jeffrey Kent of Kent's Bromeliads.

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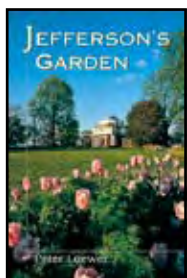
DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS!
See Page 22 for Details

Book Review

JEFFERSON'S GARDEN

By Peter Loewer

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



Those of you who have my oeuvre firmly in mind will recognize that I've reviewed two previous books by Peter Loewer, *The Evening Garden* (Nov. '02) and *Seeds* (May '05). Additionally, Loewer is the author of *The Wild Gardener*, one of the American Horticultural Society's 75 Great Garden Books. I gave *The Evening Garden* a rave review, but was considerably less enthusiastic about *Seeds*.

This book falls somewhere between those two. It has problems. At the same time, it includes enough of interest to make it worth looking at.

It's in two sections. Loewer writes an introductory essay, then discusses about 75 plants Thomas Jefferson grew at Monticello. He writes that he was invited to do a presentation on "Jefferson, the Gardener." The resulting essay is packed full of quotations from garden writers of the past and Jefferson's descriptions of gardens in Europe he visited with John and Abigail Adams. You can just hear the remote control clicking as the slides go by on the screen. He also includes a long, but superficial discussion of seed selling in colonial America and the early republic. His effort here is, I think, to help us understand how important plants were during this era and that Americans had a strong interest in ornamental plants as well as more practical ones.

The meat of the book is in his description of plants. His choice of plants was a little surprising to me. He writes that Jefferson grew 105 species of herbaceous flowers and about 300 of vegetables. Loewer includes only a handful of plants that produce anything edible: the walnut tree, the fig shrub (sic), the hyacinth bean, garden sorrel, and a few others. He doesn't explain why he chose the plants he did.

One plant was a real surprise—poison ivy. Jefferson considered it an ornamental. Famous nurseryman John Bartram of Philadelphia sold it in pots. It was evidently a popular addition to a backyard garden. Having had considerable and unpleasant experience of poison ivy, I find this hard to believe, but Loewer says it's true.

He devotes two or three pages to each plant. These descriptions include a history of the plant in America, derivation of its name(s) and classification, use in the United States, and use at Monticello. He also gives cultivation information for us to use. You can read straight through, but this is the kind of book, common in garden writing, that you can just dip into when you're having a five-minute sit-down before you get back to weeding.

In spite of its problems, *Jefferson's Garden* was interesting enough to keep me going, and made me want to see the garden in person. Although it's written about east coast gardening, there are enough plants that grow here that I think it will interest readers in San Diego, too.

This hardbound book was published Stackpole Books in 2004 (ISBN 0-8117-0076-3, 260 pages including references, index, and the author's line drawings of each plant). It's available at your local bookstore and on the Internet. ☘

Community Outreach

NATIVESCAPES GARDEN AT THE WILD ANIMAL PARK NEEDS YOUR TLC!

Lake Hodges Native Plant Club's Nativescapes Garden at the Wild Animal Park near Escondido is seeking volunteers. Work with friendly volunteers in this Registered Botanical Garden on Wednesday and/or Saturday mornings, followed by a brown-bag lunch and group discussion of California native plants & gardening issues. For more information call Pat at (858) 487-2629 or Georgie at (858) 592-9782, or go to www.lhnpc.org. Tours are on the 2nd Saturdays of April and May. (The plant pictured is a Chocolate Lily.)



CRESTRIDGE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Crestridge Ecological Reserve covers 2,900 acres in the Crest area of San Diego's east county. Owned by the California Department of Fish and Game, but jointly managed with the Endangered Habitats League (EHL, www.ehleague.org), the reserve is one of the most significant pieces of preserved land in this part of the U.S. The reserve has everything ecologically significant to Southern California, from sensitive butterflies and birds to bobcats and to an ancient Indian village where people once ground acorns on the smooth boulders. It also includes the largest known population of the rare Lakeside ceanothus (*Ceanothus cyaneus*) and a large population of Engelmann oaks (*Quercus engelmannii*).

In addition to these natural treasures, Crestridge is the home of the Earth Discovery Institute (EDI), a unique on-site environmental educational program. Serving as a resource to teachers and students, Institute staff work with faculty to develop standards-based multidisciplinary programs combining science, technology, art, history, and language arts. For the last five years EDI's program has grown to serve as many as 2,500 students per year from six school districts. All field trip activities are tied directly to required state curriculum standards, so the Reserve is truly an outdoor classroom. Volunteers play critical roles as education docents and restoration assistants. The EHL/EDI spring native plant sale will take place at the reserve from 8am-noon on April 12. For more information or to volunteer, contact Cathy Chadwick at (619) 749-5767 or chadgroup@cox.net.

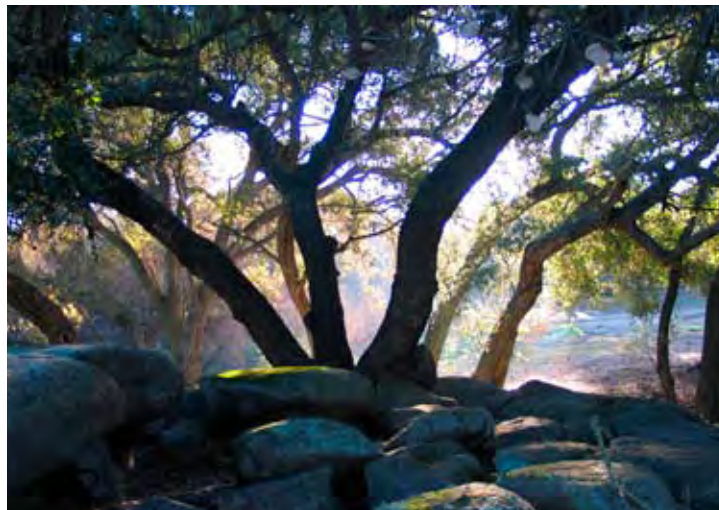


PHOTO: Kevin Mortensen

SDHS Science Fair Winners

By Al Myrick, Ph.D.

SDHS Scholarship and Science Fair Coordinator

Nine volunteer judges representing SDHS braved the traffic and the delightfully sunny day in Balboa Park at the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair on Wednesday, April 2nd to play "Are you as smart as a science fair student?" This year, our fearless game judges were Dale Rekus, Cindy Sparks, Janet Wanerka, Phil Tackitt, Ellen Reardon, Carl Price, George Yackey, Bob Dimattia and Al Myrick. They were charged with the daunting responsibility of interviewing the students, scrutinizing their projects and picking ONLY TWO winners from among the more than forty horticulturally-related junior high and senior high school projects. Even more daunting was the fact that these projects had already been previously screened and judged to be the crème de la crème from the thousands of projects completed in San Diego City, San Diego County and Imperial County schools, before being invited to the final regional competition in Balboa Park.

Participating in this competition is a rewarding and strengthening experience for the students, many of whom go on to major in the scientific, technological and engineering professions in college. For many years, as part of one of our missions, SDHS has played an important supporting role in encouraging and recognizing students who present projects in the plant-related sciences at the Balboa Park regional science fair. For our veteran judging team, interacting with some of the brightest students of our area is always very special.

The winner we chose from the Senior Division this year was Sara Zlotnik, a junior from Canyon Crest Academy, for her project, "Fire Frequency and Invasive Plant Dynamics in Coastal Sage Scrub." Her interesting and creative study tested some of the effects of once-and twice-wildfire-burned soils, compared to unburned soil controls, on the germination rates in two native and one invasive plant species. Results of her study suggested that, "although all three plant types were negatively affected by fires, the second burning decreased...the abundance of natives more than that of the invasives. Further experiments of this kind would help determine more clearly what the optimal fire regime is for coastal sage scrub." Sara also won a first place in the general judging and special awards by the American Statistical Society and by the Torrey Pines Docent Society. She will be going on to compete at the California State Science and Engineering Fair in May.

Our winner from the Junior Division was Rachel Jordan, an eighth grader from Pershing Middle School. Rachel's project, "Does Ash From a Fire Affect the Plant Buyer?," used multiple measurements of 100 poppy plants grown with and without ash additives to conclude that ash significantly accelerated poppy plant germination and growth over three weeks of the experiment. Rachel placed second in her division in general judging.

SDHS will award each of the two winners \$100 in cash, a one-year family membership in SDHS and a subscription to our monthly newsletter. The winners will be invited to present their projects to our membership at a monthly meeting of the Society. Congratulations to this year's winners! And thanks to our diligent judges. 🌹

The 2008 San Diego Rose Show

ROSES, ROSES, ROSES. Champion rose blooms. Gorgeous rose arrangements. Rose bouquets. Rooms full of roses. When you visit the San Diego Rose Show on May 17th or 18th, that's what you'll see.

This year, San Diego's "Rose Man", Dick Streeper, is Chairman of the Rose Show and is planning to revolutionize the way roses are displayed at rose shows. His purpose is to "knock your socks off" and please the public, not just those who have entered roses in the competition. Education and delight will be the order of the day, not just prizes. Special competition categories have been created in order to attract entries from commercial growers, those who grow roses only for the florist trade, and rose societies from as far away as Georgia.

The Rose Show is produced each year by volunteer members of the San Diego Rose Society, one of America's oldest and largest rose societies. In an era when clubs and societies of all kinds are losing members and have a tough time recruiting new ones, the San Diego Rose Society remains vigorous and active, probably because so many people just love roses and want to learn how to grow them well. One of the tools the Society uses to carry out its rose culture education mission is its website at www.sdrosesociety.org. Check it out. For Rose Show information you can also call (619) 602-7641.

The 2008 Rose Show takes place in Balboa Park at the Balboa Park Club building, which is located adjacent to the Hitchcock Puppet Theatre near the complex of buildings that includes the Aerospace and Automobile Museums. The nearest parking is in the big lot in front of the Aerospace Museum. The Show is open to the public on Saturday, May 17th, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and again on Sunday, May 18th, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Buy your ticket at the door. The cost is \$5/adult, with children aged 17 and under free. Military members in uniform are also free. 🌹



"Spellbound" Photo: Barbara Leser

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The Real Dirt On...

ELIZABETH BRITTON

By Linda Bresler

Elizabeth Knight Britton was a well-known bryologist (studied mosses) and educator; and one of the founding leaders of the New York Botanical Garden around the turn of the 20th century. She was born in New York on January 9, 1858, but grew up on a sugar plantation in Cuba owned by her grandfather. Excelling in science, she graduated from the Normal College (now Hunter College) in 1875, and taught there for ten years.

Through her work at the college she established herself as a leading amateur botanist. She discovered the fruit of the moss *Eustichium norvegicum*, and the presence of a rare curly grass fern, *Schizaea pusilla*, in Nova Scotia in 1879. As an avid field collector, she made extensive moss collections from the Adirondack and Appalachian Mountain regions, as well as from Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Jamaica.

Elizabeth joined the Torrey Botanical Club in 1879, and wrote her first paper for the club's newsletter. She later served as Curator of Mosses, and as editor. Her husband, Nathaniel Lord Britton, who was also a member of the botanical club, was a geology professor at Columbia College. He was one of the leaders in botanical science at that time.

Through her marriage to Nathaniel, Elizabeth was able to join Columbia College as an unofficial curator of its moss herbarium. There, she built an impressive moss collection. She also oversaw the work of doctoral students at Columbia, despite not having an advanced degree.

During a visit to Kew Botanic Garden in England Elizabeth became inspired to create a similar institution in New York. She was a prime mover in the fundraising efforts in the 1890's that led to creation of the New York Botanical Garden. Her husband became the first director of the 250-acre establishment in Bronx Park in 1896. In 1912, Elizabeth was named Honorary Curator of Mosses for the garden, providing annual reports until 1929.

Elizabeth wrote 346 papers, 170 of which were on mosses, with many more on ferns and wildflower preservation. She helped found two botanical organizations: the Sullivan Moss Society (now the American Bryological Society) in 1898, and the Wild Flower Preservation Society of America in 1902. Her research on mosses led to a systematic study of the mosses of the eastern United States. Elizabeth Britton's most notable honors were to have 15 species and one moss genus, *Bryobrittonia*, named after her. She died on February 25, 1934 in The Bronx, New York.



Member Linda Bresler is a certified landscape designer living in Poway. She specializes in drought-tolerant, low maintenance designs that provide four-season beauty. ♪

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This column is written by you, our members! Each month we'll ask a question, and print your responses the following month.

The question for this month was: Is there a ground cover you use instead of grass which tolerates foot traffic and is water thrifty and low maintenance?

Louise Anderson loves "*Dymondia margaretae* (Dymondia). I simply adore this plant as a ground cover. It is a bit slow at spreading but well worth the wait. Works really well around tree roots and seems to have less need for deep soil."

Pamela Homfelt has an interesting approach: "As a landscape designer specializing in low water use landscaping I take a different approach. I create paths and seating areas with bark, dg, brick, flagstone or even broken concrete to create paths and seating areas. This way large expanses are broken up into more manageable smaller planting beds and movement is created. Substituting a ground cover for grass is rarely practical. Groundcover is always the weak link in a low water use garden as it is shallow rooted and dries out quickly and is also easily invaded by weeds and invasive grasses. Instead I use taller perennials such as *Salvia spathacea* or *chamaedryoides*, *senecio scieci*, even *agapanthus* as filler plants."



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visit our web site at www.huntington.org.

Suzi Ironmonger says, "I have yet to find a good living replacement for grass! I use barks, gravels, & other mulches, as nothing living can hold up to foot traffic. There are so many different grass choices out there these days. Many are very water thrifty once established. Sure most grasses need trimming, but then so does everything else and a lawn mower is easier to use than hand shears, etc. So for well-trafficked areas, where you want a living cover to set the scene, my vote still goes for grass! It does more than just 'tolerate' foot traffic."

Michele Jacquin has an extremely water-wise solution: "I do not mean to be a smarty-pants but my tough water thrifty low maintenance ground cover is multicolored 1/2 inch Arizona river pebbles. They are roundish and easy on the bare feet. They help make up for too many water hungry palms and ginger!"

Lorie Johansen also likes dymondia: "What a great question as I would love to know an alternative to *Dymondia margarete*. This tough South African ground cover snuggles the ground, does well in part shade or sun, is extremely drought tolerant and has a pretty grass-like blade that is green on top and silver underneath. The petite dandelion flower appears in the spring. If watered liberally, one can harvest and share with friends in a short period of time as my neighbor did. What I trimmed from his small patio supplied my needs to fill in between flag stones and to give to my neighbor, Susi, our president!"

Marlene King tells us, "An impartial observer of my garden would have to report that a 'Heinz 57 variety of weeds' appears to be a workable, walkable ground cover in many pathways of my garden. It is especially soft and welcome right now, as the winter rains produced a nice crop this spring. My technique for keeping the groundcover manageable is to do my best to enjoy it, and traipse through it, so as to keep the height manageable, and I believe so doing reminds the 'groundcover' that it is MY garden, not theirs!"

Miriam Machell has a cautionary tale: "I have no good secret about ground covers - only a bad ground cover experience. Some years ago we put coyote bush in the front yard. It was ugly while it was establishing itself, required lots of pruning and discipline while extending itself to cover; then started developing an understory thatch that was a menace to any kind of foot traffic. We decided that the only place for coyote bush was out with the coyotes. Removing it was a mini nightmare. Fortunately the front yard is small."

Sue Marchetti likes two native plants: "In low walk areas I use the native *Baccharis* 'Twin Peaks'. Gets about 1 foot high, spreads about 5 feet and takes some foot traffic. It stays green all year with once-a-month water; is also good for holding slopes, and is low fire hazard. *Baccharis* 'Pigeon Point' is good also, but the leaves of 'Twin Peaks' are toothed so it is a little more interesting. It is also frost hardy to about 15°.

Susan Morse says, "I'm a minimalist on this one: *Dymondia*."

Al Myrick has some interesting suggestions: "Mulch with stepping stones framed by creeping thyme, creeping fig, or

Continued on page 16

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miniature ivy (after they are well established). In my experience, not much else out there seems to be very forgiving of a lot of traffic unless a lot of water is used. With more water, various other kinds of prostrate herbs (e.g., pennyroyal), wandering Jew, crinkled Charlie, or honeysuckle work to some extent, but one must mostly stay on the stepping stones! If we are allowed to include grass, then hybrid bermudas are great and pretty tolerant of dry periods."

Ted Overland replies, "*Dymondia margaretae* is an awesome turf alternative. It grows easily and can really take a beating. The common name for it is "Silver Carpet," and that's just what it is. Tightly weaved, you rarely see weeds within it. *Dymondia* lays itself out rather flatly and is soft enough for bare feet. As a bonus, it is indeed drought tolerant, only needing regular water when young or when consistently traveled upon. A great pick for sure!"

Minna Riber suggests thyme: "Beside the standard ice plant we now use *Dymondia* between pavers in heavy traffic areas. My favorite ground cover, which also works between pavers, is *Thymus praecox* ssp. *arcticus* 'Minor' known as Minus Thyme. In the summer when I walk across the thyme it gives off a lovely aroma. Lemon Thyme is also a low grower and has pink flowers during most of the summer and fall."

Susi Torre-Bueno also appreciates *dymondia*: "I've planted *dymondia* in the tops of the landscape blocks that we use as outdoor stairs. It has filled in quickly to hide the rough concrete block top and provides a resilient spot to step on as you use the stairs. We also planted it at the edge of one gravel-covered parking area and it's slowly growing toward the center, where it will be tough enough to take the weight of the occasional car."

Cathy Tylka and Richard Dascomb use succulents: "Instead of planting grass, in our yard, we plant succulents. We have quite a few areas that are pathways. Sometimes these are designated by stepping stones or blocks. However, if you should walk off these stones and onto the chipped wood which we try to cover the ground in, no harm done. Succulents come in many varieties, and to fit our needs we choose those that can tolerate full sun and don't depend on much water. We do have other plants mixed in too, mostly California, So. African and Australian natives.

Ron Vanderhoff has another idea: "For those who are still addicted to the idea of a 'lawn,' I'm a big fan of *Carex pansa* (Western Meadow Sedge). It has most of the qualities that homeowners want: year-round deep green color and a fine texture, but requires less than half the water of turfgrass and a fraction of the fertilizer. It is generally planted from plugs set about 12" apart. We planted a large area here at Roger's Gardens just over a year ago. We've never fed it and only mowed it two or three times. Unlike some of the other *Carex*, this one is slowly rhizomatous, so it fills in nicely and handles foot traffic pretty well. It grows in full sun or moderate shade and is a native of coastal California (although a bit north of us). Not only for home gardeners, *Carex pansa* offers a resource-friendly alternative to the wasteful public turfgrass plantings along streets, median strips and parkways."

Don Walker is yet another dymondia fan: "*Dymondia margaretae* is terrific. Once established it only requires water about every 10 days and forms a hard mat and can be walked on. I had great difficulty establishing it on a slope with well draining dg soil. It is sold sometimes in gallon cans but flats are available."

Lucy Warren says, "I like dymondia and it has pretty yellow flowers, too. Haven't done a full foot traffic test."

The question for next month is:

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

Please send your e-mail reply by May 10 to

info@sdhortsoc.org. 🌿

April Plant Forum

By Steve Brigham and Susi Torre-Bueno

What is the Plant Forum?

Each month members bring in plants, cuttings or flowers and one of our horticulturists talks about them. What a great way to learn how these plants perform. All plants are welcome – EVERYONE is invited to participate. We encourage you to write descriptions similar to those below, and put them with the plant on the Plant Forum tables. Any questions, call Susi at (760) 295-7089.

***Aquilegia chrysantha* YELLOW COLUMBINE**
(Ranunculaceae) Arizona, New Mexico, and adjacent Mexico

Columbines are showy perennials with delicate foliage and impressive spurred flowers in a variety of colors that light up the spring garden. Most columbines prefer partial to full shade in our warm climate, and many types tend to be short-lived because of our lack of winter chill and hot summers. This yellow-flowered species, however, is an exception because it is tolerant of hot summers and warm winters, and is by far the most vigorous columbine we grow. In partial shade, or even full sun, it attains an impressive height of 3-4' when in bloom in spring and early summer with many 3" long-spurred bright yellow flowers which attract hummingbirds. After bloom, you can either remove old flower stems to encourage repeat bloom, or let plants make seed, which germinates readily. Plants are quite tolerant of a variety of soils, need only moderate watering, and are completely hardy to cold. (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08) – S.B.

***Chamelaucium 'Albany Pearl'* WHITE WAXFLOWER**
(Myrtaceae) Western Australia (Horticultural Hybrid)

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April Plant Forum

drought-tolerant. Its airy, fine-textured foliage is topped in spring with dense clusters of 1"-wide, round, pure-white flowers. Cut back after bloom to keep plants dense and shrubby. Plants are cold-hardy to 25° F. (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08) – S.B.

***Euphorbia dulcis* 'Chameleon'** BLACK EUPHORBIA
 (Euphorbiaceae) Mediterranean (Horticultural Selection)

This small shrub grows to just 2' by 2' in full sun, is drought-tolerant, and tolerates a wide variety of soils. Its new spring foliage is burgundy-black, making an interesting backdrop for its spring and early summer clusters of burgundy-black and green flowers. In summer and fall, the plant turns a bronzy-green. With extreme cold, plants die back in winter and resprout in the spring, but in our climate, plants are evergreen. Nice in larger containers when combined with burgundy, white, and chartreuse-foliaged plants. (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08) – S.B.

***Lamium maculatum* 'Orchid Frost'** PINK LAMIUM
 (Lamiaceae) Europe and western Asia

This hardy perennial makes an excellent ground cover in full to partial shade, growing quickly to 6-8" tall and 2-3' wide. Its green and silver foliage is topped by showy clusters of orchid-pink flowers from early spring to midsummer, and it can nicely light up a shady garden bed or cascade from a shady container planting. It likes regular watering, and is fully hardy to cold. Cut back as needed to promote fresh new growth. (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08) – S.B.

Pelargonium ionidiflorum PINK FAIRY CASCADE
 (Geraniaceae) South Africa

This "cute" little species pelargonium grows to just 6" tall and 18" wide in full sun or partial shade. In spring and summer (and often again in late fall), it blooms profusely with airy but showy clusters of frilly pink flowers. This is a good plant for the front of the flower border, and is also great cascading from a combination planting in a container. It likes regular watering, and is cold-hardy to 25°F. (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08) – S.B.

Phlomis purpurea PINK JERUSALEM SAGE
 Lamiaceae (Labiatae) So. Portugal, So. Spain and Morocco

This evergreen long-blooming Mediterranean shrub is water-thrifty, too, and grows to 4-6' tall and about as wide. It does best in full sun with good drainage, and has gray-green fragrant foliage. The pink tubular flowers appear in whorls over a long spring to fall season, making a dramatic statement in the garden. (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08) – S.T-B.

Thanks to everyone who brought plants to the meeting; they were discussed by **Steve Brigham**. In addition to those described above, the plants listed below were also displayed.

April Plant Forum

What's that in front of the plant name? Plants marked 3 are fully described in the *Plant Forum Compilation* (see page 20). Plants marked O were part of the Opportunity Drawing – a really choice selection was supplied by Steve Brigham of Buena Creek Gardens.

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the April newsletter was *Euphorbia ovoidii* FOOTBALL PLANT, SEA URCHIN.

3 *Anomatheca laxa*, syn. *Lapeirousia laxa*
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/08)

3 *Geranium maderense* GIANT GERANIUM
(Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

O *Heliotropium arborescens* 'Alba' WHITE HELIOTROPE
(Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

O *Heuchera sanguinea* 'Firefly' RED CORAL BELLS (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

O *Iris* 'Blatant' REBLOOMING BEARDED IRIS (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

O *Iris* 'City Lights' REBLOOMING BEARDED IRIS (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

Iris cv. BEARDED IRIS (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/08)

Iris cv. DUTCH IRIS (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/08)

O *Iris* 'Double Stitch' REBLOOMING BEARDED IRIS (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

O *Iris* 'English Charm' REBLOOMING BEARDED IRIS (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

O *Iris* 'Platinum' REBLOOMING BEARDED IRIS (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

3 *Lampranthus deltoides* TOOTH-LEAVED ROCK VYIE (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 4/08)

O *Myoporum parvifolium* 'Burgundy Carpet' BURGUNDY CARPET (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

O *Myoporum parvifolium* 'Spilled Wine' BURGUNDY-ON-THE-CARPET (Buena Creek Beer Garden, San Marcos, 4/08)

3 *Ocimum* 'African Blue' (O. 'Dark Opal' x *O. kilimandscharicum*) AFRICAN BLUE BASIL (Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 4/08)

Paphiopedilum armeniacum SLIPPER ORCHID (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/08)

Paphiopedilum Armeni White (*P. armeniacum* x *P. delenatii*) SLIPPER ORCHID (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/08)

Paphiopedilum delenatii SLIPPER ORCHID (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/08)

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April Plant Forum

Paphiopedilum micranthum SLIPPER ORCHID (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/08)

○ *Pelargonium* "Filbert Scented" FILBERT-SCENTED GERANIUM (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

Pelargonium xlimoneum LEMON-SCENTED GERANIUM (Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 4/08)

○ *Penstemon barbatus* 'Navigator Purple' PURPLE PENSTEMON (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

○ *Rehmannia elata* CHINESE FOXGLOVE (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

○ *Salvia microphylla* var. *wizlizenii* (*S. lemmonii*) LEMON'S SAGE (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

○ *Salvia urica* DWARF BLUE SAGE (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

○ *Sambucus nigra* 'Eva' BLACK LACE ELDERBERRY (Buena Creek Gardens, San Marcos, 4/08)

Watsonia borbonica BUGLE LILY (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/08)

Watsonia cv. or sp. BUGLE LILY (Louise Anderson, San Marcos, 4/08)

How to read the entries above.

- ① *Pastryus dulcis*, ② 'Cheerio' ③ DONUT PLANT ④ Pastryaceae ⑤ 7-Eleven to Vons
- ⑥ This fast-growing annual produces copious quantities of distinctive edible fruit that is circular in shape with a central hole. The fruit resembles a donut, from which the common name derives. Provide ample moisture. (⑦ Betty Crocker, San Diego, 5/96)—⑧ K.M.
- ① Latin name [*Pastryus dulcis*]; bold names indicate plants with full descriptions.
- ② Cultivar ['Cheerio']
- ③ Common Name [DONUT PLANT]
- ④ Family [Pastryaceae]
- ⑤ Distribution [7-Eleven to Vons]
- ⑥ Description, comments, cultural directions [This fast-growing...]
- ⑦ Name & city of member; date plant displayed [Betty Crocker, San Diego, 5/96]
- ⑧ Initials of person who wrote description [K.M.]

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April Meeting Report

Can a massage oil help prevent global warming? Our dynamic April speaker, Duane Johnson, thinks it can, and he made a persuasive case for the intense scrutiny that Great Plains, the Montana company he works for, is giving to "camelina: the crop you've never heard of."

In a fascinating talk, Duane explained why *Camelina sativa* is being studied as a new crop for a variety of end products. First used by Neolithic man as a high-protein food source, and later by the Romans for massage oil, this mustard relative was largely forgotten by World War I. Very easy to grow (just scatter it on the ground and stand back!), it caught the attention of researchers looking for botanical alternatives to diesel fuels to grow in Montana and other marginal farming areas.

Duane was looking for a crop "capable of flourishing in a non-traditional environment where food crops are inefficient" so as to avoid diverting valuable agricultural land away from edible crops. Further, the crop had to be adaptable to semi-arid western North America as well as to the frozen tundra further north. Camelina fit these criteria. The seeds have 34-39% oil content, which is full of vitamin E and anti-oxidants. It could be used as biolubricant and to make bioplastics, and could help cut consumption of diesel fuel in the U.S. by as much as 10% a year. The pleasant tasting oil can be used for cooking and salad oil. The straw that is left when the crop is harvested is being studied as a substitute for wood fiber in oriented strand board (OSB) to fiberboard to soundproofing.

Camelina is harvested using standard combines, and yields 370,000 seeds per pound. It is sown on bare ground from October to March, then harvested in summer. Cold and snow do not deter germination, and camelina needs little water to thrive, doing well even in soil that is not very fertile. It has no insect pests and few diseases, and is not invasive. Further, camelina is "easy on the soil," and does not consume many soil nutrients.

There are three main opportunities for camelina. First, it can be used for human and animal foods and is a good source of protein, soluble fiber, and Omega 3. Second, the oil can be used for biofuels, cosmetics, nutraceuticals, plastics and nylon products. Third, the fiber from the straw is a good source of cellulose, which has many applications.

After his talk Duane answered a great many questions from an eager audience, and he certainly got many of us thinking in new directions about a plant that we had never heard of before. Thanks so much, Duane, for bringing another side of horticulture to our attention.

We were also pleased to have Steve Brigham from Buena Creek Gardens to lead the Plant Forum discussion, starting off with descriptions of the terrific plants he provided for the Opportunity Drawing. Great job as always, Steve. 🌱

Only 8 spaces left!!! Join the SDHS as we visit exceptional public and private gardens in Philadelphia from June 2 – 8, 2008. See information on page 2, and contact Cheryl Hedgpeth at Sterling Tours, (619) 299-3010 if you have questions or want to sign up for this marvelous tour.

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Abundant Protein Continued from page 8

Berkeley to exploit the unique properties of ^{14}C to analyze the path of carbon dioxide fixation in photosynthesis. By 1954 Calvin, with Andrew Benson and James Bassham, had worked out the steps in the process, which is now called the Calvin-Benson pathway. Andrew Benson lives in La Jolla, and is a retired professor at UCSD and Scripps Oceanographic.

It's important to note that Calvin and Benson had identified the chemical intermediates in the pathway but had no information on the enzyme or enzymes that catalyze the steps in the pathway. They identified the first step as the combination of carbon dioxide with a five-carbon sugar phosphate, ribulose-bisphosphate, to make a six-carbon compound. This was followed immediately by the splitting of the six-carbon compound into two molecules of 3-phosphoglyceric acid.

Two years later, in 1956, Bernard Horecker at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, isolated an enzyme from spinach leaves that would catalyze this reaction. It came to be known as *ribulose-bisphosphate carboxylase* or *Rubisco*. By analytical ultracentrifugation Horecker and associates found the enzyme to have a molecular weight of 600,000, and it quickly became evident that Fraction I protein is Rubisco.

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Further studies showed that, not only is Rubisco an exceptionally large protein, it occurs with only small modifications in all photosynthetic organisms, from photosynthetic bacteria to algae and on to higher plants. Because Rubisco is a relatively inefficient enzyme, the *amounts* of Rubisco in plants are extremely large, corresponding to a quarter of the total protein of leaves. It is the world's most abundant protein.

Members Carl Price and Ellen Reardon are retired from Rutgers University, where they conducted research on the molecular biology of plastids and served as editors of journals in their field.

OOOPS! Last month's column on Medicinal Plants should have had Ellen Reardon as the first author and Carl Price as the second. Sorry, Ellen! 🌿

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What's Happening? for May 2008

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 calendar@sdhortsoc.org.

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Hello to all and welcome to the merry month of May – how did 33% of 2008 already fly away? I love May: springtime, Mother's Day, Cinco de Mayo and my birthday month all rolled into one. We are busy doing all kinds of new things at the nursery – it is truly a never ending project similar to gardening if one thinks about it (or as Dave says, raising kids).

Just for Mom's Day - Things Moms Would Never Say:

- "How on earth can you see the TV sitting so far back?"
- "Yeah, I used to skip school a lot, too."
- "Just leave all the lights on...it makes the house look more cheery."
- "Let me smell that shirt – Yeah, it's good for another week"
- "Go ahead and keep that stray dog, honey. I'll be glad to feed and walk him every day."
- "Well, if Timmy's mom says it's OK that's good enough for me."
- "The curfew is just a general time to shoot for. It's not like I'm running a prison around here."
- "I don't have a tissue with me... just use your sleeve."
- "Don't bother wearing a jacket - the wind-chill is bound to improve."

So to everybody (especially those husbands & sons) – you really don't have to wait until 5PM on May 11th to get Mom something special. It's legal to do it ahead of time. Tips on what Moms may enjoy – a day off from the kids and housework, a home cooked meal that she didn't have to home cook or a day at the local beauty spa (I must be sure that Dave reads this last part).

What's New:

- Our biggest selection of citrus, tropical and stone fruits: some favorites are Manila Mango, Edible Passion Fruit, Persimmons (Fuyu and Hachiya), Figs (Kadota, Panache and Brown Turkey), semi dwarf Limes, Lemons, Grapefruits, Oranges and Calamondia. Also, semi dwarf Dorsett Golden Apple and Anna Apple. A true dwarf Avocado, 'Little Cado', gets only 8-10'. Bananas: edible varieties Musa Mysore, Red and Rajapuri.
- Water plants are here in force – Water lilies (many in bloom), Water Hyacinths, Aquatic Irises, Cannas, Green Taro, Dwarf Horsetail, Double Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*, bright yellow flowers), Water Forget-me-not, Lavender Musk (looks like Lineria), Water Snowflake (yellow flowers), Water Pennywort.
- Speaking of Mother's Day – pre-order color bowls and baskets for easy pickup & shopping. More ideas: Hydrangeas (blue, red, white & pink in various sizes), African Violets, Wind Chimes (great selection, many new styles), Cactus & Succulent bowls, Bromeliads, exotic long-lasting Mums, Orchids, Fuchsias, Gerbera Daisies (a huge favorite in 2" mini's and 4" pots). Tons more ideas in our gift shop. Gerbera Daisies (a huge favorite in 2" & 4" pots). Tons more ideas in our gift shop.

The Water Conservation Garden (contact info on other side)

May 14, 6 – 8pm, Bye Bye Grass! Part 1: Nan Sterman discusses extermination options. Part 1 only - \$20/members, \$30/non-members; pre-registration required
May 17, noon - 2pm, Bye Bye Grass! Part 2: Nan Sterman will discuss evaluating your irrigation system, deciding on the kinds of spacing you need and preparing the soil. She will also offer creative ideas for beautiful, low-water plantings. Part 2 only - Free. Pre-registration required.
May 24, 9:30am – 12:30pm, Xeriscape: Beautiful Landscape on a Low-Water Budget: Landscape Designer Jan Tubiolo takes the mystery out of Xeriscape landscaping. Please pre-register. \$20/members, \$30/non-members.
May 31, 10am – 12:30pm, Simply Succulent Wreath Making: Learn to make your own living wreath using succulents! Bring a pair of gloves and plan to get a little dirty. Offered in partnership with Cuyamaca College's Community Learning Program. (619) 660-4350 or www.cuyamaca.edu/preview.

May 1, 7pm, San Diego Herb Club: Experience herbs as garden plants, their history and folklore. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. dir.gardenweb.com/directry/sdhc

May 3, Walter Andersen Nursery Classes: 9:00am, Cactus & Succulents, (San Diego: 3642 Enterprise Street, (619) 224-8271); **9:30am Fertilizer, Soil & Water the Wright Way** (Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, (858) 513-4900) www.walterandersen.com.

May 3, 9am – 1pm, Wetland Avengers: Join volunteers to save the unique habitat of City Heights' Sway Canyon, 2807 Fairmont Ave., San Diego. Plant native species and remove invasive plants and trash. Enjoy activities, music and a free raffle. Register in advance for a free t-shirt and lunch. (858) 488-3849 or elizabethhorpedahl@aquaticadventures.org

May 3, 2 – 5pm, May 4, 10am – 4pm, Vista Garden Club Flower Show and Plant sale: All amateur gardeners are invited to enter. Free – open to the public. Brengle Terrace Park Recreation Center, 1200 Vale Terrace, Vista. vistagardenclub.org

May 3, 1 – 4pm, California Coastal Rose Society 21st Rose Show: Competition is open to both beginning and experienced competitors. Entries are accepted at the show location from 6:30 – 9:30am, free to public 1 – 4pm. Senior Center 799 Pine Ave. Carlsbad. (760) 419-8328, (760) 967-3856 or www.californiacoastalrose.com

May 3, 1 – 5pm, May 4, 10am – 4pm, San Diego Iris Society Iris Show: Hundreds of potted iris' for sale. Free; room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (858) 748-2280.

May 4, 10:30am, San Diego Bonsai Club: Program TBA. Meetings are open to the public. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

May 4, 2pm, East County Rose Society: Come enjoy a behind the scenes tour of the changes that Barona Casino has made to their rose garden. Barona is offering each participant a free buffet lunch. Barona Casino. Contact Ted Kniffing for reservations (619) 561-0611 or (619) 454-9407. www.eastcountyrosesociety.com

May 4, 2 – 4pm, Plant Walk and Botany Hike: Co-sponsored by CNPSSD and Preserve Calavera, James Dillane of CNPS will lead this special hike for plant enthusiasts. First half will be the plant walk and the second half will be a faster pace botany hike. Meet at Oak Riparian Park in Oceanside (TG 1107 E3). RSVP to info@preservecalavera.org.

May 5, 12:30pm, Floral Design Forum: \$8 unless you pre-registered for all 8 sessions. Woman's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. (760) 749-4976 or homesan.rn/cm/pygc

May 6, 7:30pm, San Diego County Orchid Society: Novice classes 6:30pm, room 104, meeting begins 7pm room 101. Free. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdorchids.com

Quail Botanical Gardens – see insert for May 10 Chocolate Festival (contact info on other side)

May 15, 22, & 29, 7 – 9pm, May 31, 9am – noon, The Study of Bromeliads: DETAILS ON PAGE 9.

May 17, 8:30am – 2pm, Flower Photography Workshop: learn proven techniques from nationally acclaimed flower photographer Bob Bretell. Designed for all levels, bring a digital camera with a close-up lens or close-up filter, a tripod if you have one, and a bag lunch. For more information contact bob@2ndstphoto.com. \$65/Members, \$75/Non-members. Advanced registration required.

May 31, 9am – 3pm, Palm and Cycad Sale: This one-of-a-kind event features limited and rare palm and cycad species from southern California nurseries. It is co-hosted by the Palm Society of Southern California and Quail Botanical Gardens. Information call Phil Bergman (619) 291-4605 or phil.bergman@junglemusic.net. Free with admission to Gardens.

May 10, 9am – 1pm, La Jolla Garden Club's Gardeners' Market: Blooming plants, fresh floral arrangements, bake sale. Washington Mutual Bank Patio, 777 Girard Ave. La Jolla.

May 10, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Tropical Gardening. (San Diego see May 3) No class scheduled. (Poway) www.walterandersen.com

May 10, 9am – 4pm, Pre-Mother's Day Plant & Cutting Sale: Courtyard, Casa del Prado, balboa Park. www.epiphyllum.com

May 10, 9:30am, Making Color Bowls (Mother's Day Special): Make your mom a unique color bowl. Materials fee \$10; pre-registration required. Evergreen Nursery, all locations (see ad page 4 for locations, phone numbers).

May 10, 10am, San Diego Bromeliad Society: Visitors welcome – free. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

May 10, 1pm, San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society: Free. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdcss.com

May 10, 6:30pm, Palomar Orchid Society: Show and Tell before the speaker. Bring your orchids. Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St. Carlsbad. palomarorchid.org

May 11, 11am – 4pm, Annual Mother's Day Show and Plant Sale: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.epiphyllum.com

May 11, 1pm, Southern California Plumeria Society: Round table discussion: Carl Herzog & Frank Zotter – Grafting Techniques & Seedlings; Danny Kashou & Irene Jones – Potting Cuttings & re-potting; Pat Fisher – Fertilizing Techniques & Plant Care. Raffle & surprise table. War Memorial Building, Balboa Park. www.socalplumeriasociety.com.

May 12, 7:00PM – Details on Page 3 Making More Plants – Adventures in Horticulture

May 13, noon, Dos Valles Garden Club: Bats with Francie Spears. St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Rd. Valley Center. www.dosvallesgardenclub.org

May 13, 7pm, San Diego Geranium Society: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdgeranium.org

May 14, 9am, Poway Valley Garden Club: “The World of Orchids” by Ramona Wilson, American Orchid Society Judge. Templar Hall, Old Poway Park; 14134 Midland Rd., Poway. (858) 672-0459 or (858) 748-6746. home.san.rn.com/pvgc

May 14, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club: Pauline Sachi demonstrates creative, abstract floral designs using Australian plant material and items found in our garden. Portuguese Hall 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego. www.plgc.org

May 14, Noon, The Ramona Garden Club: Jeff Moore of Solana Succulents. Refreshments, plant sales, opportunity drawing. Everyone welcome. Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main St., (760) 789-8774 or www.ramonagardenclub.com

May 14, 7:30pm, San Diego Epiphyllum Society: General Meeting. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.epiphyllum.com

May 15, 1:30pm, Bernardo Gardeners Club: Gisele Schoniger, Kellogg Garden Products on ways to keep your gardens at their best. Rancho Bernardo Library Community Room, 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, bernardogardeners.org

May 15, 7:30pm, San Diego Fern Society: Guests welcome. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdfem.com

May 17 & 18, 9am – 4pm, San Diego Geranium Society Annual Show & Sale: The sale will include Regals, Ivy, Scented and some hard to find varieties. Room 101 and patios, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdgeranium.org

May 17, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am. Grafting & Budding Techniques (San Diego; see May 3) **9:30am.** Propagation from Cuttings and Divisions. (Poway; see May 3) www.walterandersen.com

May 17, 12:30 – 5pm, May 18, 10am – 4pm, San Diego Rose Society Rose Show: Entries received 6:30 – 9am on May 17. Show will open to the public after judging. \$5/adult, Children free. Balboa Park Club Balboa Park. sdrosesociety.org

May 20, 7:00pm, California Native Plant Society: Jon Rebman and Mary Ann Hawke present “The Flora of San Diego County: New Discoveries.” Bring your unknown plant and we will help you learn to identify it. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.cnpsd.org

May 21, 7pm, San Diego Cymbidium Society: Women's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe, Carlsbad. (760) 732-0055.

May 24, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Cymbidium Orchid Dividing & Repotting (San Diego; see May 3); **9:30am** Growing Giant Pumpkins. (Poway; see May 3) www.walterandersen.com

May 28, 6pm, California Rare Fruit Growers San Diego Chapter: How to plant rare fruit trees. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.crfgsandiego.org

May 28, 6pm, Mission Hills Garden Club: Maureen Austin, founder of CHIRP, will bring some butterflies and their larvae, plus a presentation on the opening of the Zoro Garden in Balboa Park. United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw Street. \$10/guests. (619) 923-3624 or missionhillsgardenclub.org

May 31, 9am – noon, Gardeners 4 Peace: Help create a peaceful, organic, permaculture garden at the Peach Resource Center. We will weed, and perhaps start to build the labyrinth. 3850 Westgate Pl, San Diego www.sdfriendscenter.org

May 31, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Attracting Butterflies. (San Diego; see May 3); **9:30am,** Flower Arranging with Flowers from your Yard. (Poway; see May 3) www.walterandersen.com

May 31, 9:30am, Choosing and Caring for Fruit Trees: Learn about your favorites and taste test some new varieties. Free. Evergreen Nursery, all locations (see ad page 4 for locations, phone numbers).

Garden Tours (also see page 6)

May 3, 10am – 4pm, Clairemont Town Council 12th Annual Garden Tour: Master Gardeners, Master Composters and the California Rare Fruit Growers Association will be on hand at 3 stops on this self-guided 15 garden tou. \$12/advance price \$15/day of tour. Purchase tickets at the UPS Store, 4809 Clairemont Dr. which is also the starting point of the tour. (858) 863-0908 or www.clairemontonline.com

May 3, 10am – 4pm, Encinitas Garden Festival: Tour more than 20 Olivenhain gardens of every size and style. Tickets are limited. Adults \$21/advanced, \$25/day of event. Children under 10, \$7/advanced \$10/day of event. Parking is only at Mira Costa College, 3333 Manchester Ave. Cardiff. www.encinitasgardenfestival.org

May (every Sat and Sun), 10am – 5pm, Tour the Lavender Fields: May 3 to June 29, come see the lavender in bloom. Free. 12460 Keys Creek Rd., Valley Center. thelavenderfields.com

May 10, 10am, Buena Creek Garden Tour: Steve Brigham will present the tour of over 5,000 outstanding varieties of plants. 418 Buena Creek Rd. San Marcos, (760) 744-2810 or www.buenacreekgardens.com

May 14, 10am – 3pm, Bonita Valley Garden Club Annual Garden Tour: Homes in old Bonita and in horse country, plus a plant sale, raffle and Garden Shop at the Bonita/Sunnyside Library – doors open at 9:30am. \$15/advanced tickets, \$20/day of tour. A box lunch is available by pre-registration for \$10. Information: (619) 216-8863.

May 17 & 18, 10am and 2pm, A Garden of Senses at the San Diego Zoo: Free botanical bus tours, self-guided walking tours, more. Free w/admission. Reservations recommended for bus tours (619) 231-1515 ext. 4298 or www.sandiegozoo.org

May 24, 9am – 4pm, City Farmers Nursery, Art in the Garden: Around 20 artisans display homemade wares, plus art sale to benefit the Farmer-Veteran Coalition. 4832 Home Ave., San Diego. (69) 284-6358 or www.cityfarmersnursery.com

Resources & Ongoing Events

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS: Open daily 9-5 (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day); 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Fee: \$10/adults, \$7/seniors, \$5/kids; parking \$1. Free to members and on the first Tuesday of every month. (760) 436-3036; www.qbgardens.org

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN: Open 9-4 daily, free. Docent-led tours every Saturday at 10:30am & Sunday at 1:30pm. 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) 694-2860, www.mastergardenerssandiego.org

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

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

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

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

Botanical Library. Room 105, Casa del Prado, Mon.-Fri. and first Sat., 10am-3pm, (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 and horticulture, Tuesdays & Sundays, 1pm, from Visitors Center, (619) 235-1122.

S.D. 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 TV and Radio Shows

Anderson's La Costa Nursery Radio Show: Saturdays 8:00 – 9:00 am on KCEO Radio AM 1000. Timely garden tips, caller questions, guests.

Garden Compass Radio Show. Sat. and Sun., 8–9am. KPQP 1360, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: (619) 570-1360 or (800) 660-4769.

- 15-gallon Baby Queen Palms grow 12-14’ with a trunk like bright green Bamboo.
- Bedding plants: Sunflowers, Marigolds, Salpiglossis, Ageratum, Dahlias, Browallia, Lobelia, Dusty Miller, California poppies, Zinnias, Petunias and Supertunias, Penstemon, Satureja, Celosia, 6 packs of Lantana & Erodium, Hypericum, Vinca, Verbena, Camations, more!!!
- It is peak time to plant Tomatoes. We have so many – here are a few: Abraham Lincoln (popular since the 1920's), Carbon (one of the darkest black tomatoes), Celebrity (large glossy red tomatoes), Sweet Million (red cherry), Black Krin, Siberian (heirloom, juicy red fruit), Red Cherry, Prince Borghese (large Italian heirloom), Yellow Pear (tiny yellow pear-shaped fruit), Lemon Boy (high yielding, mild flavored, lemon-yellow fruit), Champion (solid, meaty – great for sandwiches), Old German (large meaty heirloom) and Stupice (heirloom).

Into the garden:

May is the ideal month to plant the heat-lovers – the vegetables and flowers that seem to thrive and bloom more lustily when the weather's sunny. Earlier in spring and later in fall we coddle them to stretch the seasons but now is when they grow really fast.

Pride of Madeira (*Echium fastuosum*): when the gorgeous flower spikes on Pride of Madeira are spent cut down to the foliage. **Trailing African Daisy** (*Osteospermum fruticosum*): Give an annual pruning in early May after bloom to avoid buildup of thatch which would cause risk of summer fungus. **Wisteria:** Train young plants onto strong support; don't let long streamers twine around each other. Once size and shape is reached begin in May to cut back all unwanted new growth to 2 or 3 buds from main branch.

When hand-picking hard-to-see **tomato hornworms** sprinkle the plants lightly with water first to make them more visible.

Plant citrus and other tender trees. Keep soil well mulched to hold in moisture. Feed fruit trees now that they're actively growing. Plant cactus, succulents, and palms and water to settle them in well.

Remove faded blooms and seedpods from spring-blooming bulbs, leave the foliage on until it dies back naturally. For bushier Mums with lots of blooms this fall **pinch back stems** after each 6” of growth.

Weekly until fall **prune the spent blooms on Roses** down to the first 5-part leaf or a bit further to gently shape the plant, then feed it lightly and water.

Maintain a good **mulch of organic matter** covering garden soil throughout the summer. Avoid overhead irrigation so late in the day that foliage cannot dry completely before sunset.

To **attract butterflies** plant Asters, Lantanas, Buddleias (“butterfly bush”), Marigolds, Sweet Williams, Tithonias, Zinnias and other daisy-like flowers.

As the weather warms, **irrigation on a regular basis** becomes very important. A good rule of thumb for flower and vegetable gardeners is to water deeply once a week.

Bulbs: As their blooms fade remove the flowers from tulips and daffodils and give them a dose of fertilizer. But leave those leaves where they are!! **Fertilizing:** Fertilizer is your garden's friend - don't neglect to feed your little green ones. After applying give fertilizer a thorough watering-in.

Quail Botanical Gardens'

Chocolate Festival

Saturday, May 10, 10 am - 4 pm

Celebrate Mother's Day weekend with a chocolate experience to remember at Quail Botanical Gardens. Enjoy dozens of delectable chocolate tastings, demonstrations, a chocolate fountain, and more. This family-friendly event also features lots of children's activities and a variety of Mother's Day gifts. "Tasting" tickets will be sold on site.



© 2008 Photo courtesy of Rachel Cobb

Cost: Admission to the Gardens plus the purchase of tasting tickets as desired.
Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors, students, active military \$7, Kids ages 3-12 \$5,
Members, kids ages 2 and under FREE.

For more information call 760/ 436-3036 x206 or visit www.qbgardens.org

230 Quail Gardens Drive
Encinitas, California

2008 Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Presented by: *The San Diego Cactus And Succulent Society*

JUNE 7th and 8th

At The Casa Del Prado, Room 101 and
Patio, Balboa Park

**Strange and exotic plants from the far
corners of the world gathered together
for your viewing amazement!!**

Courtyard sale of choice specimen plants
for the novice and collector as well as
handmade stoneware planters and pots!!

Potting service will be available along with
cultural information

SHOW HOURS:

Saturday, June 7: 10am to 3pm

Sunday, June 8: 10am to 4pm

(Judging will be after 3pm Saturday)

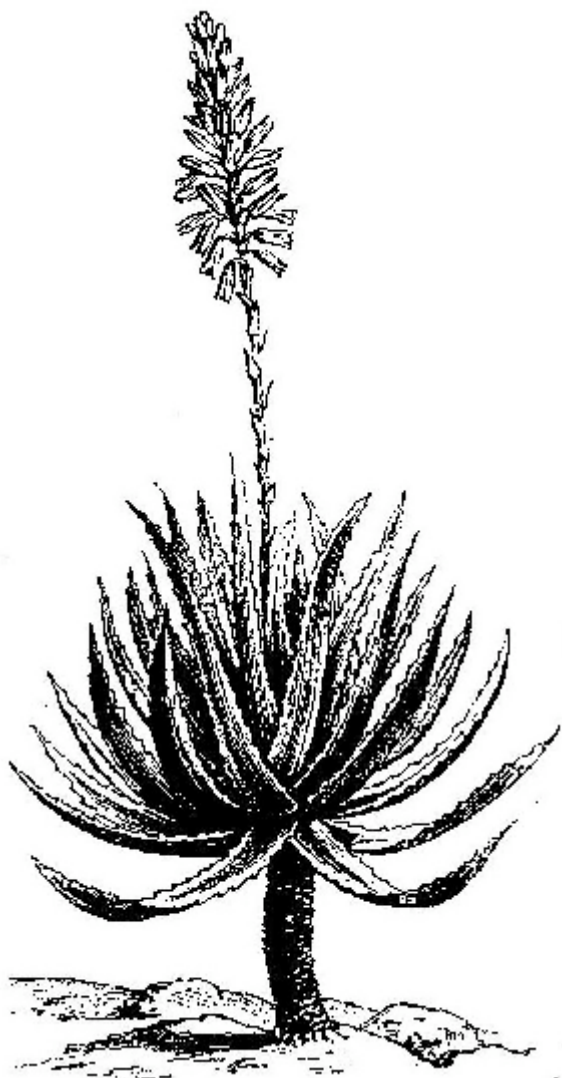
SALE HOURS:

Saturday, June 7: 9am to 5pm

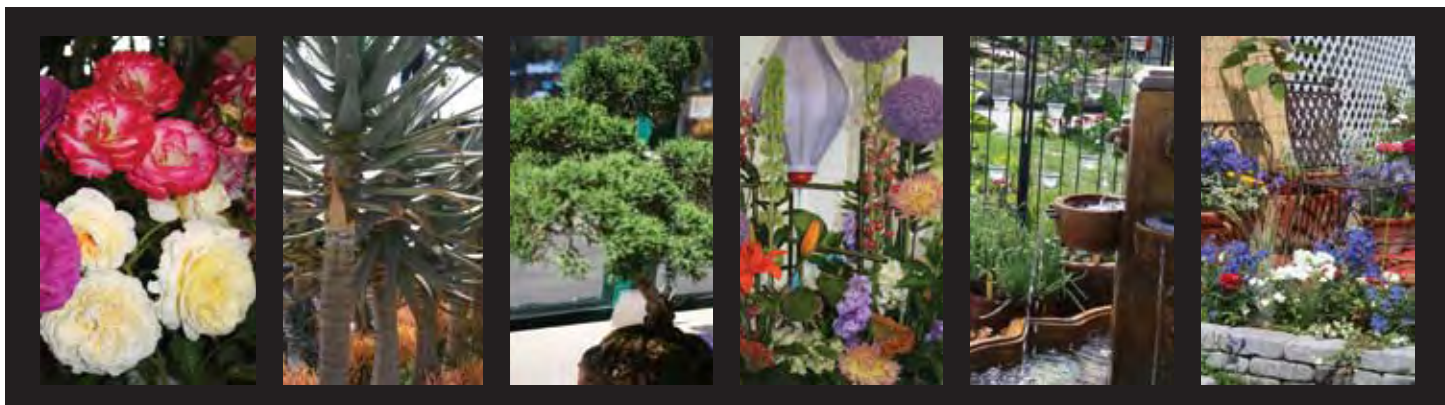
Sunday, June 8: 10am to 4pm

For additional information please phone
619-462-1805 or 760-758-7042.

Or Visit: www.sdcss.com



2008 Paul Ecke, Jr. - Flower & Garden Show



**Over \$85,000.00
in Prize Money Awarded
You Can't Win if You Don't Enter!**

For more information about:

- ***Landscape Displays & Gardens***
- ***Interior Vignettes***
- ***Container Plants***
- ***Hanging Plants***
- ***Bonsai***

**Pre-registration Deadline: May 9th
Enter online at www.sdfair.com/entry
Theme: Sports in the Gardens**

Any Questions?

Call Flower & Garden Show Office 858.792.4273

Summer of Sports



2008 SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

June 14- July 6, 2008 • www.sdfair.com

**Please join us at one of our Open Houses
at the Flower & Garden Show Office
April 19 from 10:00 am-2:00pm
April 25, & May 2, 2008 5:00pm-7:00pm**