

# Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

July 2009, Number 178

## Plants for Drier Gardens

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**HORTICULTURIST OF THE YEAR**  
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PAGE 14



**SAN DIEGO  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY**

On the Cover: *Yucca rostrata* and other water-thrifty plants

# SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR PHOTOS BY STACEY DORES

See pages 5 and 13 for details about these gardens.



San Diego Horticultural Society



Fallbrook FFA



Backyard Aquafarms



MiraCosta College



Quail Botanical Gardens/San Diego Water Authority



Falling Waters Landscape

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COVER IMAGE: *Yucca rostrata* mixed with an abundance of colorful summer flowering perennials and shrubs. This photo illustrates both the possibilities for eye straining color, even in the fierce heat of our summers, and also the use of height and weight in a good curbside planting. Photo by Gary Irish.

## 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

- June 12 – July 5** San Diego County Fair Display Garden
- August 10** Special event to honor Steve Brigham as Horticulturist of the Year
- September 14** David Fross on *Meadows, Grasslands, Prairies, and Turf: Another Gentle Plea to Reconsider Your Lawn*
- October 12** Brian Endress on *Native Seed Gene Bank Project*

[www.sdhortsoc.org](http://www.sdhortsoc.org)

**Next Meeting: July 13, 2009, 6:00 – 9:00 PM**

**Topic: MARY IRISH ON: “PLANTS FOR DRIER GARDENS”**

**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**

Horticulturist Mary Irish presents a very timely a program which will inspire us to try new plants as we face increasing water restrictions. Irish will provide a thoughtful review of woody plants and perennials that thrive year 'round on minimal watering and provide ample beauty, structure and color in the garden. Plants from the Sonoran and the Chihuahuan deserts are especially good ornamentals and will be featured in her talk.

Garden writer, lecturer, and educator Mary Irish has lived in Arizona for 23 years. She is the author, with Gary Irish, of *Agaves, Yuccas and Related Plants*; *Gardening in the Desert*; *Perennials for the Southwest*; *Trees and Shrubs for the Southwest*, and four other books. (Copies of her books will be available for sale.) She is a frequent contributor to national and regional publications including *Horticulture* and *American Gardener*, as well as writing and consulting for on-line plant services. Irish has worked as a consultant on projects for the City of Scottsdale, the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden in Glendale, Arizona, and teaches classes on desert gardening, use and cultivation of agaves and succulents, woody plants, desert palms and desert perennials. Her plant interests range widely, with agaves and their relatives, bulbs and desert perennials currently at the top of the list. She served as the Director of Public Horticulture at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix for 11 years, and is now on the Board of Boyce Thompson Arboretum. Irish has a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and a M.S. in Geography from Texas A&M University.

To learn more visit [www.MaryIrish.com](http://www.MaryIrish.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

## SDHS BOARD MEMBERS

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**Susi Torre-Bueno** – President, Newsletter Editor  
**Paula Verstraete** – Volunteer Coordinator  
**Don Walker** – Past President  
**Lucy Warren** – Secretary, Liaison to H&G Shows  
**Jim Wright** – Member at Large

**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@sdhortsoc.org.

**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: TREASURER

Jackie McGee has done a fabulous job as our Treasurer since 2006, and during her term she's gotten many things streamlined, so most transactions are now handled by the bookkeeper. Our bookkeeper, Teresa McGee (no relation), does the data entry, invoicing, bill paying, and many other tasks. Jackie is ready to train a new Treasurer, so if you have a head for numbers and like working with spreadsheets, this is your dream job! We estimate that Jackie spends about 4-5 hours per week. Please call Susi at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk!

### 2: VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR CO-CHAIR

Paula Verstraete, our Volunteer Coordinator, is looking for a co-chair to assist in monthly meetings with check-in tables and to help her coordinate Volunteer Appreciation Party in summer (venue, food, door prizes, etc.). The co-chairs also help members to volunteer at fun activities like the Spring Home/Garden show, the annual Special Speaker event (on June 8 this year), etc. To find out more contact Paula at pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com.

### 3: GARDEN TOURS CHAIR

The chair of our Tour Committee helps plan local and out-of-town garden tours. Much of the detail work for the long distance tours is done by a travel agent, greatly simplifying the task. If you like to plan great garden visits, and want to select exceptional places to tour, call Susi at (760) 295-7089.

## THANKS VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to the fine volunteers who helped in many capacities at our June 8 Special Evening with garden artists Little and Lewis. We want to salute the following folks: Jennifer Axelrod, Jeff Biletnikoff, Lorraine Bolton, Judy Bradley, Kassie Fisher, Juli Gillett, Diana Goforth, Will Johnson, Carolann Lewin, Yvonne Mao, Everett Mehner, Susan Morse, Bill Nugent, Dale Rekus, Sandy Shapiro, Paula Verstraete, Darlene Villanueva, Janet & Richard Voinov, and Nancy Woodard. If you weren't able to attend this marvelous presentation, a copy of their book is in our library and you may borrow the video of their talk, too. ☺

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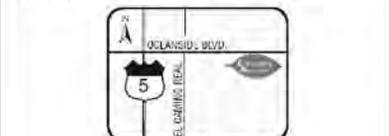
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**Spring/Summer HOURS**  
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 Friday-Saturday.....7:30am-6:00pm  
 Sunday.....9:00am-5:00pm

## To Learn More...

### DESERT PLANTS

By Ava Torre-Bueno

As San Diego gets drier and drier, the information our neighbors just to the East have about gardening will become more important to us. This month's speaker, Mary Irish, is a specialist in desert gardening. You can go to her web site at: <http://www.maryirish.com/>

Here is a very useful website about harvesting the little water that does fall on our properties: <http://www.harvestingrainwater.com/>

Desert plants are beautiful and amazing! Here are three sites dedicated to three different plants. First, the agave: <http://www.succulent-plant.com/families/agavaceae.html>

Then yucca: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yucca>

And finally, the palo verde tree: [http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/palo\\_verde.htm](http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/palo_verde.htm)

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](mailto:gardeners4peace@hotmail.com) and visit <http://www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm>.

## THANKS FAIR VOLUNTEERS and DONORS

Putting on a display garden at the San Diego County Fair is a major commitment and enormous task, and we want to thank everyone involved. First and foremost is Sergio Regalado, of Plant Play Nursery in Carlsbad, who was selected by board member Bill Teague to do our design this year. Sergio spent a massive amount of time creating a charming, exciting and educational garden. The theme of our garden was "Harmony in Bloom," and Sergio's garden highlighted water-efficient plants, including succulents, grasses, trees, shrubs and perennials from Mediterranean climates worldwide.

The San Diego County Water Authority awarded us their WaterSmart Landscape Award, given to an exhibit which "best exemplifies the beauty of a WaterSmart landscape through eye-catching colors, textures and designs. The fundamental concepts of a WaterSmart Landscape include: a water-efficient design, state-of-the-art irrigation system, a climate-appropriate plant selection, and appropriate maintenance." The award includes a \$1500 cash prize. It is the first time we've won this award – bravo, Sergio!

A number of others made important contributions of time and materials to our display, and we thank them for all their help. Tamma & Bill Nugent, as they have for several years, prepared a fantastic notebook with photos and descriptions for each of the plants in the display. Bill Teague was full of helpful advice and encouragement; Jason Kubrock provided more than just muscle-power, and Mike Wirth planted several handsome containers and a huge metal sphere. Many thanks to these fine supporters, who supplied gorgeous plants and other important items: Plant Play Nursery, KRC Rock, Desert Theater, Agri Service, and Quail Botanical Gardens,

Before the Fair opened we judged the entries for our own SDHS awards – see page 13. We thank these knowledgeable members, who led tours of people who attended Breakfast at the Fair: Cindy Benoit, Irina Gronborg, Carolann Lewin, Susan Morse, Susi Torre-Bueno, Cathy Tylka, and Lucy Warren. We are very appreciative of the time spent answering questions during the Fair by our wonderful Horticulturists

Continued on page 20

## From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

### TREASURER STILL NEEDED

We've asked for a volunteer to be our Treasurer and no one has stepped forward. Details are on page 4, and if you would like to try this out for a few months and see how it goes call me at (760) 295-7089. It is critical that we get a volunteer ASAP, so please think about how much you get out of being a member and how this would be a great way to serve our community of gardening friends.

### NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Every few months we have small gatherings at which new members meet each other, board members, and some long-time members. These have been a great success: it is nice to have a familiar face when you go to meetings, and it is also an opportunity to find out more about what we do and how you can take a more active role. The next gathering will be on July 18 in the Clairemont area at a fabulous garden of palms, orchids, and rare plants. If you've joined recently watch for your e-mail invitation. If you didn't give us your e-mail address when you joined, send it now to [membership@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:membership@sdhortsoc.org) so we can include you in the fun!

### HONORING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Paula Verstraete is organizing our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party and if you volunteered since last July 5 you should get an invitation. If it doesn't come by July 25, contact Paula at [pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com](mailto:pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com) and let her know what you volunteered for. This fun garden party is SDHS's way of recognizing your efforts, and includes lunch and wonderful door prizes donated by local nurseries and other businesses. Stroll through an exceptional lovely plant lover's paradise, spend time with your SDHS friends, and make new friends. If you haven't taken your turn volunteering yet, I hope you'll be a volunteer for future activities and events. Spending a few hours now and again is a perfect way to share your time and talents. You can reach Paula at [pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com](mailto:pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com) to offer your assistance.

### INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

Every month we have fascinating speakers on a wide range of topics, including many who address issues related to our on-going water restrictions. The very modest \$5 charge for non-members is less than the cost of a latte, so don't hesitate to invite your friends and neighbors to join you for these fun and educational evenings.





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# Successful Drought Tolerant Gardening

Edited by Cindy Sparks

This is the sixth 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.

## Bring Birds into Your Garden

By Mel Hinton and David Kimball; edited by Cindy Sparks

Gardeners sometimes overlook the opportunity and benefits of including wildlife, especially birds and butterflies, as an integral part of their gardens. These winged visitors add song, motion and color to your landscape. By using good design, proper plant selection and healthy garden practices you can create your own slice of California – a natural wildlife-friendly garden.

The three essentials for attracting birds are food, water and shelter. Native plants with seeds, berries or fruit that birds like should form the core food source in a bird-friendly garden. Many of these plants are drought tolerant and green year-round. (Check the websites we cited as resources earlier in this series.)

Use feeders to supplement natural food and to greatly increase the number and variety of avian visitors. As most backyard bird species are seed eaters which typically feed on the ground, you can simply scatter a small amount of seed in an open area as an alternative to using bird-feeders. Most seed mixes contain millet and a variety of other seeds, including sunflower. The seed of choice is the black oil sunflower. Suet, of the no-melt variety, is another alternative if you don't want seed husks on the ground. Many species, such as warblers, wrens and flycatchers, eat insects. Even the finches and sparrows will go after insects when feeding their chicks – high protein value. Avoid insecticides that will kill both good and bad insects and destroy an important food source for your birds. The National Audubon Society website ([www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org), look under Audubon at Home) provides good information on feeding birds and related subjects.

A water source is second only to food as a way to attract birds, especially given our dry climate. It can be placed near the ground or on a pedestal. If cats are likely to be present provide



Cynthia Panelli

Wilson's Warbler on Mesquite.

10-15 feet of open area around the birdbath. By adding movement to the water – even a slow drip – the attraction is even greater. Flush your birdbath with fresh water every few days to refresh and clean it. Use a brush to remove any algae.

Finally, the right mix of plants, especially natives, will provide both food and shelter to birds and butterflies. Birds are constantly aware of predation (other birds from the air or mammals on the ground). Dense shrubs like sages (*Salvia* spp.), buckwheats (*Eriogonum* spp.), and lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*) all provide good cover from predators. To attract hummingbirds and butterflies, select flowering plants that have an abundant source of nectar. If you want the butterflies to lay eggs, you must have plants the caterpillars will feed upon (such as members of the milkweed family, *Asclepias*).

Using native plants will help make your California garden an attractive natural habitat – one to be enjoyed by people and wildlife – and you can save water as an added benefit.

Next Month: How to use native plants that help conserve water because they are adapted to our typically dry summers.

Series editor Cindy Sparks is a member of the SDHS board and also an enthusiastic Master Gardener. ☺

# Plants That Produce

## POMEGRANATES

By Richard Frost

Several years ago a very bright marketing couple put their resources into marketing pomegranates. Many researchers were hired and many reports were published on the health benefits of pomegranates – although the truth is that none of the reports claiming superior health benefits were ever “peer reviewed” or considered valid scientific studies. However, with great finesse the conclusions of these reports were disseminated into popular culture and home magazines and then picked up by every health food gossip in the world. And to meet this crazed demand our heroic couple had strategically developed a plantation of over 1 million pomegranate shrubs in the well-suited climate of California’s central valley. They established the “McDonalds” of the pomegranate industry.

Now it is true that pomegranates are healthy for you, but then again most fruits and vegetables fall into that very same category. It has also been shown that focusing your diet on one fruit is not helpful – in the long run dietary deficiencies can develop due to the composition of the particular fruit. On the other hand, if you want to have a variety of fruits but always include pomegranate with them: go for it!

While I have your attention focused on the taste of pomegranate, consider this fact: *there are as many flavors of pomegranate as there are flavors of other fruits.* Yeah, imagine that – pomegranate with a berry taste, a sweet grape taste, a peach taste, a Cabernet wine taste, a (nearly) banana taste, and of course those with that unique pomegranate fruit taste. Even better, you can grow or obtain most of these fruits in season right here in San Diego county.

Another aspect to be aware of with pomegranates is that the seeds range from un-noticeably soft to incredibly hard. The range of hardness is usually denoted 1 to 5, with 5 being the hardest. Those with hard seeds should not be ignored: they are often sought-after for making juice, cordials, and wine.

For those of you thinking about growing pomegranates, you should also be aware of climate-specific attributes. Those bred for the coast such as Eversweet and Golden Globe can develop harder seeds and an off-taste when grown in hot climates. The reverse is worse: those which originate or have been bred in warmer climates (e.g., Wonderful) might not mature properly or taste their best when grown in the coastal environment.

Finally, I know there are a number of fruit detective buffs reading this column! If you have not read it already, I highly recommend the book *Pomegranate Roads* by Dr. Gregory Levin, ed. by Barbara Baer.

### Selected Pomegranate Varieties For Fruit Connoisseurs

Cultivar	Flavor	Seed Hardness
Myagkosemyanni Rosovyi	Excellent Fruit	1
Gissarskii	Sweet, non-acidic	1
Sirenevi	Watermelon	1
Hotuni Zigar	Boysenberry	5
Arianna	Excellent Fruit	2
Gissarskii Alyi	Flame Grape	1
Parfianka	Variable Berry	1
White Flower	Very Sweet	2
Eversweet	Light Fruit	2
Al-sirin-nar	Light Berry	2

SDHS member Richard Frost is a certified edible gardening nut. For copies of past articles and more information, please see [www.PlantsThatProduce.com](http://www.PlantsThatProduce.com). 🌿

# Garden Gourmet

## PURLOINED SALADS

By Alice Lowe

With shelves of cookbooks and more recipes freely available on the internet than I can use in a lifetime, why do I take such great delight in coming across something that feels clandestine? Let me give you an example.

I was reading a novel by Iris Murdoch, *The Sea, The Sea*, in which the protagonist considers himself a connoisseur of fine food. Writing a journal in retirement, he records many of his meals, the first of which is a lunch that he describes as baked beans and kidney beans with celery, tomatoes, lemon juice and olive oil. I went right to the kitchen, and opened a can of white beans (my preference), mixed in the other ingredients along with some Nicoise olives, parsley, pressed garlic, and dried crushed oregano. Another time I added some crumbled blue cheese—a definite keeper. And I plan to substitute fresh basil for the parsley next time.

These are the kind of recipes I'm talking about—the ones you come across by chance or by trial that you make into your own. Restaurant reviews are fertile territory, like one for the downtown Operacaffe that mentioned a salad of greens with hearts of palm, mozzarella and avocado. It was outstanding with olive oil and lemon juice, plus a few of those big green Italian olives. In a review of the recently reopened Grant Grill, the critic gave high praise to a salad that consisted of arugula, apples, fennel, hazelnuts and bacon. That was all I needed to try it, with a cider vinegar-based dressing, and it was terrific.

Many of us like the challenge of recreating or improvising on restaurant dishes we've tried or heard about. At a recent book club gathering, Sally wowed us with a main dish salad that included a variety of greens and radicchio with sliced fennel and radishes, blanched asparagus and green beans, cooked and sliced beets, dressed with a Dijon vinaigrette. We were duly impressed that it was a re-creation of one served at Balthazar in New York. I added slivered almonds and crumbled blue cheese for a little protein, but wouldn't it be good with sunflower seeds and feta cheese, spectacular with grilled shrimp?

Nam Sod, the citrusy Thai dish served with lettuce leaves for wrapping, has many devoted followers. My friend Lenore, who can duplicate or improve just about any dish, turned it into a tossed salad by cooking up lean ground pork sausage (I used turkey) and mixing it with shredded lettuce, chopped scallions, mint and cilantro, and roasted peanuts. For the dressing, combine lime juice, dried chili flakes to taste, minced garlic, finely sliced ginger, and a bit of peanut oil.

Enjoy the thrill of discovery and then the challenge of your own unique creation. Once you're on the lookout, they'll pop up everywhere. And it's not immoral or illegal, truly – just a little crafty, which is what makes it fun.

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

[Note: This column, which began in November, 2007, will go on hiatus for a while, and we thank Alice for her insights and wonderful recipe suggestions. If someone would like to start writing this column, please contact Susi at [info@sdHORTSoc.org](mailto:info@sdHORTSoc.org).] 🌿

# 2009 Horticulturist of The Year: Steve Brigham



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF ME (PART ONE)

By Steve Brigham

Today, as I write this, is June 2, 2009. Interestingly enough, it is also my 20,000<sup>th</sup> day on Earth! (Doesn't that sound more impressive than 54 years old?) It is a beautiful, warm, sunny day here at our "retirement estate" in Kingston, Washington, where Donna and I have lived for a year now. Summer has arrived in the Pacific Northwest, and with it a nearly unimaginable wealth of plant and animal life in full, glorious growth and expression. As I look out my large third-story office window at the gardens below and at our surrounding forest, I know that this indeed is the perfect place to be! What particularly strikes me today is the realization that our home and gardens here are a nearly total manifestation of the best of my experiences, observations, and preferences gleaned from my 20,000 days of poking around our beloved planet. Here are elements of both my childhood and career, including reminders of visits to so many beautiful natural places around the world, and so many beautiful gardens as well. I have become one with this place, and I will always have it in my mind.

### My Early Years

My home and garden are more important to me than almost anything else. And although I've never had much money, I have usually found a way to have a nice place to live, often at great financial risk. My parents were no different. Although they could barely afford it, in the 1950's and 1960's they developed a 1-acre home and garden in Atherton, California (about 30 miles south of San Francisco). While my Dad's small business struggled to pay the bills, our family homestead developed into a true paradise, with a nice house and many kinds of plants and trees from all over the world. The youngest of three brothers, I had plenty of time and space to myself while I was growing up, which was exactly what I wanted. I started growing vegetables when I was 5 years old, and soon became a dependable supplier for our entire family and neighborhood. Flowers, too, were an inspiration – and we had lots of them, for my Mom had planted nearly every type of flowering plant then available at local nurseries.

My Mom and Dad and I were good friends from the moment I arrived on the planet. Ignoring financial hardship, we took some fantastic driving trips around the U.S.A. and Canada during summers when I was young, which allowed me to really see what was "out there" and get a perspective on the world. And I got a good education, too – first at St. Pius X School in nearby Redwood City, and then at Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose. (I was allowed to choose both of these schools myself.) At Bellarmine in particular, there was a strong Jesuit message of "serving others" (indeed, this is the main emphasis of the school), which would provide important inspiration for my career. My biggest inspiration, however, would come during my college years, and I had only one preference as to where that would happen – a small, young, non-traditional campus known as the University of California, Santa Cruz.

### On My Own

Everything my parents did for me made me into what I would be for the rest of my life, and I am in complete agreement that they – and I – did exactly the right thing! We had a wonderful life together. Oddly enough, though, one of the best things my parents ever did for me was to go bankrupt. By 1972, competition from the new "big box" stores in our area made a small furniture business like my father had virtually obsolete, stifling over 20 years of modest success. Rising costs and falling income made it impossible for my parents to afford to pay for my college expenses, so my first attempt at college ended after just seven months, in favor of starting my own small landscaping business. My parents had to sell their Atherton home for a very low price and declare bankruptcy (a situation similar to that of yours truly some 37 years later, which is exactly how much older my Dad was than I). Sad as it was, however, my parents' bankruptcy turned out to be just what I needed to qualify for financial aid. With a combination of grants, loans, and work-study funding, I re-entered UC Santa Cruz in the fall of 1974 on my own, with all expenses paid – providing, of course, I could find a job on campus. But my friends in the financial aid office knew right where I should go.

In 1974, the young UC Santa Cruz Arboretum needed lots of work but had little funding.

Every year the board of the San Diego Horticultural Society selects an important member of the local horticultural community to honor as our Horticulturist of the Year. The award recognizes an individual for a lifetime of achievement and service. For our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Horticulturist of the Year Award for Excellence in Horticulture we are proud to honor a founding board member: passionate horticulturist and nurseryman **Steve Brigham**. Steve is the author of the SDHS book, *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*, and for many years he wrote a monthly newsletter column on important local gardening issues. Congratulations, Steve!

Steve's mission is, "to collect, grow, display, promote, and distribute new and uncommon varieties of ornamental plants for California gardens." For many, many gardeners in Southern California his nursery, Buena Creek Gardens, was a beacon. Customers traveled significant distances and many became friends with this soft-spoken, modest and enthusiastic purveyor of horticultural delights. New Zealand shrubs, Australian perennials, South African bulbs and Mediterranean-climate herbs mingled happily with California natives. Several acres of display gardens would whet the appetite of even the most jaded gardener – Steve always seemed to have something new worth making room for in our gardens.

We asked Steve to share some of his experiences with us. Last month he wrote about the flower and the book that inspired him to become a plantsman. We learn more this month, and his life story will conclude in the next newsletter, though we know his love of plants will last a lifetime. We hope you can join us as we honor Steve at a very special event at Quail Botanical Gardens on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> – details will be in the August newsletter.

Continued on page 19

## 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:

Robert Boehm	Tami Joplin
Fritz Brecke	Karen Lakota
Jeff Briggs	Lesley Mills
Cyndy Brown-Carlson	Krista Peace
Alison Calta	Lynn Priddy
Peggy & Bob Chambers	J.K. Shea
Jill & Steven Halme	Robbie Walters
Costa & Alison Haramis	Cynthia Winters

### NEW ADVERTISERS:

**Garden Resource Guide, PAGE 18**

**Perfect Ponds, PAGE 18**

### 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 (1)	Cindy Sparks (1)
Karylee Feldman (1)	Marcia Van Loy (1)
Lori Johansen (1)	Darlene Villanueva (1)
Susan Morse (1)	

### Discounts For Members

Pick up a Grangetto's Preferred Customer Savings Card at any Grangetto's location (see ad page 23). Get a **Hydro-Scape** Preferred Customer Cash Card at any of their 18 locations.

Get a 15% discount at Briggs Tree Co. & Wholesale Nursery in Vista (tell them to look up the "San Diego Hort Society Member" account).

Show your membership card and take 10% off any non-sale item at **Mission Hills Nursery** and **Moose Creek Nursery**.

Take 10% off membership fees at **Quail Botanical Gardens**.

SEE THESE ADS FOR MORE DISCOUNTS: **Barrels & Branches, Botanical Partners, Buena Creek Gardens, Cedros Gardens, Courtyard Pottery, IGS, Kniffing's Discount Nurseries, Pacific Horticulture, The Plant Man** and **Solana Succulents**.

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	<b>Walter Andersen Nursery</b>
	<b>Weidners' Gardens</b>
	<b>Pat Welsh</b>
	Westward Expos

### LIFE MEMBERS

\*Horticulturist of the Year

Chuck Ades* (2008)	Debbie & Richard Johnson
Walter Andersen* (2002)	Lois Kline
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper	Vince Lazaneo* (2004)
Gladys T. Baird	Jane Minshall* (2006)
Debra Lee Baldwin	Bill Nelson* (2007)
Steve Brigham* (2009)	Tina & Andy Rathbone
Wayne Carlson	Peggy Ruzich
Laurie Connable	Susi & Jose Torre-Bueno
Julian & Leslie Duval	Don Walker* (2005) & Dorothy Walker
Edgar Engert* (2000)	Lucy Warren
Jim Farley	Evelyn Weidner* (2001)
Sue & Charles Fouquette	Pat Welsh* (2003)
Penelope Hlavac	Betty Wheeler

### CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

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

## What's Up at Quail Botanical Gardens?

### THURSDAY NIGHT IS FAMILY NIGHT

Summer evenings are a delightful way to enjoy Quail Botanical Gardens. The Gardens will be open until 8 pm every Thursday through Labor Day. We will have children's activities and music in the Gardens. Here is the music we have lined up so far:

**July 16, 5:30 – 7:30 pm:** Frolic in the Gardens with the island sounds of the Caribbean Invasion featuring Glen Fisher on bass and Tom Gates on steel drums.



Glen Fisher

Peter Sprague

**July 30, 5:30 – 7:30 pm:** Peter Sprague, virtuoso jazz guitarist, performs with his brother Tripp on saxophone and flute, and bassist Gunnar Biggs. Their music travels from the Brazilian bossa nova, to bebop jazz, to Pat Metheny classics, and, finally, to a Celtic jig.

**August 13, 5:30 – 7:30 pm:** The fabulous Gomango Trio featuring Mark Lopez on guitar, Glen Fisher on bass, and Brian Cantrell on drums. It's funky, groovy, jazzy—music for the kids and the young at heart to enjoy.

**August 20, 6 – 7 pm:** Hullabaloo, San Diego's own award-winning kid-folk duo. Bring a blanket or low chair to sit on.

**August 27, 5:30 – 7:30 pm:** Peter Sprague is joined by the ultra creative jazz vocals of Leonard Patton and bassist Gunnar Biggs. The group will play jazz, Stevie Wonder, Bob Marley, and Edu Lobo.

Chairs will be provided except where noted. The above is free with admission to the Gardens.

And while you're here, be sure to visit the new Hamilton Children's Garden, which opened on June 13!

For more information visit [www.qbgardens.org](http://www.qbgardens.org) or call (760) 436-3036 x206

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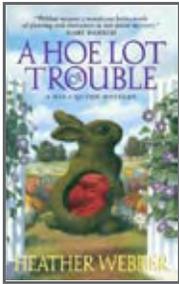
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## Book Review

### PUT YOUR FEET UP AND SET A SPELL ANNUAL REVIEW OF MYSTERIES FOR SUMMERTIME DELECTATION

By Caroline McCullagh



Well, you have to wade through a lot of oysters to find a pearl, but I've done it for you. Seriously, there are many bad mystery writers out there. The biggest mystery is how they get published. Still, there's wheat among the chaff (as long as I'm doing metaphors).

I'll start with *A Hoe Lot of Trouble* by Heather Webber. The best thing I can say about this is that when I started leafing through it to see what I was going to write, I found myself reading it again. I love books that trap me that way. How could you not love a book that starts "Thou shall not stuff pictures of thy husband down the garbage disposal"? Landscaper Nina Quinn, her husband Kevin the Weasel, their disaffected teenage son, Riley, not to mention the missing snake, and the many other characters are just fun to be with. The mystery's good too.

I've grumbled about the Internet, but it's fun to look up authors on line. Webber has a website, [heatherwebber.com](http://heatherwebber.com), I think you'll enjoy. You can read parts of her books on line if you want to sample them. *A Hoe Lot of Trouble* is the first of five, so far, about Nina. I'm looking forward to reading the other four. One website said it was out of print, but I bought it at Mysterious Galaxy, 7501 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. It's \$6.50 in paperback (ISBN 0-06-072347-5).

Rosemary Harris, author of *Pushing Up Daisies* and the newly published *Big Dirt Nap*, has an interesting website, too ([rosemaryharris.com](http://rosemaryharris.com)). You can sample the books she wrote, and she has links to interesting gardening sites. *Pushing up Daisies* features Paula Holliday, a landscaper hired to restore a well-known local garden. When Paula digs up the mummified body of a baby she brings dangerous attention to herself. This one also has a little bit of romance you might not expect. It's \$6.99 in paperback (ISBN -13: 978-0-312-94372-1).

I had to look through two bookstores and three libraries to find a third worthwhile book. *The Garden Club* was worth the effort. Written in 1992 by Muriel Resnik Jackson, I don't think you'll find it for sale except as a used book, but you can get it on interlibrary loan. The heroine is Merrie Lee Spenser, a formerly wealthy New York matron, who has moved to Davis Landing, North Carolina, because she inherited a house there. She struggles to adjust to the alien lifestyle (you can't even buy garlic in the local Piggly Wiggly) as she solves a series of murders that no one wants solved. You'll laugh all the way through this one.

As in previous years, the books are written by women for women. Men don't seem to have discovered writing garden mysteries, except for Anthony Eglin (reviewed in 2007 and 2008). He has a new one this year titled *The Trail of the Wild Rose*. I enjoyed two of his others. I'll read this one too. ☘

## Community Outreach

### WATER CONSERVATION: BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

By Linda Johnson

#### San Diego Food Not Lawns

San Diego Food Not Lawns is a grassroots group focused on "cultivating an edible future" vs. water-hungry lawns. Goals include offering information, facilitating communication, and effecting local change regarding a variety of food and land related issues. Resources include:

- **Victory Gardens San Diego** - Working with San Diego healthy food movement groups, VGSD encourages the creation of home, school and community food gardens.
- **Veggie Trader.com** - free resource for bringing good food and good people together: Use this site to find neighbors to swap with or sell your excess produce to. Even if you don't have a garden, you can find local food near you.

Their website [www.SDFoodNotLawns.com](http://www.SDFoodNotLawns.com) has a calendar of events, plus Get Involved for other details. Meetings: N. County Coastal meets at the Solana Center or at other locations; for central group locations see calendar. SDFNL works on issues including; sustainable agriculture; GE's (genetically engineered) and commercial food production; environmental and social justice; farm workers and border issues; water; reducing our ecological footprint; feeding the hungry; and, creating local food systems. Contacts: N. County Coastal chapter: [Rachel@sdfodnotlawns.com](mailto:Rachel@sdfodnotlawns.com). General info: [info@sdfodnotlawns.com](mailto:info@sdfodnotlawns.com). Phone (Central): 619-641-7510 ext 244; (N. County Coastal): 760-436-7986 ext 216.

#### Community Gardening in Southeast San Diego: Get Involved

The New Village Community Garden & Farmers Market Project has the goals of bringing resident-owned community gardens and a farmers' market to Southeastern San Diego. Organizing efforts began in October of 2008, and plans include: Intergenerational/multicultural involvement in creating and maintaining the garden, opportunities for youth to obtain community service by working in the garden or farmer's market, experience of growing and providing low cost organic fruits and vegetables, opportunities for learning, sharing & teaching throughout the community, opportunity to transform blighted areas into beautiful and functional space, and partnership with schools: hands on project for students in special ed, elementary schools, science classes, field trips, etc. Attend the Quarterly Community Forum July 22 at 415 Euclid Ave., San Diego, 92114 (Tubman Chavez Center). Contact: Diane Moss - Executive Director - [ndm@projectnewvillage.org](mailto:ndm@projectnewvillage.org).

#### Veterans Sustainable Agriculture Training: How to Support

Archi's Acres, a small-scale farm in Valley Center, offers the Veterans Sustainable Agriculture Training (VSAT) Program, including training in organic farming, utilizing both hydroponics and soil. Offering curriculum-based instruction, the program provides a transition period to the private sector for returning veterans, who are faced with a world that has no understanding of what they have been through. Few if any job opportunities are available. Archi's Acres, coordinating with the Veteran Affairs San Diego Health Care System, teaches organic farming (agriculture and business) in a rural environment. Local retailers help VSAT graduates gain access to employment opportunities that they are unlikely to find elsewhere. In less than two years this pioneering initiative has put in place the *first working farm model* to successfully transition veterans back into society. Veterans trained in sustainable agriculture benefit immensely, but perhaps just as important are the benefits to their families, their communities and the planet as a whole. To support, contact Colin Archipley, owner, at [colin@archisacres.com](mailto:colin@archisacres.com) or (760) 670-5489. ☘

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## The Real Dirt On...

### LANCELOT "CAPABILITY" BROWN

by Linda Bresler



Lancelot Brown was born in Northumberland, England in 1716. His father, William Brown, a farm laborer, died when Lancelot was four years old. He attended school until he was 16, which was unusual for a boy of that time who had lost his father. His first job was for Sir William and Lady Anne Loraine, working in the vegetable garden and learning about plants. During his apprenticeship with Sir William Loraine, he was

lent out to neighboring estates to help with the gardening there.

In 1739, with experience in estate work and its management, Brown began working for Sir Richard Grenville. He soon caught the attention of Grenville's son-in-law, Lord Cobham, whose family house was Stowe Park, a great estate in Buckinghamshire. Following the work on the estate of previous landscape designers such as John Vanbrugh and William Kent, Brown became influenced by new naturalistic landscape trends, one of the most important of which was the creation of a picture landscape yielding classical but "natural" results.

Previous to this time, formal landscapes with symmetrical designs, water fountains and topiary-pruned plants were in style. Rather than dividing up areas of an estate into different spaces of interest, Brown created entire vistas with serpentine lakes, mature clumps of trees, and wide expanses of lawn. He removed the fake ruins, hermitages and grottoes loved by past generations. Brown's reputation grew as word spread of this new enlightened form of landscape design. His nickname "Capability" came about because he always commented that he could see the great "capability" of an estate for landscape improvement.

In 1744, Brown married Bridget Ways, a local girl. They had four children during their time at Stowe Park. By the early 1750's, Brown had begun to work on his own as a full-time landscape designer. The family moved to the outskirts of London so that Brown could meet with landowners during their visits to London. Along with his work in landscape design, Brown created the overall themes for estates, which included major palaces, castles and mansions. He became good friends with Henry Holland, a master mason and subsequent architect living nearby. Together, they created the Capabilities building works and worked on many large estate projects together. In 1764, Brown was appointed Master Gardener at Hampton Court. He also continued with his design practice. He died in 1783, in Hertford Street, London, on the doorstep of his daughter Bridget, who had married her father's partner, Henry Holland.

It is estimated that Brown was responsible for designing over 170 gardens surrounding the finest country houses and estates in Britain. Included among these were Stowe Park in Buckinghamshire, Blenheim Palace Garden in Oxfordshire, Chatsworth in Derbyshire, Warwick House, Kew Gardens, Milton Abbey, and Syon Park. It is said that Brown refused to work in Ireland because he had not yet finished England.

Brown's popularity reached a peak at the time of his death in 1783, and then fell into a decline. Critics said that his work was seen as a feeble imitation of wild nature. It reached its nadir in the 1880's, and then began to recover. By 1980, Brown was being recognized as a genius of English garden design. He described himself as a "placemaker," not a "landscape gardener." Not until the nineteenth century did the label "landscape gardening" become a commonly used industry term.

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

Above: Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, by Nathaniel Dance, (later Sir Nathaniel Dance-Holland).

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## SDHS FAIR AWARDS

The display gardens at the Paul Ecke Jr. Flower & Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair are an annual inspiration to thousands of gardeners; we hope you saw something new to try at *your* garden. We salute the hard-working designers for bringing their horticultural expertise and enthusiasm to the Fair. Each year we give Excellence in Horticulture awards for the best Fair display gardens, and our judges were Cindy Benoit, Sheldon Lisker, John Noble and Susi Torre-Bueno. They had a difficult choice, with many worthy gardens to select from. Congratulations to the winners, each of whom will receive a handsome engraved plaque, a \$100 check, and a one-year membership in the SDHS.

The **Don & Dorothy Walker Award for Most Outstanding Exhibit** (with a prize of \$500) went to Falling Waters Landscape. Their very modern garden featured a handsome wooden ramp, colorful stucco walls, and a stunning wall-hung tapestry of succulents. The striking metal and wood fence behind a row of tall Sansevieria was a fascinating juxtaposition, a simple water feature added a sense of lively motion, and plants with sculptural forms were used to great effect.

For the **Nomenclature Accuracy** award we selected the beautiful garden by Quail Botanical Gardens and the San Diego Water Authority. Their list of plant names was flawless and they had a very good plan of the garden. Handsome, easy to read signs with the plant names on them were throughout the display. We really liked the plant selections, especially good plant combinations, and use of rocks, along with five simple and clever arches made partly of giant bamboo poles.

Our award for **Creative Use of Unusual Plant Material** goes to MiraCosta College Department of Horticulture, who packed a great selection of outstanding plants into a small and very inviting space. One juror (Susi) wanted to be, "four years old and inside the playhouse" that was beautifully constructed and decorated. The plants included many not commonly seen, and all of which would grow together harmoniously in a real garden setting.

The **Best Youth Garden** award for student entries went to the Fallbrook Future Farmers of America, for their handsome garden that looked complete and ready to step right into.

The **Best Expression of Garden Education** award went to a charming and thoughtful garden of edibles beautifully designed by Backyard Aquafarms. There was so much to see, from the veggies growing in hay bales to the live fish and chickens, the worm farm, the compost bin and the hydroponic greenhouse. We were sure this would be a huge hit with kids and families, and proves that you don't need a large space to grow some healthy food in agreeable surroundings. You could tell they started planning this a great many months ago. 🌱

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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:

What native animal(s) have you been most pleased/surprised to see in your garden?

**Chuck Ades** has animal helpers: "I have been delighted with the uninvited animals that have invaded my garden. The skunks, raccoons & 'possums have eaten all my garden snails. When I first moved here my yard was full of these snails. I had to go out in the evening to step on them. Still they multiplied. Then I put in a pond. Then the animals came - then the snails disappeared. I'm delighted. The rats also ate the snails, but also ate my cockatoo eggs and young; I can do without them. The other animals make trails in the garden, but that doesn't bother me - I know they are doing their work. One bad part: the raccoons eat my goldfish, so I buy feeder goldfish each spring and restock the ponds. I guess it's ok since they were feeder fish intended to be fed to other larger aquarium fish."

**Mike Brewer** enjoys a variety of critters: "Over the years we've seen almost all the native animals of San Diego county; coyotes, raccoons, possums, skunks, squirrels, foxes, road runners, and snakes of various types. The one animal that always startles me is the California Legless Lizard (*Anniella pulchra*), always found (by me anyway) underground when digging. Since they are lizards, the tail comes off without major harm being done to the animal. For years I thought these were some sort of small snake. My son's high school biology teacher identified one for me years ago. They eat insects, and I try not to harm them, but they always make me jump when I accidentally hit one with a shovel."

**Linda Chisari** says: "It was Mothers' Day morning 1992 when my husband, Frank, excitedly whispered to me to come and look out our living room window. There, on our deck rail, sat a beautiful mother fox watching her three kits gambol on the deck below. We watched with awe for 20-30 minutes while the young foxes jumped over furniture and chased each other under the watchful eyes of their mother; then she gave them some kind of signal in fox language and they all disappeared under the deck. For three weeks, the scene was repeated at dawn and dusk each day. Then, one morning as I sat at my drawing table gazing out the window, the four foxes paraded out our front walk, across the street, and down into Crest Canyon. Our garden had done its job; it provided shelter for the still-vulnerable family of foxes."

**Debbi Dodson** has "a love/hate/love relationship with the squirrels in my backyard. Despite the fact that we have a canyon backyard, we lived here about 6 years before I saw the first squirrel. He was so cute, eating the seeds dropped from the bird feeder. My father-in-law had died that summer, so I named him Paul in his memory. The next year we had two squirrels and I was equally happy to see them. I named the second one Ruth after my mother-in-law. I threw peanuts out to supplement the leftover bird food they were scavenging. This year I noticed Paul and Ruth eating the petals off

of my pineapple guava, which did not please me so much. Then I went out to water my bowl of baby lettuces and noticed there was nothing left but green stubs where once there were leafy plants. The next day all of my Italian parsley was gone. Now I was mad! I put mesh tents over all the herbs and lettuces and started to plot my revenge. Who cares if I named them after my in-laws, how could I rid myself of Paul and Ruth? But then, wouldn't you know it, four of the cutest baby squirrels appeared. Watching them play is just the most fun that I've forgiven them all....for now."

**Chris Drayer** has butterflies: "A little cloud of around 5 Monarch butterflies have been hanging out in my canyon garden for the last 2 months. As soon as the morning fog clears they appear, dancing over the Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*), Spirea and Lantana. Sometimes, between them and the hummingbirds, the skies even get a little crowded."

**Connie Forest** saw a weasel: "The animal that surprised and pleased me was a long tailed weasel. I had no idea what it was, though it looked something like pictures of a weasel I had seen, it had this long rat-like tail and it was pretty small. So, I looked up native animals of San Diego County and there it was. This weasel came running out of my garden shed where I have a rat problem and not long after I discovered a newly dead rat on my patio. I figure I disturbed the weasel and it dropped its prey. Though this animal is far from beautiful, I am glad to have a partner in rat hunting."

**Sue Fouquette** has a great bird story: "Hummingbirds nest in forks of branches, right? Well, our 'Mummer' (short for Mama Hummer) made her nest in dinner forks. I first noticed her when I saw her outside our kitchen window with a little bit of white fluff in her beak. It may have been 'silk' from the pods of our *Chorisia speciosa*, Floss Silk Tree. She poked it into a nest she'd already started that was attached to the wind chime we have hanging a few feet from the window. The wind chime is a cat made of forks and fish made of the bowls of spoons. Her 2 inch nest was attached with spider webs. She was barely 3 inches, including her beak, smaller than other hummingbirds in our yard. Soon there were 2 white jellybean size eggs in the nest. It's been really fun and interesting to watch her sit, spin, take off for food, the nearest being succulent flowers and *Anigozanthos* (Kangaroo Paws). Her boyfriend (we assume) has come by. She sometimes takes a break perching on a certain little twig sticking out horizontally from the trunk of a big old *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm. She's chased a bigger bird away from her nest. We've learned a lot referring to 2 books we have on hummingbirds, but are still not sure what species she is. The incubation period is about 15 to 22 days. We've been watching her for a couple of weeks. We leave for hiking in the Andes of Ecuador tomorrow and may miss the big event."

**John Gilruth** has Baltimore Orioles: "I have a pair that come back every late spring and build there beautiful woven nest under a banana frond and raise their babies. It is a safe place, and protected from sun and drizzle. I am always amazed how they can construct such an intricate nest. I even bought an oriole feeder - and they love the sugar nectar and, of course, grape jelly."

**Irina Gronborg's** garden is a wildlife sanctuary: "We have so many flying, crawling guests that we registered our garden as a Backyard Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation and as an

Continued on page 16

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### Sharing Secrets Continued from page 15

Urban Wildlife Sanctuary with the Humane Society, but here are the most memorable ones: One winter I found a little fruit bat hanging at eye level from our pencil plant, where he hibernated for many months. To provide him with more comfort and privacy, I encouraged Erik to build him the recommended bat house. But I never saw him again. A few years later I was happy to hear a Great Horned owl in our Washingtonia palm. To provide her a nest and an incentive to stay in our garden, I purchased an owl house and had it professionally installed in the palm. But, although a swarm of Africanized bees quickly occupied the box, terrorizing the neighbors who helped pay for the removal of the bees and the box, I never heard the owl again. Every spring I am delighted by a single pair of Bullock's orioles who weave their perfect nests under our banana leaves. I wish there was something I could do to provide them with a greater measure of safety and protection, but as it is, I see them every spring."

**Myrna Hines** also likes birds: "What gives me the most pleasure is watching the hummingbirds feast on the flowers outside my windows. Occasionally a foreign (not Annas) hummingbird will join the dinner party."

**Karen Hoffman** also appreciates birds: "I love to see the roadrunners. When we first moved here to El Cajon, there were quite a few roadrunners, but as the neighborhood grew, they became few and far between. As I sit here and write about my roadrunners a Cooper Hawk is flying into my camellia bush outside

this window, back and forth. I have a feeling he is up to no good, as sparrows often nest in that corner and he's looking for dinner."

**Candace Kohl** has seen (and unseen) critters: "Last Wednesday I had help removing a rattlesnake. I had not seen one in my yard for 6 years or so since I removed some big old bushes. I was weeding and the cute little snake was 4 inches away from my fingers, I will certainly be more careful now sticking my hands under the plants. I have motion sensor lights on an area behind my kitchen that animals like to use as a pass through. When the light goes on I get up to see what is there. A few years ago it was a beautiful pair of foxes. An animal story regarding ones I didn't see is as follows: friends with small children were visiting over Easter. We hid the Easter eggs in the yard the night before and when the kids went to find them all that was left were bits of colored shell. The adults thought it was very funny but the next year the kids asked us to hide the eggs in the house."

**Joanne Lee** also had a big kitty: "I was sitting at the breakfast table and noticed a great shaking of the bushes behind the pond where the electric fence connects. Thinking it was probably a coyote that got zapped, I watched as a large-dog-sized animal emerged from behind the bushes. I was very surprised and fascinated to see it was a bobcat with pointed ears. It walked casually through the front yard and up the driveway. No time for the camera!"

**Elf Mitten** had 'possums: "For many years I had opossums visiting nightly for their chicken dinner. They brought their babies to show them where food was served (on a platform on the fence). I was laid up after surgeries and couldn't continue so they left. (My garden was also a release point for junior opossums). Hummingbirds now build nests and there have been three sets of babies this spring. It is exciting to watch them learn to fly."

**Al Myrick** has tons of wild animals: "We live on a large, closed canyon in SD city. No Norway or Roof Rats, but we have white-throated woodrats, opossums, gray foxes, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, fence and alligator lizards, dozens of species of birds including a returning pair of red-shouldered hawks that nest and fledge at least two young per year for the last 8 years and tanagers, orioles, phoebes, kestrels, lesser goldfinches, towhees, mocking birds, scrub jays, mourning doves, house finches, bushtits, flickers, waxwings, but no pigeons! We have seen about a million and one species of butterflies, and gillions of other insects and spiders and things. The most surprising city wild animal (a dozen years ago) was a bobcat, who was attracted to our chickens, but couldn't get to them. It was as surprised to see me as I was to see it. It leaped off the top of our chicken coop-shed and cleared the back fence, 60 feet from the shed, in four bounds. Amazingly beautiful! We don't keep any chickens anymore and have never noticed the return of the bobcat. Too bad!"

**Katie Pelisek** tells us: "We haven't seen him in a while, but a bobcat used to pass annually through our yard (on the Lomas Santa Fe Golf Course). After a few years of photographing him through a window, one late afternoon I decided to sneak up and take his picture. When the camera clicked, he fixed his eyes on me and I suddenly realized the only thing between me and this wild animal was a palm tree. Maintaining eye contact, I walked backward to the house and have since vowed to leave nature photography to experts with telephoto lenses!"

**Ellen & Gil Provost** had unknown birds: "This spring we had two tiny little birds, not hummers, who nested in an upside down small strawberry pot. The pot was inverted into a larger pot, so the little birds hopped up and over into the larger pot then up into the open vent of the strawberry pot. They filled the interior of the pot with pine needles, and other small twigs, it was fascinating to watch. The birds seemed to be ground creepers and they loved our enclosed plant filled patio. I tried my best to identify them using my bird book, but I was stumped; I am uncertain what they were. Their nesting was successful, we watched the fledglings leave one by one, they successfully raised two little ones and possibly three it was hard to tell. We were delighted to have them near us for awhile."

**Susi Torre-Bueno** had quail this year: "In mid-April a pair of quail showed up on our back patio one morning, spending about ten minutes walking up and down very slowly, checking it out. A week or so later we found Mama Quail sitting on a nest of about 15 eggs which was totally hidden from sight on the ground underneath a large variegated pelargonium plant. When we got too close to the nest she got all upset, rushing up and squawking at us as she moved about 100 feet away and continued to scold us from our fence. We kept our distance after that, but about two weeks later Father Quail spent an entire day pacing around and around the top of the circular wall around our labyrinth. The next day we spotted Mama and about 13-15 tiny baby quail rushing around inside the labyrinth, pecking at insects and scurrying for shelter beneath the herbs planted there. They kept this up for a day or two and then – suddenly – all were gone. We like to think they moved on to a more secluded and safer location and didn't end up as supper for the hawks that live next door."



Pat Venolia

**Pat Venolia** had a wild burro: "A number of years ago my husband called my attention to our backyard, where a bunny rabbit, a squirrel, and a weasel were cavorting at the same time in our flowerbed and lawn. I felt like we were watching a Disney film. More recently, I just looked out the window and there he was – a burro!. As it turns out this is Jasper, and he is 26 years old. He was from a BLM wild bunch, lived in Vista most of his life, and will be moving in a month to Valley Center to pal around with an Arabian. I went down on the lawn and got to know him – a real pet, but I thought he was pretty old. I was in the house when he decided that was enough grass, so he went down our neighbor's driveway towards Warmlands Avenue. I hurried down after him to make sure he didn't go in the street; when I got there, sure enough he was in the street. It's amazing how a burro, a woman, and a little neighbor girl can gather attention by the side of the road. People stopped to look, chat, ask who's burro, etc. Neighbors came out to see what was going on. Finally a young

Continued on page 18

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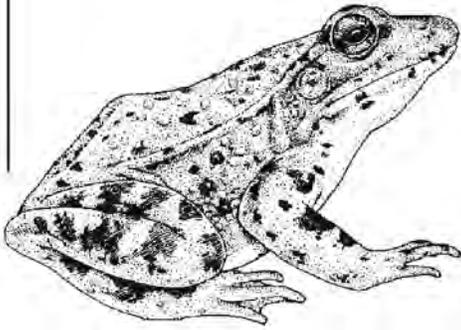
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## Sharing Secrets Continued from page 17

woman drove up and looked happy to see Jasper. He had run off when they were taking a walk up a ways on our street. Burro didn't want to follow girl and dog, so he took off on his own, came down our driveway and munched. So after a cute two-year old got her picture taken sitting on the burro, and Jasper got on a lead to go to his present home on Green Hills Way, people said goodbye. We had never seen a burro in our neighborhood before. The whole episode made me smile!"

**Peter Walkowiak** has rare bees and amorous lizards: "I have observed some unique bee pollinators on my cacti. The first one I noticed is a solitary cactus bee. What first drew my attention to it was the way it flew and behaved. It moved fast, no hovering or slow approach, it would just dash about and then dive into a flower. In appearance it looks like a honey bee except that the head is slanted back not blunt, the brown bands are darker, almost black and the abdomen is flattened, top to bottom, not cylindrical, both have the same body size. The other is a small solitary green metallic bee that is much smaller, about 3/8 inch. I also have a growing population of alligator lizards, sightings are becoming more common, both adults and young. While watering this spring I have interrupted them in the throws of passion four times, twice last year and once the year before."

**Lucy Warren** says: "While it was once a surprise to open the door of the garage to go into the house at the same time Pepe Lepew (aka Mr. Skunk) was crossing the same expanse of patio, my greater surprise came one evening when I was indoors watching television. I'd left the back door cracked so the cat could go outside and heard her munching on her dry cat food. Then I realized that she was curled up right next to me. I slowly made my way to the kitchen turning on lights as I proceeded forward and caught sight of the black and white tail rounding the corner and scooting out the back door, luckily with no major incident."

**Marilyn Wilson** had two memorable visitors: "A chipmunk visited my back door and quickly ran away. I spent half an hour on the internet just to ID the little bugger. Once I went out into the backyard because I heard a VERY unfamiliar bird call. When I finally located him, I was gazing at a quail on my roof! I live nowhere near open space."

**Chris & Melissa Worton** have all kinds of wildlife: "Our home is located near a rim of Tecolote Canyon, which is filled with a variety of animals native to San Diego. From this canyon, we have been visited by a fox who climbs over the fence to drink from our pond at night. There is a Nuttall's Woodpecker that works at gathering insects from the Washingtonia palm tree on the side of our front garden. Kestrel hawks will teach their young how to hunt doves at the birdbath we have provided. So far, the young have not been successful, at least not while we are at home. Anna's hummingbirds will park their babies on the dense bougainvillea limbs while they feed. As they return, they will call to their young to let them know they are near. We have had coyotes trotting down the street early in the morning, returning to the canyon before too many cars and people are out and about. Since our garden is not exactly on the rim, nor is it on a direct path to and from the canyon, each visit to our fenced-in backyard is a pleasant surprise for us."

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Contact Mary C. Steele at [mcs@gardenresourceguide.com](mailto:mcs@gardenresourceguide.com) for more information and to participate.



**Stephen Zolezzi** appreciates the birds: "When you ask what animal the first thing that comes to mind are four-legged critters! But I am most pleased to see birds descend from the heavens devouring all type of bugs, worms and insects. Birds are truly one of nature's best organic pesticides. For the price of some seed and water, along with plants that produce nectar, seeds and shelter, birds of all size and color are eager to help out in the garden. The bonus comes in a melody of song and jabber that our pet Cockatiel has managed to memorize for our nonstop entertainment. Does anyone know how to make a Parrot stop?"

**The question for next month is:** We've heard that worm castings are good in the garden for a number of things - what changes have you observed when you use worm castings? Send your e-mail reply by July 5 to [info@sdhortsoc.org](mailto:info@sdhortsoc.org).

**Steve Brigham** Continued from page 8

With my work-study grant, however, Director Ray Collett had only to come up with 20% of my salary for my half-time employment there, which he gladly did. Ray's incredible knowledge of plants, both native and exotic, together with the extensive plant collection he was establishing, was all the inspiration I needed to decide what I wanted to do with my life (see my "Birth of A Plantsman" essay in the June 2009 issue of *Let's Talk Plants*). I worked at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum for the next four years with Ray as a Botany and Natural History major, and during that time, I was privileged to get to know many of the most famous horticulturists of California and beyond. These days, the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum is a world-renowned botanical and horticultural institution. (What a great way to "work yourself through college"!)

**The Horticultural Revolution**

Horticulturally speaking, the 1970's were nothing less than a revolution worldwide, and I feel most fortunate to have been a part of it all. I doubt that any period in recent history has seen both the beginnings and co-existence of so many talented horticultural careers at once (a number of which continue to this day), both in California and abroad. Ease of world-wide airline travel had a lot to do with the flood of plant discovery and introduction in the 1970's, and advances in propagation techniques allowed more kinds of plants to be successfully grown. Because of this, by the 1980's a great wealth of new garden plants were becoming available in California in particular. In marked contrast to today's modern tissue-culture labs, the newest garden plants in those days were grown, shared, and sold the old-fashioned way – by small specialist growers and botanical gardens, not giant corporations. And so it was that the late 1970's saw me taking many trips throughout California to find new and exciting garden plants that merited propagation.

At that time, however, there were so many of us in Northern California experimenting with new plants, the thought occurred to me that it would be nice to find a place where I wouldn't have to compete with all my friends. Because of the tremendous variety of garden plants that may be grown in frost-free climates, it wasn't hard for me to be attracted to the mild Southern California climate, especially since I really like subtropical plants. All my friends thought I was crazy to even think of moving to "big, bad" Southern California. And it's true, by then, that the Los Angeles area was already so big and unruly as to make a comfortable life there impossible in my judgment. But once you drove a little further south into San Diego County, there was this magical area of cute little coastal towns, complete with a county-run park then known as Quail Botanic Gardens. I first saw QBG in the summer of 1977. Right then, like so many other times in my life, I knew exactly where my next move would be – and nothing was going to stop me.

Watch for next month's column in this fine publication to see what happened next! ☘

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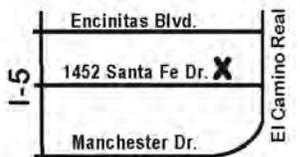
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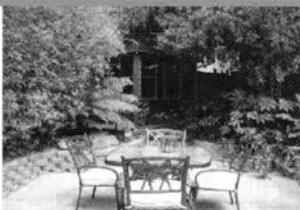
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**Thanks** Continued from page 5

of the Day, organized by Pat Hammer. They provided information on the plants in our display, other gardens at the Fair, general garden questions, and much more. Thanks to these outgoing and knowledgeable members who did such a fine job representing the SDHS; their names will appear in the August newsletter.

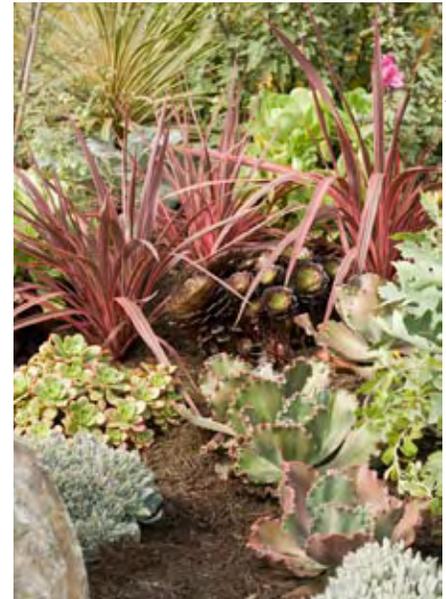


Photo: Stacey Doreas

San Diego Horticultural Society exhibit details.

## SDHS 2009 Budget

	<b>Income</b>
Membership Income	27,000
Advertising Income	20,000
Grants & Awards	1,000
Opportunity Drawing	360
Event Income	800
Meeting Guest Income	1,000
Sales	9,000
Annual Speaker Income	5,000
Vendor Sales Commissions	1,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>65,160</b>

	<b>Expense</b>
Amazon.com, Book Sales	500
San Diego Fair Exhibit	2,500
Library Expense	300
Newsletter Expense	35,000
Storage	1,500
Meeting Expense	10,000
Equipment Purchases	1,500
Volunteer Appreciation	1,000
Insurance	3,200
Credit Card Services	1,200
Taxes	60
Event Expense	800
Scholarships	3,000
Donations	1,000
Advertising Expense	2,000
Awards & Certificates	1,200
Dues and Subscriptions	1,500
Licenses & Permits	100
Membership Expense	6,000
Office Expense	2,000
Postage and Delivery	1,400
Professional Fees	4,500
Annual Speaker Expense	4,000
Telephone	800
Pacific Hort Meetings	3,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>88,060</b>

<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-22,900</b>
<b>Interest Income</b>	<b>3,500</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-19,400*</b>

\*Note: This is a very conservative budget and we expect to have higher income than shown. If more members sign up for the digital version of the newsletter we could see a drop in that significant expense.

# June Meeting Report

Once a year, instead of a regular meeting, we bring in a special speaker and devote an entire Special Evening to this one thing. This year our Special Evening was an amazing duo – and for a few hundred people this June's event will rate as an especially beguiling evening. Our speakers were George Little and David Lewis, of the Little & Lewis Garden on Bainbridge Island, Washington. These garden artists have been together for over twenty years, creating a water- and plant-filled garden that draws thousands of people a year to this little corner of the Pacific Northwest. What they have accomplished on a modest one-third of an acre could fill several hours of talks, and, although they sold the garden last year, it fortunately lives on in their beautiful book, *A Garden Gallery*, a copy of which is in the SDHS library.

Prior to their talk we saw a short excerpt of a documentary filmed about their garden, and it helped bring a greater sense of the unique personality of the setting. One thing that brought them together in 1988 was a love of ancient artifacts, and the timeless cast concrete columns, painted in a variety of soft hues, are echos of themes from Egyptian and Greek archaeology. They like to "echo forms" in the garden, repeating the colors of their columns and other art in nearby foliage and flowers. Originally they designed and installed water gardens, and water still plays a crucial role in the garden, where it is impossible to stroll more than a few yards without a thoughtfully-placed vessel or pool of some kind revealing itself. Moss and fern-covered concrete trees drip into basins below. A giant morning glory flower reflects the sunlight. And a hidden emitter allows one drop at a time to form a ripple on the still surface of their "single drop fountain;" not until the ripple has disappeared does another drop fall, encouraging contemplation and a sense of stillness and awe.

As they noted, the garden has "many vignettes, little spots that make the sum of the garden." One of these is a face carved to resemble the bark of a tree and placed in such a way that you come upon it by surprise and might spend a few moments puzzling over exactly what you are seeing. There are bright red sculptures of pomegranates up to several feet tall, five foot wide painted gunnera leaves tucked among the living foliage, and people delight in discovering these half-hidden sculptures. It could take hours to explore it all: the foliage and sculptures create rooms that open up and then close behind you, the juxtapositions of real and imagined plants stop you in your tracks.

One thing they especially like is a lush garden with plants blooming on all levels – which leads to their columns topped with a great variety of planters, to trees underplanted with dozens of smaller specimens, and to a general blurring of the boundaries until the garden simply surrounds you completely. George refers to the "gestures plants make" that are "very important" to the mood of the garden, such as the arched leaves of huge bananas which seem to embrace and enclose the visitor.

The garden wasn't planned, and they note that "sometimes accidental things work the best." In fact, "if you invest yourself in the garden, that's what people love." It's also a huge labor of love, as every fall they must take almost all the pots into their greenhouse if the plants are to survive the less-than-tropical winter. And every spring George makes it a point to put each pot in a different place than it was the previous year – after first refreshing it for the new season.

If I sound like a fan it's because I am, and I was privileged to visit the garden twice, including when the SDHS garden tour visited the Seattle area a few years ago. Although the soul of the garden has changed since they sold it and no longer spend much of each day living in it, it will remain in the memories of so many as a truly magical place. They're now hard at work at creating a new garden right next door, and I'm sure it'll be open for tours in a couple of years. When it does, make it a point to visit and stay for a while, absorbing the love they've lavished on it and the spirit of the place, which will surely be as unique as the one we saw images of last month.

Thanks, George and David, for a splendid evening on what we hope will become the first of many visits you make down to San Diego. 🌿



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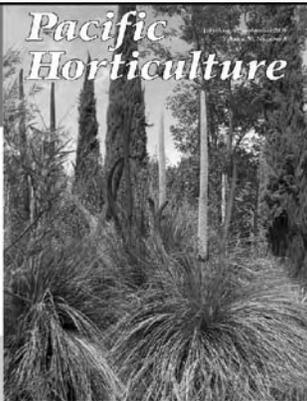
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- ✿ Hear award-winning landscape designer **Pamela Berstler**, on *Digging Deeper with Eco-Restorative Practices.*
- ✿ Hear a leading native plant specialist and author, **Carol Bornstein**, on *Using California Native Plants in the Landscape.*
- ✿ See why *Santa Barbara Botanic Garden* is a treasure trove of California native plants, and mingle at a twilight wine reception.
- ✿ Hear landscape architect and author **Owen Dell** on *Sustainable Landscaping: A Visionary Look at the Future of Gardens.*
- ✿ Arrive a day early and relax with our optional Wine Country Tour on Friday, October 2.

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# What's Happening? for July 2009

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

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

#### Here's a little taste of what's new -

Lots of Tomatoes, including some of the most oft requested recently - Black Prince and Black from Tula - A Russian heirloom from Tula. Largest of the black tomatoes with 3-4", slightly flattened, dark brown to purple fruit with deep green shoulders and with a rich, slightly salty, smoky-fruit flavor.

As well as lots of other scrummy tomatoes there's lots more tempting treats in the Secret Garden:

**Lettuces** - at last! Freckles Heirloom, Romaine, Rouge D'hiver heirloom, Red Sails leaf lettuce, Heirloom Salad mix - cut and come, Italian gourmet greens.

**Shiso** (Red and Britton) - the flavor has been described as curry-like and a combination of cumin, cilantro, and parsley with a hint of cinnamon. Leaves are a nice addition to salad mixes. Try Shiso as a garnish with sushi, and sprinkle it over cucumbers, cabbage and fish. Chop and add to pesto. Flowers are edible, and make a fragrant tea. Deep burgundy foliage looks good as a backdrop for white flowers. Great in containers. Tolerates shade.

An interesting little perennial in 4" - **Leonotis Alba** (White Lions Tail) - blooms thru the summer, a little more tender than the more common orange variety and likes a little more shade.

**Salvia greggii 'Alba'** (White Texas Sage) - Evergreen perennial native found throughout southwest Texas and into Mexico. Light green leaves, ivory white flowers clothe the branch tips throughout summer and into fall/autumn until short days and cool weather slow then stop their production. Ideally suited in full sun and dry situations.

**Lobelia laxiflora** (Mexican Cardinal Flower) - Branches with narrow green leaves and red stems arise from underground rhizomes that spread outward, allowing a single plant to form a dense ground-cover to 18" tall by many feet wide. At the tip of each stem are the 2" long bi-colored flowers, yellow on the inside with red on the outside. Blooms almost constantly. Plant in full sun to light shade. Can tolerate little water but also grows well in moist soil. It is hardy to about 15 F.

**Asclepias curassavica**, milkweed, butterfly bush - back now from their winter cut back - butterflies love it and the Monarchs will lay their eggs on it.

Moving into our drought tolerant section many lovely plants but here's one that got my attention - **Macleaya microcarpa** (Plume Poppy) - This vigorous, tall growing perennial has upright stems to over 6' tall; spreads underground to form wide patches. Has attractive deeply-lobed bronze-green leaves with a downy, almond green underside. In mid-summer the stems are crowned with attractive clusters of minute, pale pink, feathery flowers. Plant in full sun and hold back on water and fertilizer to keep growth checked (drought tolerant in coastal gardens). Cut back dry foliage in spring.

Also, **Euonymus japonica microphylla 'Butterscotch'** (Golden Boxleaf) Euonymous'. A small, tough, low-maintenance evergreen shrub in Southern California. Great for tiny gardens, borders, and

## The Water Conservation Garden (contact info on other side)

- Jul. 5, 1:30pm, Ask the Horticulturist Tour:** An informative walk with David Yetz, a horticulture staff member; bring your questions. Free. Meet at main entrance.
- Jul. 8, 5:30 - 7:30pm, Stroll the Garden with Connie Beck:** Join Connie Beck and learn ways to reduce landscape water use. She will conduct a guided walk discussion about the characteristics and needs of the water smart plants. \$15.
- Jul. 11, 9am - noon, A New California Garden:** Linda Whitney shares the process of creating a water smart landscape from the ground up. Two registrations for the price of one (same household). \$20/Members, \$30/Non-members
- Jul. 16, 6 - 8pm, H2O 911:** Join Vickie Driver for an introduction to dealing with the water-shortage. Learn simple steps for saving water and money. Two registrations for the price of one (same household only). \$20/members, \$30/Non-members.
- Jul. 19, 9:30 - 10:30am, Free Special Access Tour:** This special tour is offered for individuals who may have difficulty navigating the terrain of the Garden. David Yetz, Garden Horticulturist will help you explore the Garden from the comfort of the Verbeck Shuttle. Since the shuttle seats 4-5 people, advanced reservations are required.
- Jul. 25, 9am - noon, Toss Your Turf, Less Water, Less Grass, More Fun!** Join Vickie Driver for a short course in turf removal. Two registrations for the price of one (same household only). \$20/Members, \$30/Non-members.

**To July 5, San Diego County Fair Flower and Garden Show:** SDHS Horticulturists of the Day will be at our display garden 10-4 daily; Master Gardeners will have a booth in the O'Brian Hall. Admission \$13/Adults, \$7/Seniors and children over 5 years. Check schedules, vendors and entertainers at [www.sdfair.com](http://www.sdfair.com).

**Jul. 1, 8, 15, 2 & 29, 10:15am and 10:45am, San Juan Capistrano Garden Tours:** These half hour tours are conducted by Mission San Juan Capistrano's Gardening Angels. Tours are included in the price of admission. 26801 Ortega Hwy. San Juan Capistrano. (949) 234-1306 or [www.missionsjc.com](http://www.missionsjc.com).

**Jul. 1, 6:30pm, Palomar Orchid Society:** Fred Clarke, owner of Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista, will talk about recent trends in mini and compact cattleyas. Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. (760) 726-7763 or [palomarorchid.org](http://palomarorchid.org).

**Jul. 1, San Diego Herb Club:** Discussion on herbs; how and why we use them. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park <http://dir.gardenweb.com/directory/sdhc>.

**Jul. 4, Walter Andersen Nursery:** 9:00am No class scheduled. (San Diego, 3642 Enterprise Street, (619) 224-8271); 9:30am, No class scheduled - Store closed. (Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, (858) 513-4900). [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

**Jul. 4, Alta Vista Gardens 4<sup>th</sup> of July Dinner:** Celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> with dinner and a VIP view of the renowned Vista Fireworks display. \$50, Info: (760) 941-5719.

**Jul. 7, 6:30pm, San Diego County Orchid Society:** Program TBA. Beginners Class at 6:30 is in room 104, the general meeting begins at 7:30pm in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Admission is free -- everyone is welcome. [www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com).

**Jul. 8, 9:30am, Bonita Valley Garden Club:** Program TBA. Everyone welcome. Bonita-Sunside Library, Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road. (619) 267-1585

**Jul. 8, 7pm, San Diego Epiphyllum Society:** Program TBA. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. [www.epiphyllum.com](http://www.epiphyllum.com).

**Jul. 9, 7:30pm, Southern California Horticultural Society:** William A. Grant will discuss Tea Roses for warm gardens. \$5/Non-members. Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles. (818) 567-1496 or [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org).

**Jul. 11, Walter Andersen Nursery:** 9:00am, Staghorn Ferns - Divide & Remount (San Diego see July 4) 9:30 am, Citrus & Tropical Fruits. (Poway see July 4). [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

**Jul. 11, 10am, San Diego Bromeliad Society:** Program TBA. Free and visitors welcome. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. [www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html).

**Jul. 11, 10am - 2pm, Tomato Tasting and Sizzlin' Summer Salsa Contest:** The annual contest will be at the Fullerton Arboretum. Admission is free. Bring your best tomatoes and hottest salsa for tasting and judging by others. 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton. (657) 278-3407 or [www.fullertonarboretum.org](http://www.fullertonarboretum.org).

**Jul. 11, 1- 4pm, San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society:** Program TBA Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. [www.sdccs.com](http://www.sdccs.com).

**Jul. 11, 4:30pm, South Bay Botanic Garden Walk:** Conifers for the Garden presented by R. ZasquetaSouthwest College, meet at the 1800 building, 900 Otay Lakes Rd, Chula Vista. (619) 421- 6700 x-5371.

**Jul. 12, 9am, San Diego Bonsai Club:** Program TBA. Open to visitors, please check in with the membership secretary. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. [www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com](http://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com).

**Jul. 12, 1pm, Southern California Plumeria Society:** Scott Lawder on "Growing Plumeria in Cold Weather." Everyone welcome! Free. There will be a raffle and sales table. War Memorial Building, 3325 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park. (619) 461-5942 or [www.socalplumeriasociety.com](http://www.socalplumeriasociety.com).

**Jul. 12, 1:30pm, Mabel Corwin Branch American Begonia Society:** Program TBA.. Plant raffles, door prize. Bring begonias and companion plants to show. Encinitas Community Center, Rm 120, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, Encinitas. (760) 230-1073.

**July 13, 6:00pm, details on page 3  
Plants for Drier Climates**

**Jul. 14, 7pm, San Diego Geranium Society:** Program TBA – programs focus on growing, propagating and care of geraniums and pelargoniums. Plant raffle and refreshments at every meeting. Everyone is welcome. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (619) 447-8243 or [www.sdgeranium.org](http://www.sdgeranium.org)

**Jul. 16, 7:30pm, San Diego Fern Society:** Study ferns together. Guests are welcome. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. [www.sdfem.com](http://www.sdfem.com).

#### **Quail Botanical Gardens (contact info below)**

**Thursday is Family Night:** Music lined up for July, 5:30 – 7:30pm: **July 16**, Glen Fisher on Bass and Tom Gates on Steel drums; **July 30**, Peter Sprague, virtuoso jazz guitarist with brother Trip on Sax and flute and bassist Gunnar Biggs. Free with Garden admission.

**Jul. 15, 6:30 – 8:30pm, Bye, Bye Grass, Part 1:** Nan Sterman discusses elimination options, including the pros and cons of chemical and non-chemical methods, and ways to physically remove grass. \$45/Members; \$50/Non-members.

**Jul. 18, 10am – Noon, Bye, Bye Grass, Part 2:** Using QBG as an outdoor classroom, Nan Sterman guides you through living examples of water-wise landscapes, show you interesting drought-tolerant ground covers, and introduce you to a variety of hardscape options. \$45/Members; \$50/Non-members. Pre-register by July 10 through Water Conservation Garden (619) 660-0614 x10.

**Jul. 18, 9 – 10:30am, Undersea Garden:** Create your own undersea garden with help from master designer Jeff Moore. All materials provided. \$70/Members; \$80/Non-members.

**Jul. 17, 10am – 2pm, San Diego Zoo:** Orchid Odyssey; Stroll through the greenhouse, packed from floor to ceiling with exotic orchids from around the world. A botanical bus tour will leave from the bus unloading area at 2pm and is free with admission to park. 2920 Zoo Drive in Balboa Park. [www.sandiegozoo.org](http://www.sandiegozoo.org)

**Jul. 18, Walter Andersen Nursery:** 9:00am, *Plumeria Care*. (San Diego; see July 4) 9:30am, *Summer Rose Care*. (Poway; see Jul. 4). [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com).

**Jul. 18, 1:30 – 2:30pm, Agri Service, Inc. Community Gardening Series:** Free monthly classes with Master Gardeners Diane Hollister and Pete Ash. In July they will discuss “Summer pruning for fruit trees - Controlling size for more production.” El Corazon Compost Facility, 3210 Oceanside Blvd. Reserve space: (800) 262-4167 ext. 4.

**Jul. 21, 10am – 4pm, Joy of Botanical Illustration Class:** Join Jack Muir Laws for an intensive and accessible botanical illustration workshop. \$75 per person paid by check or cash at the door. Bring a small bouquet of flowers including at least one iris, drawing paper, pencils and your favorite drawing tools and something to share in a lunchtime potluck. Room 104 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org)

**Jul. 21, 7:00pm, California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter:** Jack Muir Laws will present an illustrated lecture about the natural history of the Sierra Nevada, and the process of creating a field guide. Come early for a mini presentation on Natives for Novices. Open to the public, free. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org).

**Jul. 22, 6pm, Mission Hills Garden Club:** Karan Cooper will discuss “The Tomato Lady Heirloom Tomatoes 101”. Everything you want to know but have been afraid to ask – plants will be available for purchase. Open to the public; guests \$10. United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego. (619) 923-3624 or [www.missionhillsgardenclub.org](http://www.missionhillsgardenclub.org)

**Jul. 22, 7pm, California Rare Fruit Growers, San Diego Chapter:** “Growing Apples in Southern California,” presented by Kevin Hauser. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. [www.crfgsandiego.org](http://www.crfgsandiego.org).

**Jul. 24 – 26, 10am – 4pm, Cactus and Succulent Sale and Show:** This show and sale will present rare and unusual cacti and other plants from xeric or desert regions through the world. The Potting Shed at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton. (657) 278-3407 or [www.fullertonarboretum.org](http://www.fullertonarboretum.org).

**Jul. 25, Walter Andersen Nursery:** 9:00am, *Summer Rose Care*. (San Diego; see July 4) 9:30am, *Heat Loving Plants*. (Poway; see Jul. 4) [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.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.qbggardens.org](http://www.qbggardens.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](http://www.thegarden.org)

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

**MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE:** Gardening questions answered by trained volunteers Mon.-Fri., 9-3, (858) 694-2860, [www.mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org)

**SAN ELIJO LAGOON CONSERVANCY:** Free 90-minute public nature walk 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday; \$5/family; \$2/adult, \$1/seniors/students; (619) 232-2721, [www.niwa.org](http://www.niwa.org)

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

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

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

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

## Garden TV and Radio Shows

**Garden Compass Radio Show:** Sat. and Sun., 8–10am. KPOP 1360, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: (619) 570-1360 or (800) 660-4769.

**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](http://www.ctn.org)). Tapes avail. from SDHS library.

mixed containers. Provides excellent foliage texture and color. The more sun it gets, the more yellow the leaves are. In light shade, the plant is mostly green with light yellow leaf margins at the growing tips. Needs 8 hours sun per day to stay extremely yellow. Performs very well in the heat. Doesn't seem to mind occasional over- or under-watering.

We received a lovely delivery of **Plumeria**. Remember to keep them on the dry side.

**Heucheras** are blooming now – *Heuchera* 'Mocha Mint' – silver laced foliage and showy coral colored flowers spring thru fall, attracts hummingbirds, low maintenance (no deadheading needed).

Some July thoughts for your gardens:

**Hydrangeas:** After flowers have faded dead-head blooms and feed with Dr Earth Azalea and Camellia food. New wood will spring from these to bloom next year. On young plants don't cut back any green stems that haven't bloomed yet as these will also bloom again. To maintain blue tint use Aluminum Sulfate (*Hydrangea* Blue) with each feeding.

**Tuberous Begonias:** If you planted these in the spring they should be in full bloom now. These are heavy feeders so feed regularly with a balanced fertilizer.

**New Guinea Impatiens:** Need more light than other impatiens and plenty of water. Keep from wilting in hot weather by over-watering into a saucer under the plants.

**Avocados:** Still a good month for planting avocados. Being subtropical plants, avocados prefer to be planted during the long warm part of the year.

**California Native Plants:** Be very cautious irrigating most of our native plants during the summer. Most are adapted to a winter wet – summer dry moisture cycle. Too frequent irrigations now (especially in soils with clay content) will certainly cause problems.

**Fuchsias:** Your plants should still be blooming well. Keep fertilizing regularly with a balanced fertilizer or one slightly higher in phosphorus to promote blooms. Proper watering becomes critical at this time of the year, especially for plants in hanging baskets.

**Lawns:** Remember, cool-season lawns (fescue/Marathon, ryegrass, bluegrass) should be mowed about half an inch higher in the warm months than in the cool months.

**Soil Care:** A garden begins with the soil. A thick layer of organic mulch should be maintained on top of the soil year-round. Mulch applied now will cool the root systems, reduce irrigations as much as half this summer, reduce weed growth, and improve both soil life and soil quality.