

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

December 2009, Number 183

Fabulous Holiday Décor from Overlooked Garden Treasures

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BRINGING THE POTAGER
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ASA GRAY

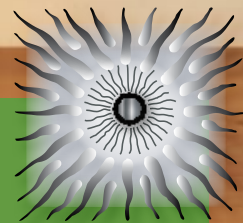
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SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

On the Cover: Spruce cones and other botanicals by René van Rems

NOVEMBER MEETING PHOTOS BY STACEY DORES



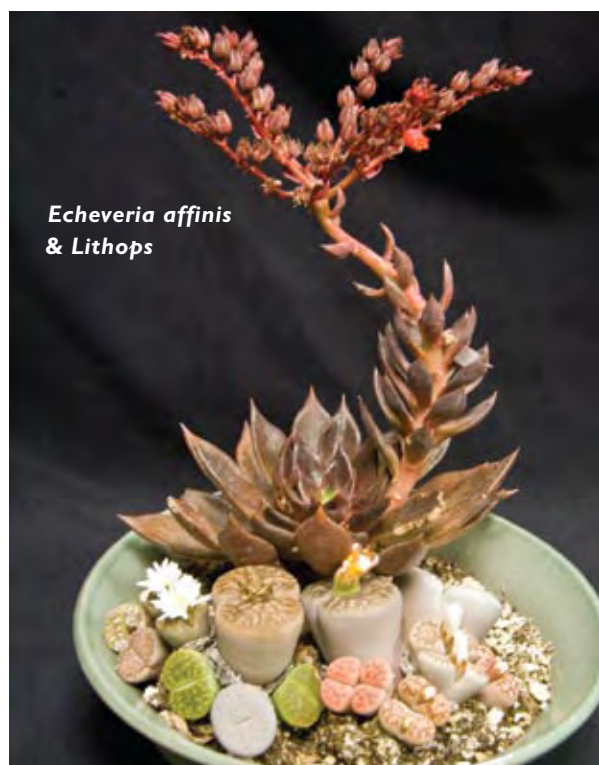
Euphorbia decaryi var. *decaryi*



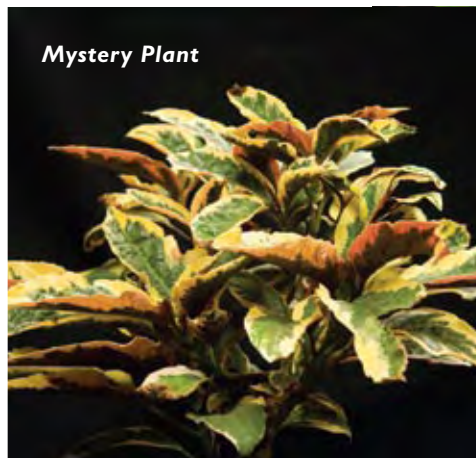
Aloe descoingsii



Barleria obtusa



Echeveria affinis
& *Lithops*



Mystery Plant



Ficus deltoidea



Deuterocohnia brevifolia



Bursera microphylla

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COVER IMAGE: Discover creativity by bringing the outdoors into your own living space. This composition features *Ilex verticillata*, Torrey Pine needles, Spruce cones and other botanicals by René van Rems, AIFD. Watch René in action at our December meeting (below).

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 – 8:15 Announcements, speaker, opportunity drawing
8:15 – 8:30 Break for vendor sales, lending library
8:30 – 9:00 Plant forum; 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—\$30, two years—\$50, five years—\$120; Family/one year—\$35, two years—\$60, five years—\$140; Group or Business/one year—\$50; Students/\$16 (w/proof of enrollment); Contributing/\$90 or more; Life/\$700. For membership questions contact membership@sdhortsoc.org or Sheldon Lisker at (951) 244-3502.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS IN 2009

- January 11, 2010** Amy Stewart on *Wicked Plants: The Deliciously Dark Side of the Plant Kingdom*
- February 8** John Greenlee, on *Meadows by Design: A Revolution in Sustainable Landscapes*
- March 8** Pat Welsh on *Growing Summer Vegetables the Organic Way: How to Plant, Feed, Water, Harvest, and Control Pests and Diseases Without Synthetic Fertilizers or Poisonous Sprays*
- April 12** Joe Walker on *Australian Perennials: Water-Wise Beauties for Landscape and Cut Arrangements*
- May 10** A Special Evening with Brad Lancaster on *Rainwater Harvesting*

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org

Next Meeting: Dec 14, 2009, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: RENÉ VAN REMS ON “IT’S NOT WHAT YOU’VE GOT, IT’S WHAT YOU DO WITH IT: FABULOUS HOLIDAY DECOR FROM OVERLOOKED GARDEN TREASURES”

**Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$5.
Parking is free. Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (760) 295-7089**

We welcome our favorite local resident designer, René van Rems. René will entertain and educate you on the art and design of organic sculptures for both interior and exterior application. Learn how he transforms everyday garden “trash” such as seed pods, palm fronds, dried berries and other fruit, twigs and palm sheaths into decorative art objects for both classical and ultra contemporary installations. He will also highlight how to convert typical California dried natives into outstanding holiday décor.

This is a departure from René’s typical presentations. The product used will be garden cultivated waste or dried plants, and will be transformed into abstract and cultural art, similar to Japanese Ikebana gallery style pieces. This is not a flower arrangement demonstration. The pieces displayed are made by students of René van Rems and will be available at our Opportunity Drawing; all proceeds will be donated to SDHS. His book, René’s Bouquets, and very popular note cards will also be for sale, just in time for holiday gift giving.

René van Rems is a world-renowned ambassador of the floral industry and long time member of the San Diego Horticultural Society. Originally from Amsterdam, René has called San Diego home for over 20 years. He is a member of the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD) and the Professional Floral Commentators International, and gives design shows, workshops, and seminars throughout the US, Canada, Europe, and Asia on the styling of fresh-cut flowers. A frequent speaker at leading art museums, René has been featured in numerous national publications like *California Florists*, *Sunset Magazine*, *Flowers & Magazine*, *Floral Management*, *Florist Magazine*, and *Flower News*.

To learn more, visit www.renevanrem.com and see page 5. 🌿



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.

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

Sponsorship Info: Susan Morse, sponsor@sdhortsoc.org

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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 monthly meetings, annual college scholarships, and other important programs. Sponsorships start at just \$100/year; contact Susan Morse at sponsor@sdhortsoc.org.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1: Meeting Plant Photographer

Stacey Dore has done a fabulous job taking photos of the plants that members bring to our meetings for the monthly Plant Forum. Unfortunately, her new school schedule will not permit her to continue this, so we need someone else who can do it. If you are good with a digital camera and come to our meetings regularly, please step up and let me know you can take over from Stacey. This is a job that could easily be shared by 2-3 people, so you wouldn't have to be there every month. Call Susi at (760) 295-2173 for details.

2: Volunteer Coordinator Co-Chair

Paula Verstraete, our Volunteer Coordinator, is looking for a co-chair to assist at our monthly meetings with check-in tables and to help her coordinate the Volunteer Appreciation Party. The co-chair also helps members to volunteer at fun activities like the Spring Home/Garden show, the annual Special Speaker event, etc. To find out more contact Paula at pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com.

3: Membership Committee

Express your outgoing nature, or overcome your shyness by meeting new people in a very friendly setting! The membership committee welcomes more members to increase our hospitality toward new members and in attracting new members. Be a greeter at meetings, visit nurseries and provide membership brochures for their customers, or help with community outreach programs. Contact Susan Morse, (760) 599-0550.

SDHS "GREEN" BILLS

We went "green" by sending renewal notices via e-mail. You can mail your checks or renew online at www.SDHortSoc.org.

If you get a snail mail renewal it means we don't have your current e-address. Please help us by e-mailing membership@sdhortsoc.org and saying "Please add my e-mail address." We never share your e-mail address with anyone.

Also, save 36% on a subscription to the gorgeous and exciting *Pacific Horticulture* magazine, which focuses on gardening in our part of the country. Just send an extra \$18 when you renew your membership. If you renew as a Contributing Member you will receive a FREE subscription. ☘

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Friday-Saturday.....7:30am-6:00pm
Sunday.....9:00am-5:00pm

To Learn More...

GREAT GARDEN-RELATED WEBSITES

By Ava Torre-Bueno

This month's topic is Fabulous Holiday Decor from Overlooked Garden Treasures with Rene Van Rems. His web site is: <http://www.renevanrem.com/>

I can't very well put other flower design web sites in this month's column, it would be tacky, so I'm just sending you to some of my favorite garden related sites.

Here's a daily blog you can sign up for to get garden moments, tips, suggestions from a Southern California perspective: <http://www.dirtdujour.com/>

Then there's a fun web site I was directed to recently where you can read one person's evaluation of EVERY kind of fruit: <http://www.fruitmaven.com>

Because even in this possibly El Nino winter we still need to be conscious of how we husband every drop of water that hits our property, go again to the Cuyamaca Water Conservation site at: <http://www.thegarden.org/> and to Brad Lancaster's excellent site: <http://www.harvestingrainwater.com/>. Brad will be our May speaker!

Here are the folks who started the movement that culminated in the Victory Garden at the White House: <http://www.kitchengardeners.org/>

And finally, San Diego needs a little of this... I hope this site inspires someone to start San Diego Guerrilla Gardeners!: <http://www.laguerrillagardening.org/>

Member Ava Torre-Bueno is a psychotherapist in private practice and the organizer of Gardeners 4 Peace. This group of volunteers is helping to create a peaceful, organic, permaculture garden at the San Diego Friends Center. To learn more contact Ava at gardeners4peace@hotmail.com and visit <http://www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm>. 🌿

Thanks from the Editor

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Every month members tell me how much they get out of our newsletter, which we consider to be one of our biggest member benefits. In fact, many people join just to get the newsletter and never even come to meetings! It would be impossible to bring this high quality publication to you each month without the help of many volunteers, and each December it's my great pleasure to be able to thank them here. The members below contributed articles, plant descriptions, photos, or monthly columns. Some help with preparing your newsletter for the mail.

I'd like to especially thank the following contributors with monthly or ongoing columns in 2009: Linda Bresler, Sandi Feiock (calendar), Richard Frost, Joan Herskowitz, Linda Johnson, Neal King (calendar), Alice Lowe, Caroline McCullagh, Carl Price & Ellen Reardon, Cindy Sparks, Trudy Thompson (proofreading), and Ava Torre-Bueno. Special thanks to Stacey Dores for taking photos at our meetings. Many thanks to all the folks who supplied comments for the Sharing Secrets and Plant Forum columns. Catherine and John Swan brings up to 700 copies of the newsletter to the post office each month – a hefty feat indeed! Also, I couldn't do the newsletter without Rachel Cobb, our graphics editor, who goes the extra mile each month to produce a beautiful issue. My most sincere thanks and a big (hug) to each of you. I've enjoyed working with you and look forward to your continued participation!

Mailing Crew: Louise Anderson, Joyce Berry, Doris Engberg, Linda Freithaler, Marianne Light, Susan Morse, Mo Price, Diane Scharar, Catherine & John Swan, Evelyn Torre-Bueno, Cathy Tylka, and Sandy Wiksten.

Authors: Steve Brigham, Joyce & Michael Buckner, Julian Duval, Sue Fouquette, Janine Free (August event photos), Diana Goforth, Diane Hollister, Pamela Homfelt, Mary Janes, Vince Lazaneo, Bonnie Manion, Sue Marchetti, Jeff Moore, Tom Piergrossi, Sanford Shapiro, Nick Stavros, Paula Verstraete and Lucy Warren.

🌿

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

A GOOD REASON...

The board has decided to increase the fee for non-members who attend our meetings from \$5 to \$10, starting in January 2010. If you attend with a friend who isn't a member, we hope this will encourage them to join.



NEW TOUR COORDINATOR

I'm delighted to announce that longtime member Ida Rigby has agreed to serve as our Tour Coordinator. Ida brings lots of great experience, having served on the boards of the San Diego Museum of Man, S. D. Museum of Art, and elsewhere. An avid gardener, Ida began her California native and drought-tolerant garden (in Poway) in 1992, well before waterwise gardening was as popular as it is today. Her garden is a National Wildlife Federation certified "Backyard Wildlife Habitat," and was the *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles* magazine homeowner-designed Garden of the Year in 1998. Ida says she has a, "desire to promote Mediterranean latitude plants." She has a Ph.D. in art history and is on the faculty of the Art Department at SDSU. Ida has jumped in with both feet and is planning a garden tour (probably to Portland, Oregon) for mid-July – more details coming soon. Welcome, Ida!



HONORING A SPECIAL MAN

Every year we honor an outstanding horticulturist as our "Horticulturist of the Year" for the San Diego Horticultural Society. For 2010 we overwhelmingly wanted to honor Bill Teague, who has done so much for the community, the San Diego Botanic Garden,

and the SDHS. Bill is quite modest and declined the nomination. So we surprised him in late October with a "book of appreciation" for all the wonderful things he has done.

SDHS members (and others) were e-mailed invitations to send a story, or a simple thank you, for Bill. Sally Sandler and Lucy Warren compiled the materials, and Sally organized them into a gorgeous hard cover memory book (including photos taken by Sally and others). Above is Sally's photo of Bill, with his wife, Linda, taken when we presented the book to him. He was tremendously pleased to see all the anecdotes from friends, and we know the book will be a treasured reminder of how much he means to all of us. 🌿

Successful Drought Tolerant Gardening

Edited by Cindy Sparks

This is the eleventh installment of Successful Drought Tolerant Gardening: how to deal with water as a precious resource, using low-water, high-performance plants; and how to design, install and maintain a successful water-miserly landscape.

Maintaining Your New Drought Tolerant Plantings: Watch Your Water, Weeds and Woes

By Cindy Sparks

First priority: Manage your irrigation so plants survive infancy and learn to grow deep roots. This is probably the biggest challenge you face as you struggle to maintain a healthy new planting. Plants in 4" pots have roots only 3" deep. A gallon pot may give you 5" roots. Until these rootballs grow out into native soil, they can't hold the moisture needed to carry the plant through a three-day "hot event." Monitor your plants for heat stress. Let the soil dry out, but don't let the plant parch. Your mulch will cool the soil and slow its evaporation.

This assumes you already know how deep your irrigation water penetrates. If sprinkling 10 minutes wets to a depth of one foot, and if new plants have 5" deep roots, don't bother to wet the bottom 6 inches of that soil depth. Let the water permeate to a little beyond the new roots. Then wait until most of the rootball is dry. Irrigate and repeat. As roots grow deeper, increase the irrigation depth, and with it the period until next irrigation. Roots will grow deep because you give them conditions of deep moisture and shallow dryness. Use a shovel or test tool to check moisture depth. Tender native

plants may need their own watering regimen, as prescribed by your nursery provider.

Second priority: Combat weeds. Bill Teague, San Diego Botanical Garden, pointed to a roof-top planting, admitting they turned their back on it, briefly, once it was completed. Just as quickly, weeds took over. Caretakers had twice the work to clear them out of the slanted roof. Weed seeds can survive in the soil for 50 years. New seeds blow in hourly. Don't let down your guard. A thick layer of mulch will help, but it won't keep out the aggressive airborne weed seeds. It only slows them down. There are pre-emergents, but timely pulling is best.



Photo: Cindy Sparks

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Agave, Dudleya, Rock Mulch and Weeds.

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The Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture faculty, staff and students want to thank the sponsors of this year's tournament. Funds from the tournament support the scholarship fund and program activities.

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Plants That Produce

GET CONTROL OF YOUR IRRIGATION

By Richard Frost

My neighbors are often astounded that my water bill is drastically lower than theirs even though I have hundreds of herbs and fruiting plants plus a teenage daughter(!). The main ingredients of my frugal irrigation practices are: [1] appropriate delivery of water, [2] significant layering of mulch on the ground and in pots for plants that require moist soil, and [3] easy to use electronic irrigation controllers. Oh, and yes, I have a single-turn shutoff valve on my hot water supply for those teenage showers that are just too long.

Does your electronic controller require a 40-page operations manual? If so, replace it with one that has an easy-to-understand display, requires no more than one button push or knob turn to see the all the settings for any particular valve, and lets you choose named days of the week to water. I am currently using the Rain Bird SST series controllers which everyone in the family can operate.

For each valve connected to the controller, make sure it is delivering water to plants with similar needs. A good approach for shallow-rooted herbaceous plants is to wriggle some $\frac{3}{4}$ inch soaker hose across the planting bed with both ends of the soaker hose attached to the irrigation pipe to insure even distribution of water pressure (see diagram). This also is an easy approach to replacing a water-hogging lawn: just remove the grass, cap off all but the first and last sprinkler heads, attach the soaker hose to the beginning and end, plant your plants near the soaker hose, and cover with 3 to 4 inches of 1" diameter mulch. My favorite is "Perennial Mulch" available for \$1 a barrel at the El Corazon Composting Facility in Oceanside (free to residents). Resist the temptation to use rock or gravel in place of mulch: the rock will store heat and speed up soil water loss through evaporation.

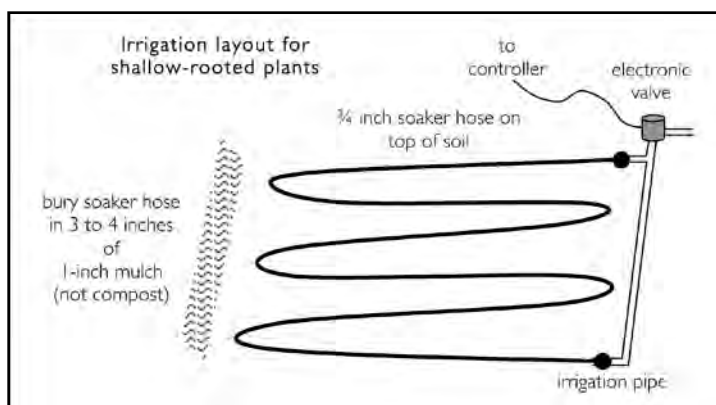
Deeper-rooted fruiting plants such as tomatoes, eggplant, and fruit trees need a thorough soaking and then a rest while water is absorbed by the plant and otherwise dissipates. Soaker hose alone does not work well for this because it is hard to apply enough



water in a reasonable duration and the water is too focused; i.e., it goes down, not across. I use $\frac{1}{4}$ circle and $\frac{1}{2}$ circle "streamer" heads to apply water to the mulch-covered basins of these plants (see photo). With this type of arrangement you can easily supply the 15-gallon a week requirement of a maturing dwarf fruit tree in a few minutes per week.

As long as you have electronic irrigation valves in place, you might as well relieve yourself of the task of hand-watering outdoor potted plants. First, make sure you have mulch on top the soil in your pots – $\frac{1}{4}$ inch orchid bark works great for this. Then run a camouflaged length of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch black plastic hose from an irrigation valve alongside your pots. Insert lengths of $\frac{1}{8}$ inch micro-tubing between the hose and your pots and put a $\frac{1}{2}$ circle "spitter" stake at the end of each tube. You can purchase spitter stakes at irrigation stores for about \$10 per 100. Position the stakes about 1 inch above the mulch so that the majority of surface area is watered. With 70 lbs of water pressure, you can easily water 100 pots in 5 minutes.

SDHS member Richard Frost is a certified edible gardening nut. For copies of past articles and more information, please see www.PlantsThatProduce.com. ☞



HANDSOME NEW NAMETAGS

Is your SDHS nametag out of date – or have you recently joined and in need of a nametag? Sturdy magnet-back nametags with our NEW logo are available now for only \$8.50; call Diana Goforth to order yours: (760) 753-1545. You can pay for these with your \$5 value Hort Bucks (see page 9).

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Bringing the Potager Concept Home

By Bonnie Mannion

The French Potager Concept

Do you wish you could extend the “fresh vegetable concept” of summer throughout the year by growing your vegetables year-round? Well, you can, and it is much easier than you think. It is an age-old concept borrowed from the French, called the “potager” or literally translated “soup garden.”

In France, a potager may be very formal and considered a jewel on an estate or situated on the succinctly elaborate grounds of a chateau. A potager may also be very humble, next to a small farmhouse in the countryside, by railroad tracks in the suburbs, or in urban plots outside a nearby town. Wherever they are located or however they are designed, they have been a foundation for French food culture, and the French tradition of eating seasonal fresh foods.

A potager is a French-style kitchen garden composed mainly of seasonal vegetables and herbs. A potager may also include a few fruit trees, and even seasonal flowers. The sole purpose of a potager is to provide a year-round supply of fresh daily produce for a family or a small group of people. It is usually a small and manageable space about 9' x 12' in size. A potager is divided up into plots that are individually managed and rotated as the seasons unfold each year. It requires some planning, knowledge of your specific growing seasons, and knowledge of what you are growing on your part to be successful.

Potager versus Vegetable Garden

In the United States, generally speaking, our traditional backyard vegetable garden consists of planting the garden in the spring, reaping fresh produce over the summer, and sometimes utilizing the abundance of the harvest by freezing or preserving for use over the winter, or for another time.

Americans, unlike the French and other Europeans, do not normally have a vegetable garden year-round. This might be changing now. One of the hottest food trends today is growing your own vegetables. Gardeners such as yourselves want to keep the “fresh produce concept” alive after the summer has waned. We all know that fresh strawberries out of a morning garden for breakfast, or fresh green beans harvested still warm from the sun, are a delight to the senses and incomparable.

Today, we are also being influenced by active local organic farms supplying restaurants and farmer's markets with new and exciting types of produce to explore and enjoy. Their underlying message is “eat locally.”

It is important to create a potager in your own personal style. Choose your site wisely. A potager is a permanent year-round growing plot that is functional as well as beautiful. As the months roll into years, you will spend a lot of rewarding time in your potager. Enhance your personal potager by where you locate it, what you grow, how you enclose it, how you adorn it, and how you manage it.

Elements That Define a Potager

1) A potager is usually defined by some type of enclosure, in the form of walls, fences, thick hedges, or even a building side. Some of these enclosures can be a working surface for your potager; for espaliered fruit trees, support for tall plantings, and heat retention. Enclosure protects from competing critters and forces such as wind.



2) Pathways are important to divide your plots, create travel pathways, and working space to care for your potager. Pathways may be made of materials such as coarse mulch, gravel, bricks, cement, or even bare soil.

3) Borders can be of a permanent design, for instance growing a low boxwood hedge, a wood box edge, or a stone border. Borders may also echo seasonal plantings such as a marigold border, or ornamental cabbage. Like borders will create a formal design in their repetition.

4) Structure is the bones of your potager. Structure can be vertical in the shape of an arbor, small trees, or even something like a garden ornament. Structure is also walls, gates, and even terraces, and it adds interest, and further defines the personal style of your potager.

5) Order versus chaos. You might prefer a very formal potager; set out with boxwood borders, and neatly confined rows of planting. Your potager might start out with order, and as it grows becomes chaos, or a more romantic mixture of vegetables and flowers. Or your plantings from each seasonal beginning may be more informal, such as planting wildflower seeds.

6) Center a focal point in your potager such as a small tree, garden ornament, urn, or statuary. In my potager I have planted a bay laurel tree trimmed into a topiary shape. A focal point might also be an impressive artichoke plant, which renews itself year after year. More examples of possible focal points are a sundial, birdbath, obelisk, or a planted arbor.

7) Place a convenient tool shed or small building where you can keep all your tools, seeds, perhaps a potting shed, and your other potager resources at hand.

How to Transition Your Vegetable Garden to a Potager

Divide your potager into plots, or if you have raised beds, begin dedicating each plot or raised bed with specific seasonal vegetables you would like to grow. Remember to plant your tallest plants to the north of your potager or in the back plots of your potager.

You can start your potager at any season. Whatever season you start at, plant about 2/3 of your potager, and leave 1/3 free to be planted later. For example, create a 9' x 12' plot. Divide your plots in to four

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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. A warm hello to the following folks who have joined recently:

Catherine Robertson

NEW ADVERTISERS:

MiraCosta College (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 2009:

Kimberly Alexander (1)	Al & Dora Myrick (1)
Connie Beck (1)	Jan Neill (1)
Cecily Bird (1)	Jackie Ravel (1)
Linda Bresler (2)	Cindy Sparks (1)
Buena Creek Gardens (1)	Linda Stewart (1)
Karylee Feldman (1)	Susi Torre-Bueno (1)
Lori Johansen (1)	Marcia Van Loy (2)
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Cathy McCaw (1)	Jim Wright (1)
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What's Up at San Diego Botanic Garden?

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN UNVEILS UNIQUE SCULPTURE IN THE GARDEN ART EXHIBIT

For the second consecutive year, San Diego Botanic Garden and the San Diego Fine Art Society present an inspired exhibition of talented local artists displaying their sculptural creations throughout its lush and natural 36-acre setting. From now until March 2010, sixteen artists will display a range of sculptures set against the beautiful backdrop of dragon trees, fruit gardens, bamboo groves, and many more unique garden areas in *Sculpture in the Garden*.

"Art is certainly inspired by life, which is why the flourishing Garden provides the ideal setting for these organic creations," says Julian Duval, President and CEO of San Diego Botanic Garden. "We are honored to collaborate with the San Diego Fine Art Society on this exhibit and look forward to hosting many more artists in years to come."

Upon entering the Garden, visitors are welcomed with an awe-inspiring 12-foot sculpture (shown here) entitled *Lean on Me*, by artist Robert Verhees. Constructed with multicolored blown glass and stainless steel, the vibrant piece represents two partners who are confident in knowing they can rely on one another. This is just one of many sculptures presented by a highly gifted array of local San Diego artists using diverse mediums.

What makes this exhibition even more unique is that it serves as a Phantom Gallery, an exhibition in which artwork is integrated temporarily into a non-gallery venue – in this case a beautiful botanical garden. The exhibit is part of the fundraising effort of SDFAS and the Garden, as all of the pieces displayed are available for purchase.

The *Sculpture in the Garden* exhibit will be on display until March 1, 2010 and is included with general admission to San Diego Botanic Garden. Group tours are available through the San Diego Fine Art Society from 9:00AM-4:00PM Monday thru Friday by contacting Executive Director, April Game at (858) 205-4354. For more information, visit www.sdbgarden.org.



Lean on Me
by Robert Verhees.

Photo Aaron Rix

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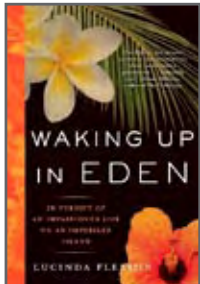
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Book Review

WAKING UP IN EDEN: IN PURSUIT OF AN IMPASSIONED LIFE ON AN IMPERILED ISLAND

By Lucinda Fleeson

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



When I look at the nonfiction I have in my home library, about a quarter of it is memoir. It's a form I enjoy, so *Waking Up in Eden*, a memoir of the author's years in Hawaii, touched on several of my interests: memoir, Hawaii, and gardening.

This book is different from the other first person narratives I've reviewed lately such as *Suburban Safari*, *People with Dirty Hands*, and *Otherwise Normal People* in that it's a true memoir. It's about Fleeson's life during a particular time – the late 1990s – not just about her experience with plants and gardening.

Fleeson, a reporter for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, is downsized just at the time she is questioning all her goals and accomplishments. She's not sure whether she's spent or misspent her life. She feels that her family, friends, and society want her to be married and a mother. She has other goals.

She accepts a job as a fundraiser for the National Tropical Botanical Garden. The NTBG comprises five gardens, four in Hawaii and one in Florida. Fleeson works at Allerton Gardens on the south shore of Kauai, the imperiled island of the title. For those of you who have been to Kauai, the garden is a short distance west of Poipu beach.

I wasn't as much interested in her personal crisis as I was in the crisis she dropped into at the garden. This is a "warts and all" description of her experience. The leaders of the NTBG were also reevaluating their goals and accomplishments. Fleeson stepped into the middle of a battle for power and control between the chairman of the board of directors and the Executive Director of the organization.

The book is ostensibly about whether the endangered plant species on the island can or even should be saved, but it is so much more. Fleeson's chatty narrative is far ranging and packed with interesting history and politics, touching on the history of the Hawaiian Islands, of plant conservation, and of Allerton Gardens, the place where she worked. She also includes discussions of Mark Twain and Isabella Bird, Victorian travelers who visited and wrote about the "Sandwich Isles."

The gardens where she worked were created in the 1930s by Robert and John Allerton, father and "adopted son," a gay couple fleeing possible persecution on the mainland. If you don't care to read about the history of homosexuality in 20th century America, it's easy to read past those parts of the book. I'd still recommend the book to you for all the other interesting things it has to say.

At about the time you read this review, I'll be visiting the Allerton Gardens. If you'd like a virtual visit you can check out their website: www.ntbg.org. I notice they don't feature Fleeson's book in their gift shop on the website. I'm not surprised.

Waking Up in Eden (ISBN-13: 978-1-56512-486-8) in paperback is \$13.95 at your local bookstore. 🌿

Community Outreach

By Linda Johnson

23RD ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOMES TOUR ON DECEMBER 6 – FUNDRAISER FOR VISTA COMMUNITY CLINIC

Your support of the 23rd Annual Holiday Homes Tour will benefit the Kare for Kids Fund, which provides medical care to more than 11,000 uninsured children in San Diego. The tour, on December 6, features four exquisite homes, all of which have been decorated for the holidays by professional designers. The tour also includes beautiful gardens, reflecting each home's unique style and era. Showcasing a variety of garden designs, the homes feature drought-tolerant, succulents, natives, poolside, and view gardens.

The historic Rancho Buena Vista Adobe, festively decorated by volunteers and community organizations, is a highlight of the tour. A special collection of Pierce Arrow vehicles will be on display at the Vista Historical Society and Museum, also part of the tour. Additional proceeds from a portion of the sales of unique jewelry, purses, and home art decor will go to the Kare for Kids Fund, so take advantage of some early holiday shopping!

At Vista Community Clinic (VCC), the promise to "never turn away a sick or injured child" is possible through the Kare for Kids Fund. The Fund provides VCC with resources to provide medical attention to over 11,000 children each year, who would otherwise go without care. Their families, considered the working poor, earn too much to qualify for public assistance but too little to afford private insurance. These children desperately need Vista Community Clinics' care, and your support is vital to providing funds for them during 2010.

Vista Community Clinic, part of the healthcare safety net in San Diego County, provides quality healthcare and health education to the community, regardless of ability to pay. Focusing on those facing social, economic and cultural barriers, Vista operates five clinic sites in Oceanside and Vista and sees about 52,000 patients per year, most of whom are uninsured. Their Health Promotion Center touches over 100,000 lives annually. For more information about the tour, other donation opportunities, or for general information about VCC, visit www.vistacommunityclinic.org, or contact Betsy Heightman at (760) 631-5000 x1139 or betsy@vistacommunityclinic.org. 🌿



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ASA GRAY

By Joan Herskowitz



Asa Gray (1810-1888) was an important American botanist of the 19th century. His extensive botanical studies and writings on North American flora were instrumental in clarifying the taxonomy of these plants. He developed ties with European botanists, maintained a network of plant collectors, and served as a clearinghouse

for the identification of plants from newly explored areas of the country.

Through these activities and his writings, Gray influenced the progress of botany in the U.S. He authored *Gray's Manual of Botany*, a study of flora of the northeastern U.S., which in successive editions has become a standard work on the subject. He also established a major herbarium that developed into the current Gray Herbarium at Harvard University.

Gray was born, raised, and educated in a farming community in Oneida County in upstate New York. As a student, he was an avid plant collector and on summer vacations went on excursions to other parts of the state. Later, Gray trained as a physician and received his medical degree in 1831, but he never practiced medicine. His interests in natural history led him instead to the field of botany. He took a job as assistant to the botanist John Torrey who was a chemistry professor at that time, although for both their real interest was botany.

In 1835, he became Curator of the Lyceum of Natural History, a New York society for the study of natural sciences, and wrote his first textbook, *Elements of Botany*. Gray and Torrey together later published the first part of a *Flora of North America*. This project was continued by Gray in the form of numerous monographs of plants that he collected himself and plants sent to him from government expeditions in various parts of the country. In 1842, Gray was appointed professor of natural history at Harvard University, and continued his botanical studies there until 1873.

As an active plant taxonomist and biogeographer, Gray was preoccupied with issues of classification and had to consider the issues of what constituted a species and the relationships of species and genera. Based on his studies, Gray became Darwin's leading advocate in the United States, and, in 1876, he wrote papers supporting natural selection and published these under the title *Darwiniana*. He provided Darwin with information on American plants, arranged the first U.S. publication of *On the Origin of Species*, wrote articles defending Darwin's ideas, and enjoyed both professional and personal relations with Darwin. However, Gray was a religious man and, although he supported natural selection as the cause of new species, he believed also in the involvement of a divine power in the variation among species. After a distinguished career, Gray died in 1888 at the age of 78.

Member Joan Herskowitz worked as a Biologist for many years, including time spent on staff at the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use. Now retired, she is a docent at the San Elijo Lagoon and at San Diego Botanic Garden. ☘

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Drought Tolerant Continued from page 6

Third priority: Keep cool if some of the babies die.

Expect transplant loss of 5%, with 10% not unusual. That is one out of ten to twenty plants. If you plant from larger pots, that figure could double. There are many possible reasons, and they don't all point to you and your care. If you have been monitoring the soil moisture depth, you can probably rule that out as the cause. Sometimes plants are at risk before you buy them. Your conditions are almost certainly different from those under which they were raised. Ask your nursery provider about the plants' current care regimen to design your initial watering scheme. Be sensitive to microclimates. A hedgerow of *Rhus integrifolia* may do well except for the one that gets more shade from a neighbor's gazebo. What to do? Learn to live with it, but realize if it's getting more shade than the others, it may need less water than the others, too.

It's fall, the weather is cooler, and it's a great time to work with your new plantings.

Next month: we'll look back and review eleven months of our Drought Tolerant Landscaping series. ☘

Potager Concept Continued from page 8

rows of three plots each. Begin your potager by planting 9 of your plots, leaving three of them empty. Another example: if you have 4 existing raised beds, plant 3 with seasonal vegetables, and leave 1 free to start planting when appropriate for the next season.

Eventually, your potager will slowly move into the next season; as your vegetables mature and are harvested each plot is tilled and replanted for the next season. Remember to keep a portion of your potager empty in anticipation of the next planting season. It will take a while to get the ebb and flow of it. Eventually, your potager will become fluid.

Everyone has their own timing with the four seasons and climate-specific vegetables, fruits, flowers, and herbs they can grow. Adapt your plantings to your own seasons, and your own preferences. Classic favorite perennial herbs for a potager include rosemary, thyme, oregano, marjoram, and tarragon. Other classic plantings for a potager might include strawberries, melons, annual herbs, espaliered fruit trees, and, of course, the rainbow of seasonal vegetables.

Member Bonnie Manion writes the popular garden lifestyle blog, www.VintageGardenGal.com, cultivating the best of gardening, vintage containers, home-grown food, and vineyard lifestyle. ☘

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Harvesting Rainwater and Greywater

By Britt Cool and Brook Sarson

The average water use in San Diego is 180 gallons per person per day. Seventy-five percent of that is used in the garden. What if you could cut out that 75% by finding alternative sources to water your landscape? Enter rainwater and greywater harvesting.

Is there enough rain in San Diego to make harvesting viable? San Diego gets an average of 10 inches of rain a year. A 1000 square foot roof will yield 600 gallons in 1 inch of rain. So there is a potential in this case for 6000 gallons worth of rain storage. To look at it on a bigger scale, what if only 10,000 households installed a 1,500 gallon tank (which can be purchased for just over \$500)? That would be 15,000,000 gallons of water that the city wouldn't have to buy from the Metropolitan Water District. Maybe twice that if the tanks were filled more than once a year.

When considering a rainwater harvesting system a simple calculation will determine the amount of water that can be harvested in one inch of rain: catchment area (sq. ft) X rainfall (ft) X 7.48 gal = maximum runoff (gal). Example: 1000 sq. ft X 0.08333 (1 inch of rain ÷ 12 inches per foot) X 7.48 = 623 gallons. Is there enough space on the property for a tank that size? If not, use smaller containers but catch less rain.

The cost of a tank ranges from less than 50 cents per gallon up to \$5 per gallon. Price depends on size, material, and shape. Typically, cost per gallon is less with larger containers.

Several tank materials are available, including plastic, metal, concrete, and fiberglass. Plastic and metal are relatively lightweight and easy to move into position. Choose a dark, thick plastic to avoid algae growth and withstand UV rays. A metal tank may need a liner to prevent corrosion.

The amount of filtration done before the water enters the tank will determine the amount of maintenance needed. Simple filtration includes a Leaf Eater and Downspout Diverter to divert the dirty first flush of water from the tank. Check the tank for sludge every two to three years.

Installing the tank at a high point in the landscape may avoid the need for a pump. Drip irrigation requires a pump for ideal efficiency.

Another water resource is the water already being used in the home for laundry, showers, or baths. A typical top load washing machine uses about 50 gallons of water. A typical front load washing machine uses about 15-35 gallons, depending on its age. A shower using a low flow showerhead generates 2 gallons of greywater per minute. Do you take five minute showers? Ten minute showers? It's simple math to figure out how much water could be directed to the landscape. That water cuts back on your city water irrigation budget. It adds up quickly.

Greywater is a great way to conserve water and become more in tune with your space and the water that you use. Now California has made it easier for its residents to use their greywater, abandoning intricate permitting process in some cases, and alleviating some of the restrictions that prevented most homeowners from creating a greywater solution in their spaces.

The code states: "1603A.1.1 Clothes Washer System and/or Single Fixture System. A clothes washer system and/or a single fixture system in compliance with all of the following is exempt from the construction permit specified in Section 108.4.1 and may be installed or altered without a construction permit:..."

Some tips to follow are:

- Gray water includes wastewater from showers, bathtubs, bathroom sinks, laundry tubs and washing machines, but not from toilets, kitchen sinks or dishwashers. The latter sources typically have high bacterial content, making them unsuitable for irrigation.
- The system must allow water used for washing diapers, bleaching, excessive laundering or showering in the week, to be diverted to the sewer.



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- Ponding and gray-water runoff are prohibited.
- Greywater can be released above ground, but the discharge point must be covered by at least 2 inches of mulch, rock, or other material that minimizes human contact. Release the greywater into a mulch basin. The basin contains the water, prevents runoff, and allows discharge of the water 2 inches below the surface of the landscape.
- Greywater should not be used on root vegetables or leafy green vegetables. It should not be sprayed directly on any edible part of a plant. Do not use it to water lawns or areas where humans or pets make contact with the watered surface. The ideal plants on which to use greywater include fruit trees, ornamentals, berry vines.
- Be sure to read the ingredients in any cleansers used in the washing machine/ shower/sinks. Be sure to exclude sodium, phosphates, borax, and bleach. Unfortunately, there is no comprehensive list of products that exclude these ingredients so read labels carefully.

For more tips check out the Arizona Greywater Guidelines:
www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/download/graybro.pdf

Laundry may be the sole source of diverted greywater from a home with a slab foundation. A greywater system from the laundry is the easiest to install because a washing machine comes with its own pump. The pump can divert the water to places on the landscape slightly higher than the source. Additionally, the pump can push the water up out of a window or down underground and back up again. Diverting a shower requires gravity (1/4 inch per linear foot) to ensure the water will drain from the fixture.

Even without a complete greywater system, bucketing is an easy way to save water. While water from the faucet is heating up, save it in a bucket and use it to water flowers, flush the toilet, etc.

Harvesting rainwater and greywater for use in the landscape reduces the use of purchased water, saves money, and diverts runoff from streams and oceans. A lot of people doing even a little harvesting can result in big water savings.

Resources:

Greywater: oasisdesign.net

Rainwater: rainwaterharvesting.com

Local: www.h2o-me.com

www.sandiego.gov/water/pdf/lrwrplan070604.pdf

www.sandiego.gov/water/quality/#faq

www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/index.shtml

http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?/press-release/9796/

www.20gallonchallenge.com

www.thegarden.org

www.bewaterwise.com

www.h2ouse.org

www.watereducation.org

www.harvestingrainwater.com - includes publications by Brad Lancaster (who will be our May 2010 speaker)

www.rainharvest.com/more

www.arcsa.org

Co-Authors: Member Britt Cool, San Diego Recycling, 619-752-5922, gray/rain water harvesting products, systems, and consulting. Brook Sarson, H2O-me.com, 619-964-4838, gray/rain water harvesting products, systems, and consulting. ☺

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SHARING SECRETS

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: If you could visit any garden in the world, which one would it be and why?

Walter Andersen picked four gardens: "I guess you know this is a difficult question. Four that I have been to that are really nice: Butchart Gardens (Victoria, B.C.), Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden (Cape Town, South Africa), Foster Gardens (Honolulu) is very nice. The last might be the Cairns Botanic Garden in Cairns, Australia. Maybe I would say 'Cairns' because the whole area is so beautiful."

Margaret-Ann Ashton had a Canadian suggestion: "Hands down I would recommend the Royal Botanical Gardens near Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. The gardens are located along the highway between Toronto and Niagara Falls. I discovered them a couple of years ago when attending a wedding in Hamilton. They cover acres and acres with shuttles to carry visitors from one area to another. I was there at the peak of roses in bloom, but was carried away by the lilies just coming into bloom – what gems, and not something we can grow here in So. Cal. Adjacent is a large children's garden. The headquarters building houses a wonderful shop that includes classroom space for lectures and programs, and personnel there to answer any and every gardening question. I was able to purchase a book on Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticulture and Floral Design that expands my knowledge of standard flower shows and the strict rules for exhibiting. Enquiries may be taken at: floralshop@rbg.ca. I've been to Sissinghurst and many gardens in Europe, and this would be my choice to see and learn."

Ken Blackford said, "I have always wanted to see the Jardin Exotique in Monaco ... with its Mediterranean climate and spectacular site. I think some great ideas could be brought back to San Diego!"

Jo Casterline told us she had, "such memories of gardens since you asked this question. How to choose one? I don't want to get into trouble by naming just one of the beautiful gardens we have organized for the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club garden tour in Poway and Rancho Bernardo. In California, Filoli is a favorite. My thoughts go to garden tour trips in other countries. Without a doubt New Zealand comes to mind first. We saw private gardens that were so lush with rhododendrons, azaleas, roses, wisterias- they call calla lilies 'weeds.' It is hard to choose one in England: they are all so gorgeous. Next, I think of Italy and one garden comes to mind-Gamberaia, a private garden in a village near Florence. A block-long hedge was being trimmed twig by twig by the gardener from a tall ladder. Another garden tour in France recalls a peachy pink colored rose 'Clair Matin' clinging to walls of grey stone houses. We saw a garden shaped into rooms with divisions made by hanging white fabric: a red roses room, a black plants room, a white room, etc. That was the most unusual garden ever. My garden 'bucket list' is not complete: I have not seen Monet's garden! You can't go wrong seeing the world on garden tours!"

Chris Drayer wrote, "I hope it doesn't have to be open to the public. The Odette Monteiro estate outside Rio de Janeiro is a private garden nestled in a valley surrounded by Sugar-Loaf like granite peaks; it was designed by

Brazilian landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx. Seeing pictures of this garden, with its painterly drifts of color and textures, punctuated by dramatic accents of tropicals and succulents, did more to inspire my design aesthetic than just about any other garden I've ever seen. A few years ago, I spent three months travelling around Brazil and went to as many of Roberto Burle Marx's gardens as I could, including his home outside Rio. The Monteiro garden is not normally open to the public, and frustratingly enough I found out that a very expensive and exclusive tour was going to visit there two weeks after I was leaving. Changing my plans was not in the cards, sad to say, so it's still on my list."

Pamela Homfelt replied, "I would have to say the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden at UCLA. Many years ago our Women in Horticulture group toured the Mildred Mathias garden, with a visit to the Japanese garden as the second site of the tour. For some reason long forgotten a mishap occurred and we were unable to visit the garden. We did, however, get a fleeting glance through the gate, which only made it even more disappointing to be turned away. One day I will walk through that magnificent garden. Might be a nice day trip for the Society, as the Mildred Mathias garden is also magnificent with some mature *Agonis flexuosa* that left me speechless, I still remember them."

Marlene King said, "I cannot resist replying, The Garden of Eden. It was perfection, was it not?"

Reegan Ray wrote, "The incredible water gardens of the Villa D'Este: this is a garden I would go back to and hope to take my father to Italy to see. The ancient engineering to keep the water moving through all those fountains and to power the water organ. Just magnificent. Seeing those gardens made me so curious about how to use water in small and large ways, both still and moving. I don't think I closed my open jaw the whole time I was there. It also demonstrated the wit of the designer. So many unexpected and whimsical features set within the formal layout. Good bones and crazy surprises!"

Diane Scharar told us, "I would love to see my grandmother's garden and see it with a more mature and educated eye, but that can not happen. It falls to me as a grandparent to share my garden with the present little ones. Perhaps I should make a scrap book for them to visit in their older years."

Iyn Stevenson wrote, "I want to visit God's Garden of Eden sometime in the distant future! The Garden of Eden will have to be the best! It will undoubtedly have all the plants I like and will include correct labels on all the plants that I have never been able to identify."

Susi Torre-Bueno replied, "There are three gardens I would dearly love to see. The first is any of the great gardens designed by Gertrude Jekyll from the late 1870s to 1920s (see our March, 2009 newsletter for an article about her). The second is Roberto Burle Marx's private garden. The last is my own garden 10 years from now!"

Jan Voinov said, "I'd like to go back to Butchart Gardens in Victoria on Vancouver Island. I was there years ago and thought it was spectacular and have heard that it is only better now. I'd like to go in the early evening and enjoy the evening ambience of the garden. I think it would be lovely to have tea in the garden. There are so many gardens to visit and so many that I don't even know about. So, one garden at a time."

Continued on page 18

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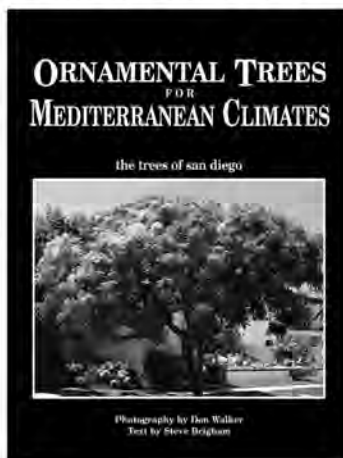
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Secrets Continued from page 15

Marilyn Wilson wrote, "I'd visit the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, in England. Why? It's 250 years old, 300 acres big, and I've never been there. I would plan to spend at least a week, and I'd carry a folding chair with me so I could stop and take mental photographs to enjoy for the rest of my life."

The question for next month is:

What are the top 3 things on your garden "to do list" for 2010, and why? Send your e-mail reply by December 5 to info@sdhortsoc.org.
✂

NOVEMBER PLANT FORUM

By 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.

Pelargonium 'Schottii' (syn. *P. 'Red Dragon'*) (Geraniaceae)
South Africa

This evergreen perennial has gray-green leaves covered with fine hair and a feathery appearance. The plant displayed was purchased from www.Geraniaceae.com. Their website notes that the plant has, "rich purple flowers with black blotches on all petals; thought to be an early 19th century hybrid of *P. lobatum*; water sparingly in the summer." An article (at www.telegraph.co.uk) by Sarah Raven states, "The parentage is unsure, but Ursula Key-Davis of Fibrex hazards a guess that it's a *P. fulgidum* and *P. lobatum* cross. The magnificent red comes from the *fulgidum* side." From a 4" pot planted in March, 2009, the plant grew to about 18" wide by mid-November, with red-purple flowers appearing from October onwards. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 11/09) – S.T-B.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the November plant forum, especially to Michael Buckner, our excellent Plant Forum Host (and bringer of some terrific plants!).

What's that in front of the plant name? Plants marked 3 are fully described in the *Plant Forum Compilation* (see www.SDHortSoc.org for details on how to order this valuable reference tool).

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the November newsletter was *Kefersteinia mustachio* MOUSTACHED KEFERSTEINIA.

3 *Aloe bakeri* (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/09)

Aloe cooperi (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/09)

Aloe descoingsii (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 11/09)

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Barleria obtusa BUSH VIOLET (Sheila Busch, Escondido, 11/09)

Brugmansia 'Shredded White' (Linda Fiske, San Diego, 11/09)

Bursera microphylla (bonsai form) ELEPHANT TREE
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/09)

3 *Cantua* 'Hot Pants' SACRED-FLOWER-OF-THE-INCAS
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 11/09)

3 *Cantua* 'Short Shorts' SACRED-FLOWER-OF-THE-SKINNY
(Fanatic Gardener, Vista, 11/09)

Deuterocohnia brevifolia (Peter Walkowiak, Poway, 11/09)

Echeveria affinis (Linda Espino, San Diego, 11/09)

Euphorbia decaryi var. *decaryi* (Peter Walkowiak, Poway, 11/09)

Euphorbia millii CROWN OF THORNS
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 11/09)

Ficus deltoidea (syn. *F. diversifolia*) MISTLETOE FIG
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/09)

3 *Ficus watkinsiana* (25 year old bonsai) WATKINS BANYAN,
STRANGLER FIG (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 11/09)

Gladiolus dalenii THANKSGIVING GLADIOLUS
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 11/09)

Hedychium 'Dr. Moy' GINGER (Susan Morse, Vista, 11/09)

Lithops albanica (green) (Linda Espino, San Diego, 11/09)

Lithops aucampii (Linda Espino, San Diego, 11/09)

Lithops dorothea (Linda Espino, San Diego, 11/09)

An unknown variegated plant was brought in by Mark Johnson of Escondido.

HOW TO READ THE PLANT FORUM ENTRIES

[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 and 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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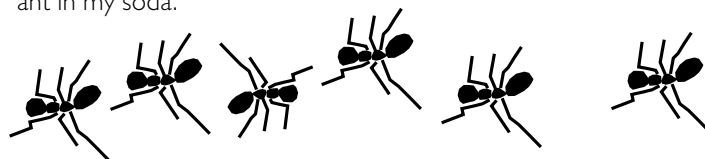
Member Linda Fiske shares some methods she's tried which have worked for her:

Several years ago I had a colony of ants in the separation between the garage and the driveway. I just sprinkled the crack with the bone meal. The ants ran out and everywhere.

The next time, I drew a barrier around the crack with Dawn. This was much more effective. The ants then ran from the bone meal, but when they encountered the Dawn, they'd run back towards the crack. It would get rid of them for awhile.

A friend told me that both Dawn and JetDry break the water barrier on an ant's body. Without the barrier, they drown. So water and one of the two may work well too. I have not tried this.

Another thing that works well with ants is dried lemon peel. I work in a place that had a major ant infestation within the building. I would take the dried lemon peel and create a circle. I would then place my soda in the circle. Never had an ant in my soda.



December Meeting

We will have 15 fabulous holiday arrangements for our Opportunity Drawing. These exciting designs were made by students of René van Rems, and tickets will be \$5 each or 6 for \$25. The one-of-a-kind arrangements will be gorgeous in your home and make terrific holiday gifts, too.

There will not be a Plant Forum at the December meeting, and we hope you'll bring at least one plant for the January meeting Plant Forum.

November Meeting Report

When visiting a garden, especially a public garden, it is often impossible to imagine all the work that went into making it. If you've visited The Huntington Botanical Gardens' Chinese Garden, Liu Fang Yuan, you doubtless appreciated its beauty. Our November speaker, David MacLaren, is the Curator of Asian Gardens at The Huntington. In a fascinating presentation he shared the behind-the-scenes story of this beautiful garden. We learned about the challenges of working with Chinese and American design and construction companies, including two years of back-and-forth planning between China and California (and all the translations that entailed), the intricacies of the design phase, and the daunting task of building traditional Chinese structures in a high seismic zone.

Liu Fang Yuan (which translates to the Garden of Flowing Fragrance) is a scholar's garden. It was done in a very authentic Suzhou style, which is seen primarily in Southern China. We learned about the first phase, which is over three acres and cost \$18 million; the garden will be 12 acres when complete. To ensure authenticity, 95% of the building materials were imported from China, and MacLaren and his staff visited every Chinese garden in the U.S., plus many in China.

Chinese construction workers, fine craftsmen themselves, were brought from China to work for up to six months in the garden. The Chinese workers were hired by the California construction company that supplied the other construction workers. They lived in a Chinese neighborhood, and were taken to see local places of interest, including (at their request) Las Vegas. Although they had access to power tools they mostly worked with their own non-powered hand tools, and were quick to improvise tools as needed for special tasks. There were two full-time translators on site, but an informal series of hand signals often sufficed to bridge the language barrier between them and the English- and Spanish-speaking American workers, who outnumbered them about six to one.

The four main elements of this garden are: rocks, water, plants and architecture. About 850 tons of rocks were imported from China, including large boulders of very weathered limestone from Lake Tai, a favorite source for these rocks, which represent mountains. There are plenty of smaller rocks, too, primarily used in the intricate pebble mosaics and elaborate stone paving that embellishes the floors and pathways. Granite was used for bridges and buildings, and although it was cut and shaped in China there was fine-tuning done on site by skilled Chinese stonemasons. Rock is also used as part of The Huntington's collection of Chinese viewing stones (Gongshi).

Water in the garden includes a 1.5-acre man-made lake plus other water features. The lake was sited at a natural low spot in

the garden, but below the placid water is a complex layering of felt liner, gravel, rebar, concrete, etc. Huge amounts of concrete were used for the foundations of the bridges, as well as for the numerous buildings adjacent to the lake. The area under the foundations was compacted repeatedly to meet the concerns of the site inspectors, especially because the heavy tile roofs of some buildings weigh over 70 pounds per square foot, many times the weight of a standard American tile roof.

The lake is viewed from a series of walkways (some with sumptuous coverings), intricately ornamented buildings, and pavilions with lattice-paneled windows. Only wooden supports are used in China, but to meet the strict California earthquake standards the buildings needed a heavy steel framework. The Chinese workers carefully cut apart and hollowed out the imported support timbers and then re-assembled them over the steel framework to assure a convincingly authentic look – and so that when touched the supports feel and sound like wood and not metal. Other authentic architectural features include buildings with swoop-tile roofs and carved wooden panels gracing their interiors.

China has a large plant palette due to its many climate zones, so many types of plants have been used in the garden. There are spring blooming trees like ornamental cherries, magnolias and apricots, a number of different pines, willows, bamboo, and even California native trees that were on the site and have been incorporated into the garden. Bananas (which not native to China) were enjoyed by ancient Chinese scholars and grown in their gardens; they are included here for that reason.

Thanks, David, for letting us see the building process on this beautiful, complex, and still-evolving garden. ☘

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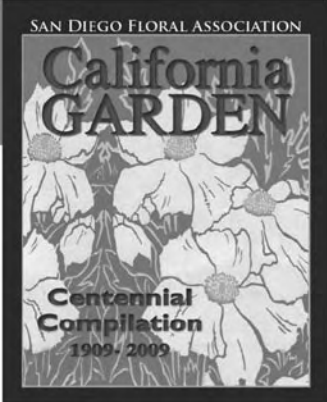


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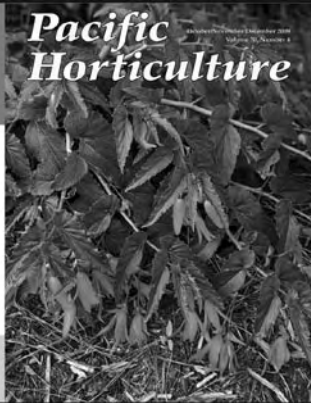
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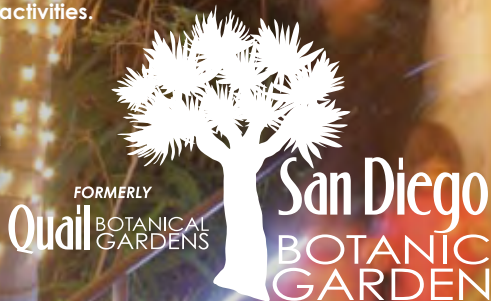


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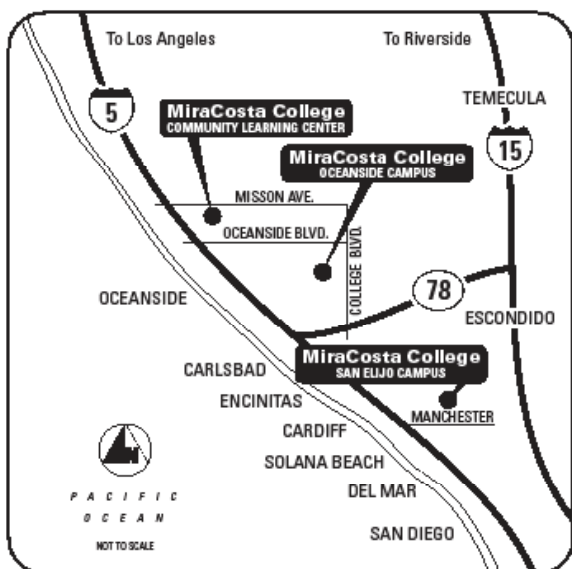
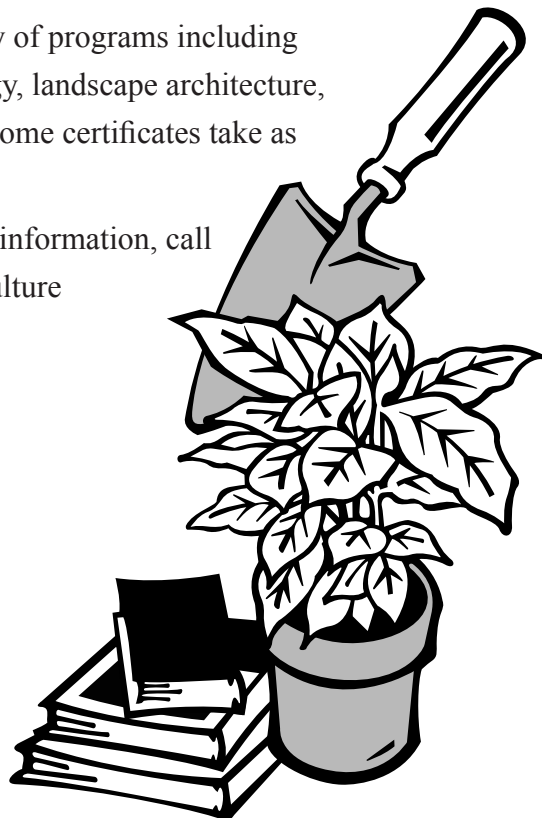
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1860	MW	5:00pm-7:45pm	MESSINA J	4.0	OC7003
HORT 117 Plant Identification*					
Covers identification, growth habits, culture, and ornamental use of plants used in Southern California landscapes. Botanical and common names, plant family relationships, and environmental adaptations will be emphasized. Required field labs may be on or off campus. CSU;UC					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS					
1877	F	12:00pm-4:45pm	EHLINGER C	3.0	OC7051
HORT 119 Specialized Tree Pruning and Surgery*†					
Methods, problems, and techniques specific to ornamentals, fruit trees, and palm trees.					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS					
+1883	M	6:00pm-8:50pm	HOLCOMB S	1.5	OC7001
	&S	9:00am-11:30am			OC7003
		(01/25-03/20)			
		This class meets the following three Saturdays: 1/30, 2/27, 3/13 from 8am-11:30am in room OC 7003.			
HORT 120 Urban Forestry*†					
Integrated practice to the approach of management of street, parks, residential open spaces or commercial/public open space vegetation.					
LATE-START/OCEANSIDE CAMPUS					
1885	M	6:00pm-8:05pm	HOLCOMB S	1.5	OC7001
	&S	9:00am-11:50am			OC7003
		THIS IS A LATE-START CLASS, (03/22-05/22)			
		This class meets the following four Saturdays: 3/27, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8 from 8am-11:50am in room OC 7003.			
HORT 121 Landscape Management*					
Covers soil preparation, fertilization, irrigation, cultivation, variety selection, growth control, and pest management. CSU					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS					
1873	W	5:00pm-9:45pm	FAIRLEIGH M	3.0	OC7053
HORT 126 Landscape Irrigation*					
Covers site analysis, design, engineering, installation, and maintenance of landscape sprinkler and drip systems. CSU					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS					
2784	T	5:00pm-9:45pm	EHLINGER C	3.0	OC7051
HORT 127 Landscape Design*					
Principles of design for residential projects. Students will prepare a site analysis, plot plan, presentation drawings, and budget for a typical residential site. CSU					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS					
1862	M	5:00pm-9:45pm	FAIRLEIGH M	3.0	OC7051
HORT 129 Beginning Computer-Aided Landscape Design					
Students use software to develop landscape designs, perspective/elevation drawings, and cost estimating on personal computers. CSU					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS					
1867	W	5:00pm-9:45pm	STONE R	3.0	OC7051

Class #	Days	Time	Instructor	Units	Room #
HORT 134 Plant Pest Control*‡					
Studies common pests found in ornamental plantings in Southern California including weeds, invertebrate pests, and plant diseases. Students diagnose problems and design solutions. CSU					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS					
1864	TH	5:00pm-9:45pm	KINNON C	3.0	OC7053
HORT 140 Subtropical Fruit and Plant Production*					
Covers the production of subtropical fruits primarily grown in San Diego and neighboring counties including citrus, avocados, and exotic fruits. All aspects of production will be discussed. CSU					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS					
2786	T	5:00pm-7:15pm	BENDER G	3.0	OC7003
	&S	8:00am-1:45pm			OC7003
This class will meet the following seven Saturdays from 8am-1:45pm: 2/6, 2/20, 3/6, 3/20, 4/17, 5/1, 5/15.					
HORT 145 Introduction to Enology					
(Material Fee: \$85.00) Students will be presented with an overview of the history and development of winemaking, detailing the grape varieties produced in the major wine-producing regions. Students must be 21 years old to enroll. CSU;UC					
SAN ELIJO CAMPUS					
+1882	F	6:30pm-9:15pm	COLANGELO D	3.0	SAN406
HORT 147 Wines of California					
(Material Fee: \$85.00) This course is designed for students to increase their knowledge of the technical, historical, social, and marketing aspects of wines and winemaking. Students must be 21 years old to enroll and pay a lab fee.					
SAN ELIJO CAMPUS					
2992	W	6:30pm-9:15pm	COLANGELO D	3.0	SAN406
HORT 149 Vineyard Production and Management					
Production and management decisions for wine and table grapes. CSU.					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS					
1879	M	6:30pm-8:45pm	STAFF	3.0	OC7053
	&S	8:00am-1:45pm			OC7053
This class will meet the following seven Saturdays from 8am-1:45pm: 1/30, 2/27, 3/13, 3/27, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8.					
HORT 170 Plant Identification: Floral Crops					
Covers the crops utilized in the floral design and retail industry, botanical and common names, and quality indicators.					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS					
1866	W	5:30pm-9:15pm	PATTERSON DE	3.0	OC7001
HORT 172 Floral Design II					
(Materials Fee: \$200.00) Practical skills and theory of special occasion, contemporary, and large event floral design; floral shop management; and customer service. CSU					
ADVISORY: HORT 171 or prior floral design experience.					
OCEANSIDE CAMPUS					
1875	TH	5:30pm-9:15pm	PATTERSON DE	2.0	OC7001
HORT 299 Coop Work Exp—Occupational					
For students whose work is related to their declared major.					
COREQUISITES: Students must be employed in a position directly related to their declared major and must complete 75 hours of paid work or 60 hours of non-paid work per unit of credit.					
Note: All students are required to provide worksite contact information prior to instructor assignment. Complete the form online at www.miracosta.edu/dataform or in the Career Center on the Oceanside Campus, Building 3700. Call (760) 795-6772 or visit www.miracosta.edu/careers if you have questions. Students may add this lclass until 4/8/10.					
2734	ARR		DAVIS D	4.0	ARR
2733	ARR		DAVIS D	3.0	ARR
2732	ARR		DAVIS D	2.0	ARR

*These courses have been approved by the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers (CANGC) for CCN Pro Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Students completing the class will receive one CEU per course unit. †Eligible for International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) continuing education hours. ‡Continuing Education for California DPR Pesticide Licenses and Certificates applied for.

What's Happening? for December 2009

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.

▼ SDHS Sponsor

Anderson's La Costa Nursery & Garden Design Center

- ♦Full Service Nursery & Garden Design Center
- ♦Over 200 Running Fountains
- ♦Trees, Shrubs, Vines, Succulents
- ♦Huge Greenhouse For Indoor Plants
- ♦Large Selection of Pottery & Statuary
- ♦Benches & Trellises
- ♦Professionals to Answer Your Questions
- ♦Exquisite New Gift Shop

.....Expect the Unusual



www.AndersonsLacostaNursery.com

Hello to all and welcome to our December garden tips and update.

December marks the beginning of winter here in Southern California. The days grow cooler and shorter. Normally December fulfills its winter role with cold and rain although it can sometimes bring a heat wave that makes you swear that August has returned. So if the weather brings hot drying winds, be prepared to hand-water your plants.

New at the Nursery:

As our gift to you - come by and get a free 4" Poinsettia with any purchase - while stock lasts.

Also check out our monthly online newsletter for different specials every couple of weeks – you can sign on online at andersonslacostanursery.com.

Some great gifts and décor ideas throughout the nursery and of course in our gift shop:

- ❖ Fabulous Potpourri, large selection of mercury glass including ornaments, candle holders and glass Christmas trees, fine quality vases and lots of gifts for him and her.
- ❖ Consider a perfect indoor plant in the perfect pot as a gift, from the sweetest 2" African Violet to a fabulous Star Pine.
- ❖ Fresh Garland and Wreaths are arriving weekly. Create an elegant, fragrant statement on your door, fireplace, table or stairway with fresh greens.
- ❖ We have some fabulous succulent wreaths – says festive and California all in one package.
- ❖ Poinsettias of course are perfect for December cheer.
 - 2" with or without self watering containers so cute & in all colors (even Winter Rose).
 - 4" reds, whites, pinks all very full & many new colors this year.
 - 6" and 8" reds, whites, pinks, 'Marblestar', bright pink, burgundy, 'Country Quilt', 'DaVinci', 'Cinammon Star' plus 'Monet' & 'Jingle Bells' & Winter Rose trees.
 - Hanging baskets in reds, whites, salmon and 'Jingle Bells'.
 - Big (10", 12" & 14") patio tubs such a big and festive statement HUGE!!
- ❖ For that shady spot the Cyclamen are unbeatable & a great holiday color addition. They will bloom through April, go dormant through the summer and rebloom in Fall.
- ❖ Outdoor Bonsai trees: We have starters, "plant your own" and ready planted (in ceramic Bonsai pots including mini-statuary). Many to choose from.
- ❖ Lots of Azaleas and Camellias. Great time now to select and plant as many are in bloom or about to bloom. When in bloom these plants roots are fully dormant so it is the least stressful time to transplant.

(continued on other side)

The Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, (619) 660-0614 or www.thegarden.org

Dec 4 4-8pm Holiday in the Garden, Visit the Garden as it glows with holiday lights. shop for holiday gifts, while children make crafts, decorate cookies, and have their face painted. Music, warm holiday punch, and seasonal tamales. Kids activities \$1 each. Admission: ages 13 to Adult \$3.00 each Children 12 and under are FREE.

Dec 5 10am-12pm Water Smart Edibles: informative and delicious exploration of fruit that can be grown in a water-conserving landscape. Member Price: \$20 Non-Member Price: \$30*

Saturdays 10-11am Garden Tour: Docent led tour of the Water Conservation Garden. Meet at the main gate at the Garden entrance. No reservations required. Free.

Dec 6 1:30- 2:30pm Ask the Horticulturist Tour: Enjoy an informative walk through the Garden with David Yetz, professional horticulturist. Free.

Dec 20 9:30 -10:30am Special Access Tour: for individual who may have difficulty navigating the terrain of the Garden. Explore the Garden from the comfort of a Shuttle with David Yetz, Garden Horticulturist. Tour seats 4-5 people. Free. Reservations required, call 619-660-6841.

*Stimulus pricing - Get two registrations for the price of one (same household only, please).

Open 9-4 daily, free. Docent-led tours every Saturday at 10:30am & Sunday at 1:30pm.

San Diego Botanic Garden (formerly Quail Botanical Gardens):

230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas,
(760) 436-3036; www.SDBGarden.org

Dec 10-23, Dec 26-30, 5-9pm Garden of Lights: See the Garden transformed into a dazzling winter wonderland with over 100,000 sparkling lights, festively decorated with many varieties of poinsettias. Numerous activities include horse-drawn-wagon rides, holiday crafts, marshmallow roasting, visits with Santa, live music, hot mulled wine in the Poinsettia Garden, and refreshments. Special Holiday Tales and Tunes for children ages two to six will be offered several nights in December. Cost: Free with admission or membership.

Walter Andersen Nursery Saturday Classes:

9am Point Loma Nursery:

Dec 5 Rose Pruning
Dec 12 Bare Root Roses - New & Old
Dec 19 Pruning Peaches, Nectarines & new Varieties

9:30 Poway Nursery classes:

Dec 12 Rose Pruning
Dec 19 Fruit Tree Pruning with Richard Wright

ALL CLASSES ARE FREE

Details at www.walterandersen.com; addresses in ad on page 17

Dec 4-6 10am 4pm Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale:

presented by The Potting Shed at the Fullerton Arboretum partners with the Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society. Free admission. Fullerton Arboretum 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA for info (714)267-4329; visit fullertonarboretum.org/ps_Cactus.php or occss.org.

Dec 9 10am-1pm Point Loma Garden Club:

Annual Holiday Tea and Bazaar. handmade holiday decorations, delectables and unique crafts. Free, Portuguese Hall 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego. See www.plgc.org.

Dec 10-12 6-8pm Holiday of Lights:

South Bay Botanic Garden will come alive with holiday lights. Various areas of the garden will be decked out. Jazz Ensemble will provide seasonal music. Santa will be present. Hot cocoa and cookies will be available for purchase. Entry is \$1/person; free parking in lot E. Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista. For more info contact Meredith at msinclair1@swccd.edu or by phone at 619-421-6700, x5371.

Dec 13 1:30pm Mabel Corwin Branch of the American Begonia Society Christmas meeting:

Entertainment and program by Michael Ludwig. Please bring a goodie to share and a begonias to show. Experts will be available for questions. Encinitas Community and Senior Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Dr., Encinitas. For more info call 760-753-3977 or email to marybegonia@att.net.

December 14 SDHS Meeting
Details on page 3

Fabulous Holiday Décor
from
Overlooked Garden
Treasures

Resources & Ongoing Events

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: \$12/adults, \$8/seniors, \$6/kids; parking \$2. Free to members and on the first Tuesday of every month. (760) 436-3036; www.SDBGarden.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/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

NEW SHOW: Gary Walker's GreenTree World Radio Show, Saturdays, noon at KCEO AM 1000. Live call-in line: (800) 292-5236. Gardening, trees and a whole lot more!

Down To Earth with Host Tom Piergrossi. Award-winning TV show on local gardening, daily at 12:30pm and 7:30pm. CTN (County Television Network, www.ctn.org). Tapes avail. from SDHS library.

Garden Compass Radio Show. Saturday and Sunday, 8–10am. XEPE 1700AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: (619) 570-1360 or (800) 660-4769.

❖ Looking for a quick (i.e., time saver) small gift idea? Try planted Paperwhites. We have many planted that are soon to bloom.

❖ The Orchids are simply outstanding. The Cymbidiums are here in "full spike" and in many colors yellows, pinks, creams and many more.

❖ Christmas Cactus (always a favorite) in 2, 4, 6, and 8" sizes AND sporting some new color choices this year.

December in the Garden:

For those of us in frost prone areas (like Valley Center and even semi-coastal valleys like the Elfin Forest) you can consider using strings of Christmas lighting strung around sensitive plantings (even your in-ground succulents) to provide a source of warmth. It can also give a festive look to lower growing plants

If you're too busy to give the garden much attention this month, you're in luck: most plants will do quite well with little help from you. However, if you can find the time, working in the garden this month is wonderful.

Cool-Season Vegetables: Between harvests you can still plant most cool-season vegetables such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, kale, kohlrabi, mustard, lettuce and other greens, and root crops like beets, carrots, radishes, and turnips.

Some **cymbidium**s start to bloom in December although most bloom between February and March. Continue to feed the plants for bloom (low nitrogen fertilizer) until the buds open.

Native Plants: This is the growing season for California Natives so if the weather is really dry - water these plants. Native plants can also be pruned now

Peaches: If your peach or nectarine had leaf curl (puckered, yellow and red leaves) this year spray it with lime sulfur at full leaf fall (do not use this spray on apricot trees – select copper instead).

Start pruning now: The plants are as dormant as they will get here in California. Most all deciduous plants (those that lose their leaves in winter) get pruned in the winter.

Fruit Trees: Dormant spray deciduous fruit trees. Dormant sprays such as horticultural oils or lime-sulfur are applied after a deciduous plant has gone dormant and dropped its leaves.

Don't fertilize or water **roses** this month as they need to harden off for winter.

Stimulate **wisteria** by cutting it back now.

If you've over-seeded your **lawn** and there are bare spots feel free to scatter a bit more seed to fill.

Feed shrubs and trees that will bloom in January and February.

Prune conifers and broad-leaved evergreens to shape them and provide trimmings for holiday decorations.

Living plants for indoor color include African violets, azaleas, begonias, Christmas cactus, cyclamen, and kalanchoe, as well as the ever-dependable chrysanthemum and poinsettia.

Don't worry that your **houseplants** don't seem too perky now--they're going dormant just like plants outdoors. Plants need this rest so stop feeding them and water them less frequently.

Continue to water your **over-wintering outdoor plants** unless the rains keep the soil moist. Irrigation should be reduced - not stopped, as plant photosynthesis slows down and cold weather dries plants out



HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!