Tillandsia fasciculata

Euphorbia inermis var. huttonae

Rebutia flavistyla

Curcuma longa

Brassica juncea ‘Red Giant’
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
June 13 Perennials, Trees and Shrubs for the Southwest, by Mary Irish
August 10 Special event to honor Steve Brigham as Horticulturist of the Year
www.sdhortsoc.org

The Garden as Companion
A Special Evening with the enchanting George Little & David Lewis
Monday, June 8, 7:00PM (door open 6:15pm)
SPECIAL LOCATION in Mission Valley:
Scottish Rite Event Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108

In the ongoing relationship with a garden, the gardener soon finds him or herself in a partnership as vital as any in life. As a work of passion and imagination, one’s garden soon takes on personality, becomes a living entity that returns as much - or more - than it receives. George Little and David Lewis, internationally celebrated artists and gardeners, will speak of their experience in developing this deep companionship and of learning to let the garden speak of what it wants to be. Their gorgeous book will be available for sale.

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

Cover Image: Although small in size, the Little and Lewis Garden feels “monumental” as you wander through the pathways and rooms. The placement of architectural plants and sculptures (notice the alligator lower center) adds to feeling of discovery and mystery at every turn. Photo by Barbara Denk.
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

Judy Bradley – First Vice President, Co-Chair-Program Committee
Mark Collins – Finance/Budget Committee
Julian Duval – Qual Botanical Gardens Representative
Jason Kubrock – Second Vice President, Co-Chair-Events & Outreach Committee
Carol Ann Lewin – Co-Chair-Program Committee
Sheldon Lisker – Co-Chair Membership Committee
Jackie McGee – Treasurer, Chair-Budget & Finance Committee
Susan Morse – Co-Chair Membership Committee, Program Committee
Sally Sandler – Member at Large
Cindy Sparks – Chair-Publicity Committee
Bill Teague – Co-Chair-Events & Outreach Committee, Opportunity Drawing & Plant Raffle
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 Gra 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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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1: 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.

2: Garden Tours Chair
Now that Pat Hammer has left the board (see page 5), we’re looking for someone to take over the leadership of our Tour Committee. This person will help plan future 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 your task. If you’d like to learn more call Susi Torre-Bueno at (760) 295-7089.

Win a Plant BEFORE The Break!

At our monthly meetings we sell Opportunity Drawing tickets for swell plants that are donated and/or sold to us by local nurseries. But not all our members can stay for the very end of the meeting (when we have done the drawing). We’re now doing the drawing BEFORE the break, so everyone will have the opportunity to win a great plant. Proceeds from the drawing go to support the SDHS and help pay for the meeting room.

Thanks Volunteers!
Thanks to the fine volunteers who helped staff our membership and information table at events in April and May. On April 25 Sandy Wiksten and Pat Venolia represented us at the Earth Day event at Alta Vista Garden in Vista. That same day Membership Co-Chair Susan Morse and Mark Collins handled our table at the Master Gardeners’ Spring Seminar. At the April 26 Earth Day event at Mission San Luis Rey our booth was staffed by Susan Morse, Jane Morton, Cathy Tylka, and Nancy Woodard. The following folks helped Susan Morse at the Flower Fields on May 2-3: Nikki Alexander, Zepher and Judy Carlyle, and Jane Morton.

Garden Tour Postponed
We had planned to have our next local garden tour on June 13, but have postponed this until next fall. Details will be in a future newsletter.#
To Learn More...

ART IN THE GARDEN

By Ava Torre-Bueno

This month’s speakers, George Little and David Lewis, are both artists and gardeners. Their web site is http://www.littleandlewis.com. Make sure to click on all the picture thumbnails to see the variety of their sculptural work.

Another sculpture garden is in San Francisco and belongs to a refuse company. Their garden is graced with found-object art: http://www.sunsetscavenger.com/AIR/sculpturegarden.php?t=d Scroll down to “Art in the Garden” and click on any picture and it will take you to a slide show of all the sculptures.

Smaller and more local sculpture for the garden can be found at Clay Associates in San Diego, which also has a beautiful low-water succulent garden out front which you can visit any time: http://www.clayassociates.org/june2007/index.htm and http://www.clayassociates.org/sales.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 and visit http://www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm.

FREE Mosquito Fish

By Linda Johnson

As if the swine flu is not scary enough…West Nile Virus, transmitted by mosquitoes, may be lurking in a pond, birdbath, or fountain in your garden! Mosquitoes are carriers of many diseases in addition to West Nile Virus. They thrive in neglected pools, animal troughs, and other standing water sources, and are a threat to public health and safety. Prevent the spread of this virus by taking advantage of a County of San Diego Vector Control Program that offers free mosquito fish! Protect yourself and your community by eliminating the threat of West Nile Virus with mosquito fish, which eat mosquito larvae. There are 11 locations where fish are provided to the public. For distribution locations and more information on mosquito fish and West Nile Virus, visit www.sdfightthebite.com or call (858) 694-2888.

Master Gardener Plant Sale

The San Diego County Master Gardener Association will be holding its 4th Annual Summer Plant Sale on Saturday, June 20, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. The sale will feature a large selection of drought tolerant plants, heirloom and unusual vegetables, flowering perennials, tropicaals, ferns, bulbs, herbs and much, much more. Come early for best selection. Info: call (858) 694-2860; website: www.mastergardenerssandiego.org.

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

TREASURER NEEDED

Jackie McGee has done a fabulous job as our Treasurer since early 2006, and we thank her for her cheerful dedication, attention to detail, and willingness to take on new tasks. During her term she’s gotten many things streamlined, too, so most of the transactions are now handled by the bookkeeper. Our bookkeeper, Teresa McGee (no relation), does the data entry, invoicing, bill paying, and many other tasks, and the Treasurer meets with Teresa about once a week.

Jackie is ready to train someone new to take over as 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 (on average). Please call Susi at (760) 295-7089 and let’s talk!

FAREWELL, PAT

In late April I accepted the resignation of Pat Hammer, who has been an invaluable board member since 1997. Serving for many years as the Vice President, Pat was a very active member of several committees: working on the San Diego County Fair; the Spring and Fall Home/Garden Shows, the Garden Preview Party, garden tours, and much more. She was tremendously effective, and her frequently-sought advice guided us through many important decisions. Pat has a special gift for looking at several sides of an issue, and also a keen understanding of people, that was a great asset to the board. Pat will continue to help out in other ways, and is now helping to plan the August 10 special event to honor Steve Brigham; this will be held at Quail Botanical Gardens. Thanks, good friend, for a dozen years of excellent service – you’ll be sorely missed.

OUR NEW WEBSITE

Watch your e-mail for an announcement that our new and greatly improved website is up and running. We’re confident you will be very pleased with the significant changes made by the website committee, which is led by Sally Sandler and includes Bill Teague, Shari Matteson and Jason Kubrock. Rachel Cobb, who is the graphic talent behind our newsletter, is also very much part of this effort.

The new website has a significantly updated look and feel. It also has new features, a more user-friendly approach, and will make it easy for people to learn more about the SDHS. There’s even a link to Google Maps to make it easier for people to locate our meetings!

Many thanks to all the folks involved for such a terrific job on this portal to the Society.
Successful Drought Tolerant Gardening

Edited by Cindy Sparks

Drought Tolerant Gardening with Succulents: Consider This

By Jeff Moore, owner of Solana Succulents in Encinitas, and Cindy Sparks

This month we look into the world of succulents for good additions to your drought tolerant garden.

Why Succulents?

They are a designer’s dream. They come in all colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple black, white and gray, and that’s before they bloom. They come in all sizes: lush groundcover forms, striking specimen trees or shrubs, and any height from 20 feet to 1 inch. They have many different textures, from spiky to smooth, to downy soft to rock hard. They mix well with Mediterranean plants of similar water needs. Put the slower-growing succulents in front of faster-growing Mediterranean plants. *(Festuca glauca* is often paired with a succulent and won’t out-pace it.) Aloe or gasteria blooms will practically guarantee hummingbirds. Want something foolproof? Try the As which thrive anywhere: aeoniums, aloes and agaves. There is only one “bad citizen” of the succulent world: invasive freeway iceplant, *Carpobrotus edulis* (*C. chilensis*) so it’s tough to make a bad choice.

There are two things you need to do for a successful succulent garden design. First, elevate. Use a berm, raised bed or mound to give your plants the good drainage they require. It won’t matter what kind of native soil is below the bed. If you don’t have good garden soil for the berm, use any good amended topsoil.

Second, think rock. A designer’s rule of thumb is to use half your budget for rocks. Rocks don’t need water, you never prune nor feed them, and they always look their best. So rocks make a good garden investment. Plus, they give the plants their own special microclimate, soaking up heat from the sun and re-radiating it slowly at night. They mimic the natural conditions succulents like. Some plants, like the Dudlea, are happiest tucked in a rock crevice in a warm spot.

Succulents like it warm. Yes, it can be excessively warm in the furthest inland areas, where you might want to design with more cactus and place succulents with extra care. However, succulents tolerate a wide range of conditions, thriving in mixed shade to full sun. They also take miserly watering in stride because their leaves and stems store water. Watering once or twice a month is fine for all but the “tiny guys” whose little root areas can’t harvest over a wide area and who might like a hose squirt periodically during the hottest weather. Succulents seriously dislike heavy leaf litter and freezing temperatures, and simply won’t take overwatering, which causes rot and death. Otherwise, they are easy-to-like garden citizens.

So what is the downside here? You need to do your homework, and commit yourself to either some study or the help of a professional. Plan for mature sizes, don’t be afraid to mix sizes, and pay attention to the few winter dormant plants, best left in pots so you can bring them under cover during a wet winter.

With these few tips, you are ready to explore a rich world of these drought tolerant beauties.

Next Month in our Series: Make Room for Birds in Your Yard

Series editor Cindy Sparks is a member of the SDHS board and also an enthusiastic Master Gardener.
Let’s Talk Plants!

Finally, if you are growing the still remove them from the annual varieties to prolong the life of the plant. Fresh pesto or dry them for sprinkles. If you don’t like the buds, you should than the leaves? Let the buds develop ½ to 1 inch in length and then make textures is Delfino Cilantro – a 2006 All-American selection that lives longer and provides a larger harvest than the standard variety.

To go with your feathery herbs, you might as well grow some spiky things like Chives and Scallions. They not only provide zest to a wide range of dishes, but also add interesting texture, colorful blooms, and scent to the garden.

Speaking of sweet things, most of you will probably grow Sweet Basil. But have you tried other annual basil cultivars like ‘Blue Spice’, ‘Lime’, and ‘Red Rubin’? (Warning – there are as many varieties of Basil as there are Tomatoes.) Further, did you know that the flower buds contain more oil than the leaves? Let the buds develop ½ to 1 inch in length and then make fresh pesto or dry them for sprinkles. If you don’t like the buds, you should still remove them from the annual varieties to prolong the life of the plant.

If you are growing the perennial basil varieties ‘Blue African’ or the peppery ‘Greek Columnar’, then you can let these blossoms grow to a full 6 or 8 inches without worry of the plants terminating.

When it comes to Oreganos, there are opinions as strong as the herb. The standard kind that you find generically labeled in U.S. supermarkets is ‘Italian’. On the milder, sweeter side is ‘Sweet Oregano’, which many people know by the name ‘Marjoram’. The white oregano cultivar ‘Kaliteri’ is even milder but with a traditional oregano taste. For regular oregano with a peppery taste, try ‘Greek’ (a small bite will be sufficient for most people). The middle-eastern variety ‘Za’atar’ is the main ingredient of a sauce of the same name and has pleasant cumin-like overtones. The most pungent oregano I have ever tried is ‘Syrian’, which will stand out in almost any dish. In impoverished regions from Turkey through Pakistan, people eat two or three meals a day of wild Syrian oregano ‘salad’ gathered from the hillsides.

If you enjoy making teas and flavored drinks, then there are mints, and more mints to entice your taste buds. In my non-rigorous poll, the white mint cultivar ‘Mojito’ is popular with almost everyone and the hands-down winner. The second runner-up for teas is the spearmint cultivar called ‘The Best’. Another popular spearmint cultivar is ‘Mint Julep’. More on the culinary side, ‘Chocolate’, ‘Lavender’, and ‘Orange’ are in strong demand. Mint is very invasive and should be grown in a pot on a hard surface (so that roots coming out of the bottom of the pot can’t root into soil).

For natural sweeteners, you can grow Stevia and the Verbena relative Aztec Sweet Herb. I prefer the latter because it is a bit harder in our climate and is beautiful flowing out of a pot or mounding in the garden. Stevia may also be contraindicated for some medical conditions.

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

Garden Gourmet

It’s the Berries

By Alice Lowe

I’m basking in a strawberry glow. Since February, every one of my CSA (Community-Supported Agriculture) deliveries has included anywhere from one to four boxes of freshly picked, ripe, organic strawberries. Our long season extends throughout spring and summer, sometimes into fall. Lucky you if you grow them yourself, in beds, strawberry pots or hanging baskets. But even if you don’t, there’s not likely to be a scarcity for quite a while at Farmers’ Markets and stores like Baron’s, Henry’s and Ocean Beach People’s Market, that feature local produce. (But watch out for the ones that have white centers – they’ve been picked too soon and won’t be as sweet.)

The best thing you can do with strawberries is, of course, to just eat them, straight out of the carton – the riper and fresher the better. And, of course, there are all the all-American desserts – strawberry pie and strawberry shortcake, or sliced on top of breakfast cereal, waffles, yogurt, or ice cream. But strawberries aren’t just for breakfast or dessert – they can add color and cachet to so many warm-weather meals.

Spinach and strawberry salads have been luncheon favorites for a long time, with countless recipes appearing in newspapers and magazines, or passed around workplaces. I recently came up with one that I liked so much I had it on four consecutive days. I tossed them with avocado, sliced mushrooms, blue cheese, sliced almonds, and crisp-fried pancetta bits. My dressing was a simple vinaigrette with shallots, Dijon mustard and sherry vinegar; rather than the sweet dressings often served with fruity salads.

Strawberries make a wonderful chilled soup or gazpacho. Cucumber, red onion, and peppers are the perfect contrasting ingredients, along with other seasonal fruit. Keep a little of each aside, and puree the rest in the food processor with water. Before serving, stir in some lime juice and perhaps some sparkling wine (Prosecco is my choice). Dice the reserved fruit and vegetables, and use them as a garnish with parsley, cilantro, or other fresh herbs, finishing with a dollop of sour cream or plain yogurt.

Try a sandwich of sliced strawberries with herbed cream cheese and arugula on whole grain bread. Or make a burrito out of leftover chicken, with strawberries, cabbage, feta cheese, and Kalamata olives. And don’t forget strawberry salsa, mixed with mango or pineapple, green onions or chives, cilantro and/or mint leaves, jalapeno and lime juice – great on fish tacos. If you love strawberries as I do, you’ll find lots of different and delicious ways to use them.

Member Alice Lowe loves to read, garden, cook and eat, not necessarily in that order. ☺
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 14th 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!

Previous recipients of the award have been Chuck Kline, Charles Coburn, Sinjen, Charles Ledgerwood, Edgar Engert, Evelyn Weidner, Walter Andersen, Pat Welsh, Vincent Lazaneo, our founder Don Walker, Jane Minshall, Bill Nelson, and Chuck Ades. Steve lived in North San Diego County from 1980 to 2008. In the course of his 35-year career, he has worked both as an employee and a volunteer for several major botanical gardens and nurseries, and has introduced many flowering plants into the nursery trade. In 1988 he founded Buena Creek Gardens in San Marcos, a retail rare plant nursery that he owned from 1996 to 2008. Steve’s mission is, “to collect, grow, display, promote, and distribute new and uncommon varieties of ornamental plants for California gardens.”

We asked Steve to share some of his experiences with us, and he graciously has written the following account of his background in horticulture. Steve’s story will continue in the next two newsletters. We hope you can join us as we honor Steve at a special event at Quail Botanical Gardens on Monday, August 10th – details in a future newsletter.

2009 Horticulturist of the Year: Steve Brigham

The Birth of a Plantsman

By Steve Brigham

Over the course of any career, one comes to enjoy one’s specialties more than anything else. But care must be taken, for the curse of the specialist is often to get so involved in esoterica that they lose perspective of the whole. That is something I have tried to avoid in my career, for as a nurseryman my job is to reach out to gardeners of all types, especially the beginners. Although I have spent some 35 furious years as a plantsman (with hopefully another 35 to go), I often think back to those innocent days when I too was a beginner. My story may not be all that special, but I hope it will interest you. If you’re already “way into” gardening, perhaps you can identify with my story by remembering that time in your life when plants suddenly became a passion, not just an interest. If you are just now getting really interested in plants, perhaps you’re curious as to how the mania begins. No matter what your experience level, all of us as gardeners have a great opportunity to share our love of plants and gardening with others. Perhaps my story will help.

Conventional wisdom teaches us that a passion for something is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration. While that may be true in the long run, every passionate plant collector can remember moments of 100% inspiration that changed his or her life. In my case, I had long been interested in vegetable gardening since early childhood, and also interested in landscape gardening as a young adult. I had studied the Sunset Western Garden Book, and knew many of the most common ornamental plants. But as a college student I found myself working as a gardener at the University of California, Santa Cruz Arboretum, and that’s when things began to change. Tending a large collection of proteas there made me realize that there was more to the world of plants than what was commonly available in nurseries. (My professor, the great naturalist and horticulturist Dr. Ray Collett, had by then already established an enormous collection of many kinds of unusual flowering plants at the Arboretum, and I was just getting to know them.) And then it happened.

One day, I went into one of the greenhouses to do some weeding, and I could not believe what I saw! An exotic and spectacular bright yellow flower had just been produced by a small subtropical tree that I had never paid much attention to before. The next day, there were more flowers, and more after that, and I was captivated! What I was seeing was Tabebuia chrysotricha, the Golden Trumpet Tree – a Brazilian plant that would change my life. I decided to do some homework, and soon found out that although this tree could in fact grow and bloom outdoors in Central California, it was practically non-existent in the local nursery trade. Even experienced nurserymen were stumped (but also rather embarrassed when I pointed out that it was in the Sunset Western Garden Book!). Somehow, I had to find out how I could get this plant!

And so I went to my professor, Ray, and told him how much I loved the Trumpet Tree. Ray could tell I had a newly found interest in subtropical flowers, and told me of the large collection of Trumpet Trees at the Los Angeles Arboretum in Arcadia. He also told me about a book, which I promptly found at the University library. More even than the Trumpet Tree, this one book really did change my life! The book was Color for the Landscape, edited by Dr. Mildred Mathias of UCLA (it was later revised and reprinted as Flowering Plants in the Landscape, which may still available for sale at www.ucpress.edu). Color for the Landscape was a compilation of five color booklets that had been produced in the 1960’s by the finest horticulturists in the Los Angeles area and featured page after page of beautiful color photos of the best subtropical flowering trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, and natives for California gardens. With great anticipation, I took this book to several Bay Area nurseries, but was disappointed to find out that practically none of the plants in the book were available for sale! This only made me more determined to find them, however, even if it meant a trip to (gulp!) Los Angeles!

Although it took a lot of courage for a Northern California boy to negotiate the gigantic Los Angeles Freeway System, I was undeterred in my search for the plants. As it turned out, at that time most of the plants I was looking for were rare even in Southern

Continued on page 16
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:

- Meghan Blair (names in bold have ads)
- Chris & Grace Mathenson
- Annaece Boika
- Eleanor Morrison
- Linda Espino
- Steve Skinner
- Delores Fango
- Coraline Tucker & Caral Voss
- Patrick Gutschow
- Bill Guy
- Theresa Wilkinson
- Hannah Jarson (1)
- Bob & Cindy Workman
- Joan Kazmarek

NEW ADVERTISERS:
San Diego County Fair Flower & Garden Show, INSERT

Hort Bucks are GREAT!
Kudos to the members below who brought in new members and therefore received Hort Bucks worth $5 towards raffle tickets, name-tags, Plant Forum CDs or dues. To get your Hort Bucks just ask your friends to give your name when they join. The number after the person’s name indicates how many members they recruited in 2009:

- Lori Johansen (1)
- Karylee Feldman (1)
- Linda Bresler (1)
- Cecily Bird (1)
- Hannah Jarson (1)
- Bill Guy (1)
- Hannah Jarson (1)
- Bob & Cindy Workman (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:

Contributing Members
Doris Engberg
Philip Tadtalk & Janet Wanerka
René van Rems
Village Garden Club of La Jolla

Sponsor Members (names in bold have ads)
Agri Service, Inc.
Anderson’s La Costa Nursery
Aristocrat Landscape, Installation & Maintenance
ArtPlantae
Barrels & Branches
Botanical Partners
Briggs Tree Company
Buena Creek Gardens
Cedros Gardens
Coastal Sage Gardening
Courtyard Pottery
Cuyamaca College
Dr. Earth
www.EasyToGrowBubs.com
EuroAmerican Propagators
Evergreen Nursery
Forget-Me-Not Landscape Design
Grangetto’s Farm & Garden Supply
Hydro-Scape Products
Innovative Growing Solutions
Kellogg Garden Products
KRC Rock
Legolaand California
Mariposa Tree Service
Mary’s Good Snails
Mission Hills Nursery
Nature Designs Landscaping
Pardee Tree Nursery
ProFlowers
Renée’s Garden
Schnetz Landscape
SECO Landscapes
Solana Succulents
St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center
Sterling Tours
Sunshine Gardens
www.TheMulch.com
The Yard Fairy
Tree of Life Nursery
Verdant Custom Outdoors
Walter Andersen Nursery
Weidners’ Gardens
Pat Welsh
Westward Expos

Life Members
+Horticulturist of the Year
Chuck Ades* (2008)
Walter Andersen* (2002)
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper
Gladys T. Baird
Debra Lee Baldwin
Wayne Carlson
Laurie Connable
Julian & Leslie DuVal
Edgar Engart* (2000)
Jim Farley
Sue & Charles Fouquette
Penelope Hiavic
Debbie & Richard Johnson
Chuck Ades* (2008)
Walter Andersen* (2002)
Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper
Gladys T. Baird
Debra Lee Baldwin
Wayne Carlson
Laurie Connable
Julian & Leslie DuVal
Edgar Engart* (2000)
Jim Farley
Sue & Charles Fouquette
Penelope Hiavic
Debbie & Richard Johnson

What’s Up at Quail Botanical Gardens?

GRAND OPENING
Hamilton Children’s Garden
At Quail Botanical Gardens
June 13, 2009

Noon – 4:00 P.M.
FREE ADMISSION FOR THE CELEBRATION!

Please join Quail Botanical Gardens as we open our world-class Hamilton Children’s Garden on June 13 from noon to 4:00 p.m. The grand opening festivities will include a ribbon cutting ceremony, entertainment and activities for the entire family all afternoon, light refreshments and more. The entertainment stage will feature a steel drum band, professional interactive story tellers, and an accomplished dance troupe. Throughout the garden exhibits there will be kid’s crafts, musical entertainment, basket weaving, lima bean planting, and of course exploring the colossal Toni’s Tree House. Please come prepared with walking shoes, sunscreen, hats, and smiles!

Remembering your own childhood, you may recall that it’s often the uncomplicated joys of climbing, being on top, crawling through, looking under, and being first that inspire great memories. Toni’s Tree House and the many other new exhibits won’t disappoint. The opportunities for natural discovery are numerous, just meander your way through Hamilton Children’s Garden and be sure to visit Garden Rhythms, Earth Builders, the Elephant Foot Tree Forest, Quail Haven, Incredible Edibles, and more.

The Hamilton Children’s Garden was made possible thanks to generous gifts of all sizes from hundreds of individuals and organizations within our community. On behalf of the children and families who will discover, explore, and experience the magic of nature within this special new Garden for generations to come, we thank them all.

Join us June 13th for a family-friendly celebration. Consider purchasing a commemorative tile, becoming a new member of the Gardens, or simply enjoying the memorial. There will be a bonus of two extra months for those that become members at the grand opening. If you would like more information please visit our website at www.qbgardens.org or call (760) 436-3036 x218.

New E-Mail? New Street Address?
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Book Review

**The Remarkable Baobab**
By Thomas Pakenham
Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

For those of us who have been lucky enough to read *The Little Prince*, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, there is a warning we'll never forget: "Children," I say plainly, "watch out for baobabs." And good advice it is, too. Irish author Thomas Pagenham has taken it to heart and has traveled around the world photographing these incredible trees in their natural habitat and "in captivity," that is, grown elsewhere.

"Why would I care?," you ask. Believe me, when you see these photos, you'll know why he and you care. Unfortunately, baobabs aren't native to California, so we can't grow them. (Who would have room?) This book may be as close as we'll ever get to the experience.

There are eight species of baobabs in the world. Six are native to Madagascar. One grows in much of the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, and one lonely species in Australia. (Pakenham believes the Australian species arrived there in the form of floating seeds.) Many are so impressive they are named individually by the people who live near them.

They're called "the trees that were planted upside down" because they have massive trunks and relatively scant branches and foliage that looks like roots to many observers. They can be as much as 150 feet in circumference, as much as 100 feet high, and as much as 2,000 years old. Establishing their age is difficult, as much as 150 feet in circumference, as much as 100 feet high, and as much as 2,000 years old. Establishing their age is difficult, because they don't form growth rings as other trees do. Their remarkable trunks are primarily water storage structures. The wood is so spongy, according to Pakenham, that you can drive a nail into it without a hammer. Because of that, they could be classified as succulents. And in fact, I chanced on this book at a sale at the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society meeting.

Pakenham’s prose is relaxed and accessible. It reads much like a letter home. For example, he writes of arriving at Khubu Island in Botswana: “Our plane landed with a hiss on the shimmering flats; and I counted 30 baobabs commanding the ridge above me. Most of them took strange forms. There were slim bottles and fat bottles, all swaying like drunkos. There was a vegetable market of carrots and parsnips. There was a zoo full of seals and sea lions. Some of the pink trees had adopted the shape of the pink rocks [on which they grew].” If the African baobab is a prodigy, go to Khubu to see it in its most miraculous shape.

I do like his writing, but in case you don't that's okay, because the heart of this book is comprised of the photos and drawings of these wonderful trees.


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By Linda Johnson

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Let's Talk Plants!
June 2009, No. 177

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Willis Linn Jepson (1867-1946) is known as California’s most eminent early botanist. He was an interpreter of the California flora and one of the greatest of American regional botanists. He published numerous books and articles that led thousands to appreciate California plants and natural settings, and his Manual of the Flowering Plants of California, completed in 1925, was the first attempt to provide an informative identification manual for all the wild plants of California. It became a standard reference for students, teachers, and naturalists.

Jepson was born in 1867 in California near Vacaville in Solano County, and became interested in botany as a young boy, cataloguing plants of the southwestern Sacramento Valley and adjacent mountains and wetlands. A trip he made alone in the early eighties to the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco may have further determined his future career and life-long devotion to natural history and native plants. In 1899, he became the first person to receive a doctorate in botany from the newly established University of California. Almost at once he became an Assistant Professor at U.C. Berkeley, and he spent his entire career at Berkeley teaching and conducting studies in systematic botany. An outspoken conservationist, Jepson founded the California Botanical Society in 1913, and the Save-the-Redwoods League in 1918. He was 25 years old in 1892 when he, John Muir and Warren Olney, at an attorney's office in San Francisco, endorsed the incorporation papers for the formation of the Sierra Club.

Jepson’s ultimate goal was to produce a flora of California that would treat all vascular plants at an almost monographic level. To this end, for many years he worked on the production of his ambitious, multi-volume The Flora of California, considered his greatest achievement and perhaps the outstanding regional flora thus far produced in this country. Although it was not completed when he died in 1946, his estate provided U.C. with funds to continue his work. The unit he endowed, the Jepson Herbarium and Library, is committed to Jepson’s vision of increasing botanical knowledge and enthusiasm for native plants among the people of California.

In 1993, the UC Press published The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California, an updated version of Jepson’s original manual. With contributions from 200 botanists, it incorporates the hundreds of new species identified over the years and new botanical research. The Jepson Manual has been the botanical bible of California flora for thousands of students and has contributed to an understanding and appreciation of the remarkably diversified vegetation of the state. (For details visit http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepman.html.)

Jepson received many honors during his long, productive lifetime. A Saxifragaceae genus of flowering herbaceous plants, Jepsonia, and a host of commemorative specific plants, are named for him.

Member Joan Herskowitz worked as a Biologist for many years, including time spent on staff at the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use. Now retired, she volunteers for the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy and at Quail Botanic Gardens, and is Co-Chair of the Conservation Committee of the Buena Vista Audubon Society.

Above: Photo of young Jepson in the Sierra Nevada (1911) reprinted with permission from the University & Jepson Herbaria, University of California, Berkeley.
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For a registration form or questions contact Susi Torre-Bueno at medskies@sdhortsoc.org or (760) 295-2173

Symposium website: www.pacifichorticulture.org

San Diego Horticultural Society 13
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 is your oldest potted plant?

**Walter Andersen** says: “Most of my containers have tomatoes in them, so not very old. I do have one pot that has Sansevieria growing in it. I think it is about 10 years old; requires almost no care. It is lucky to get some water once a month. Bullet proof plant.”

**Louise Anderson** has a 23 year-old goldfish: “*Nematanthus gregarius* (AKA Lipstick plant or goldfish plant); bought the original piece in 1986 at the swap meet in Costa Mesa right after I moved here from Detroit. It’s still going well.”

**Barbara Clark** has a really old plant: “My oldest potted plant is about 42 years old. It is a Dracaena with graceful ribbon-like leaves striped with rose and white. As I have moved around to three different homes it has gone with me in its container. It is about 5 feet tall and down to one trunk (the other trunks have died over the years even though I have cut them back, no new sprouts have grown.) I have planted new Dracaenas at the base of the plant and placed a large paper sunflower stalk in the pot to fill in the bare spot between the new plants and the leaves of the elder Dracaena. The arrangement gets visitor’s attention with many asking, ‘Is that sunflower real?’”

**Bonnie Cosgrove’s** plant traveled across the U.S.: “My oldest plant is a miniature jade that traveled with me by car from New Jersey in 1977. I think it will live forever – certainly longer than me! It is very happily ensconced in a clay pot, where it has been for at least 8 years. I give it an annual haircut, water whenever it looks thirsty, which isn’t often, and fertilize 2-3 times a year (max). It’s the ideal plant in many ways!”

**Cheryl Hedgpeth** says, “My oldest potted plant, once in the living room, is a 20 foot Kentia/Howea now planted in the ground. My pride & joy! The oldest still in the pot is a 15 year old Coconut palm we brought back as a sprouted coconut from Hawaii. It is still only 4 feet tall.”

**Pamela Homfelt** has an old succulent: “Considering most of my container plants have become my landscape plants I would have to say my oldest potted plant is a *Portulacaria afra* ‘Variegata’. Moving from apartment to apartment, growing up coastal yet adapting to an inland environment and extreme neglect has not phased this favorite that I have possessed for about 12 years now. So, so very slow growing; it is now hanging over the container quite beautifully and is one of my prize plants.”

**Marlene King’s** old plant has done some traveling: “When my former husband and I bought our first home in 1979, there was an old five gallon galvanized bucket, with four slits cut for drainage, in the corner of the back yard. It turned out to be planted with a night blooming cereus that the former owners had left. I suspect the NBC...”
could easily have been 10 - 20 years old at that point, as back then it was one ratty-looking bucket. We schlepped that plant from home to home, never giving it pride-of-place, and for the past twenty years it has been stashed behind a wall, in the ‘back forty’. I’d be surprised if it was given fertilization on more than a couple of occasions. It hasn’t had a bit of new soil in thirty years. (I just went to check on it, and while about 75% of the leaves are all dried up and should be trimmed, that little old NBC is plugging away like the proverbial Timex watch.) This plant has a remarkable desire to live!”

Sharon May has an aged fuchsia: “About 25 years ago I came across a brand new introduction at Roger’s Gardens. It was described as a new, drought tolerant fuchsia called ‘Gartenmeister’. Now quite common, I continue to enjoy its blooms, the satin leaves and the hummingbirds it attracts. Funny how the meaning of ‘drought tolerant’ has changed!”

Walt Meier loves his staghorn fern: “Bill and Helen Shortt of Baldwin Park gave me a 4″ Platycerium superbum × holtumii 32 years ago. I met them at the L.A. County Fair where they garnered dozens of awards for their ferns. For 14 years I grew the single stem plant on a board. Nurseryman Earnie Sanchez offered me a price for the fern I couldn’t refuse. He hung it in his nursery for 7 years. I decided I wanted my fern back and offered a sum he couldn’t refuse. My stag returned home, where it will stay.”

Sherry Park tells us, “My oldest potted plant? Oh, my...I think I’m embarrassed to say. This certainly must count as plant abuse. I have a very large bromeliad that was given to me that’s been in a 14″ terra cotta pot for long over 15 years. That’s how long I’ve had it and it had been in that pot for a long time before that. Now that I think of it, I have billbergia and other bromeliads that have been in the same pots for many years. These guys are very forgiving. Now I’ll really have to think about dividing and repotting.”

Robin Rivet says, “My oldest potted plant is probably a houseplant, and I doubt you care about those! At any rate, I have an incredibly durable, nearly ever-blooming African violet called a “San Diego” violet, at least that was what it said when it was purchased maybe 15 years ago. It’s not in a special pot, I use no unusual soil or fertilizer, but periodically I wash the whole thing with water, contrary to advice on never to wet the leaves. I figure it gets dusty and needs help breathing indoors, since in the jungle they must get wet sometimes. We have an agreement: I give it regular showers, and it gives me regular flowers. Once the pot broke and damaged the entire plant. All the leaves busted off. I had nothing but a few roots, but somehow it came back strong. It moved into a new pot, and eventually into a new home when I moved to La Mesa. It lives on my bathroom sink and must like the humidity. Sometimes it gets as many as 15 flowers at once. Outdoors, there’s lots of things in pots, but most are just waiting to get planted in the ground someday, although a few have spent years waiting... I guess my oldest potted plant was a Society Garlic clump that just recently found a garden spot after maybe 10 years or more. Currently the oldest garden pot is an Aloe vera. I’m not a succulent fan, but I keep it around to alleviate stupid kitchen or beach burns.”

MJ Ross loves her bargain oldie: “My oldest potted plant is an Alocasia sanderiana (African Mask or Kris Plant). I purchased him from the ‘needs TLC’ discount rack at the Morena Blvd. Nurseryland for $3. He was in a 4″ pot, had three leaves, one of which was bent over, and he was covered with spider mites. I had never seen one before and
Jacki Williams has a very old and very special plant: “My oldest plant (genetically speaking) is a fig tree I started from my grandmother’s tree in Mississippi some 40 years ago when I first left home. That tree and branches from it have traveled with me through some 40 moves (we counted!) relocating with the Navy and airlines. At each home, I planted a fig branch, and one in a ‘to go’ pot left with me. As a child, I earned 50 cents a gallon selling figs I picked during summers spent at my grandmother’s home. Those figs (I think they are brown turkeys) taste very different from our California mission figs – smaller and sweeter. We have enjoyed their bounty, left others with a wonderful gift, and, each summer, have a taste of our heritage. We have also given starts to all the cousins and next generation as they settle, and even friends who request starts, so we all have a family connection that is very alive and special honoring our grandmother.”

Nancy Woodard has an old “corn plant”: “I received my oldest potted plant from my Grandmother about 38 years ago - she died 36 years ago. It was a small offshoot of her plant which she called a ‘corn plant’. It has long strappy variegated leaves with sharp edges. I never knew the correct name until I gave Tom Piergrossi a small plant. He identified it as a screw pine or Pandanus utilius. My plant is only 4 feet tall and wide after all these years; in their natural setting they are small trees. I have given small plants to friends and relatives and they have all died, including Tom’s! Most of my indoor plants die after a few years, but, for me, this one is infallible! I have never seen another one in a nursery in the indoor plant section. They do very well in Florida and Hawaii.”

Peggie Wormington has a “Cymbidium orchid from 2001. Might have been older, but that’s when we moved back to California from VA.”

The question for next month is: What native animal(s) have you been most pleased/surprised to see in your garden? Send your e-mail reply by June 5, to info@sdhortsoc.org.

Steve Brigham Continued from page 8

California nurseries. But I did find them at botanical gardens. The L.A. Arboretum, the Huntington Botanical Gardens, and the UCLA Botanical Garden were the primary sources of cuttings and seeds which I took back to Santa Cruz to form the nucleus of my first backyard nursery. Not only did I find some great plants, I made some great friends at these gardens whom I visited again and again in what became a lifelong search for more and more uncommon (and uncommonly beautiful) plants. One yellow flower, then one book, and suddenly a career was born! (There have of course been many flowers and many books since, but none quite as special as those first ones. Now, after thirty-five years of searching, I’ve found almost all of the plants in Color for the Landscape, but there are still a few I don’t have yet!)

As I have said, my story may not be all that special. But the lesson it can teach us surely is. I was fortunate enough as a young man to have a teacher that grew rare flowers, cared enough to tell me about a book, and encouraged me to “try my wings.” Perhaps you know someone who is just getting interested in plants, or would like to. Take the time to show them some flowers. Take the time to give them a book (make sure it has lots of nice color photos!). Take the time to encourage them to get to know the plants, and grow them. For who knows, you may be the one to inspire the great plant collector of tomorrow! ☀️

Cindy Sparks says: “My oldest potted plant is a Euphorbia, un-named species with triangular cross-section, thorns, and no visible flowers. It was popular as an Executive Office plant at the time. I bought it on a sailing trip to Catalina Island about 30 years ago. From a 4 inch pot, I repotted it several times and it is now in the living room. More light in that location caused it to sprout leaves, a real surprise after about 25 years of no leaves. It is now 6 feet tall and it continues to add girth. One summer when we were away, the pot fell over and my poor cleaning woman didn’t know what to do. She propped it up and I got home much later to find a 5 foot tall plant with two ninety-degree bends in it. How did it do that, I wonder? Once upright, it managed to straighten out again. I have since learned to harvest the side branches to make new plants, and to keep its center of gravity low. It’s like an old friend and I cannot imagine not having it nearby.”

Pat Venolia’s plant was a gift – 37 years ago: “My oldest potted plant is a begonia that my 10-year old son gave me for my birthday in 1972. It’s an amazing plant.”

Sharing Secrets Continued from page 15

that was about 20 years ago. He has been an indoor plant all of that time, and is now absolutely stunning. He needs to be transplanted, as he has outgrown the southwest decor pot in which he has lived about the last dozen or so years. (You know the pot, white with coral and turquoise accents.) He weeps all over my kitchen counter after he is watered, still gets spider mites a couple of times a year, but is so beautiful, I wouldn’t trade him for anything.”

Peggie Wormington
May Plant Forum

By Jane Coogan Beer, Sue Fouquette, Mary McBride, Tom Piergrossi, Susi Torre-Bueno, Cathy Tylka, and Peter Walkowiak

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

Alpinia galangal GALANGAL, THAI GINGER (Zingiberaceae)
So. Asia, Indonesia
Thai cuisine owes much to the distinctive taste of this perennial, which produces an edible rhizome that is used fresh or dried in many recipes and herbal remedies. The rhizome is also used in snuff and perfume, and flavors a liqueur in Russia. Probably the tallest specimen ever brought to our meetings: the stalk displayed was easily nine feet tall. It blooms several times a year in Los Angeles in light shade; orange-red fruits follow the greenish-white flowers. Grow it in full sun to light shade with good drainage; prefers moist soil. (Jane Coogan Beer; Los Angeles, 5/09) – J.C.B. & S.T.-B.

Armoracia rusticana HORSE RADISH (Brassicaceae) S.E. Europe (naturalized throughout Europe and No. America)
Horse radish is a perennial herb related to mustard, and grows from root divisions. Harvested in the fall, the white roots are peeled, grated and mixed with vinegar or cream. It can grow up to 5′ tall and is best in full sun with good drainage. Can be invasive, spreading by roots, so plant it carefully and don’t till the soil around it (which can spread it in the garden). The intact root is almost scent-less; grating it releases the pungent aroma. Cultivated since ancient Greek and Egyptian times, horse radish is found on the Passover Seder tables of Jews of Eastern European descent, and was considered medicinal in the Middle Ages. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/09) – S.F. & S.T.-B.

Brassica juncea ‘Red Giant’ RED GIANT MUSTARD (Brassicaceae) Garden Hybrid
The species form of this annual herb, cultivated for its leaves, is native from Russia to Central Asia. Grow it in full sun – the large, crinkled, colorful leaves with strong red shading are an attractive addition to either the vegetable garden or the perennial border. Young leaves can be used as a salad green; older leaves are best cooked. Grows best in cool weather. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/09) – S.F. & S.T.-B.

Callistemon pinifolius ‘Green’ GREEN PINE-FOLIAGE BOTTLEBRUSH (Myrtaceae) Garden Hybrid
Australia is home to many marvelous plants, and the species form of this evergreen shrub is one of them. This drought-tolerant plant grows to about 5′ tall by 8′ wide, and has glowing chartreuse green bottle
brush-type flowers in spring and summer. The pink pine-like foliage ages to dark green. Grow it in full sun to part shade. Will tolerate temperatures as low as about 23°F. (Tom Piergrossi, Vista, 5/09) – T.P. & S.T-B.

**Euphorbia inermis var. huttonae** (Euphorbiaceae)
South Africa
This dwarf succulent is just one of over 2000 species in the Euphorbia Family. It has fragrant flowers from spring through summer. The plant displayed is the form with yellow flowers. It is cold hardy and can be planted in the landscape. One source describes the form as follows: “medusoid species has a thick spherical, flattened main stem with many stiff spineless branches from the periphery.” (Peter Walkowiak, Poway, 5/09) – P.W. & S.T-B.

**Hypoxis sp.** STAR GRASS (Hypoxidaceae)
There are 150 species of cormous perennials in the Hypoxidaceae, and all are loosely referred to as Star Grass. The plants are found in North America, Africa, Australia and Tropical Asia. The plant displayed (probably *H. angustifolia*, which is one of the few that is common in the trade) is an evergreen bulb that blooms from late spring to winter, bearing small yellow star-shaped flowers. Grown in full sun, it is drought-tolerant and can go dry in summer. For lots more information on this interesting family visit www.plantzafrica.com/planthij/hypoxis.htm. (Mary McBride; Vista, 5/09) – M.McB. & S.T-B.

**Rebutia flavistyla** (Cactaceae) Bolivia
Mature plants of this cactus will bloom over a long season, giving many bursts of color. The bright orange funnel-shaped flowers are about 1” long and close at night. They need a dry resting period in winter. Best grown in a bright, sunny location. (Peter Walkowiak, Poway, 5/09) – P.W. & S.T-B.

**Rumex scutatus** FRENCH SORREL (Polygonaceae)
Sorrel is a low-growing perennial (to about 18” tall) for full sun; sow seeds in spring or fall. It spreads year after year by self sowing. The lemony green leaves (which are rich in vitamin C) are good in salad, or you can cook them like spinach, serve in soup or minced in an omelet. The oxalic acid in sorrel can be a problem if you have arthritis or kidney stones, and may worsen these conditions. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/09) – S.F. & S.T-B.

**Tillandsia aeranthos** AIR PLANT (Bromeliaceae)
Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay
This species of *Tillandsia* has bright red bracts and deep indigo blue flowers. The leaf is thin and may curl when dry. It grows slowly into a large clump and seldom needs water. Does best in shade but can tolerate hot Escondido. The plant displayed was planted on an old yucca sheath and sits on the porch. (Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 5/09) – C.T. & S.T-B.
May Plant Forum

Thanks to everyone who participated in the May plant forum, especially to Michael & Joyce Buckner, Bob Dimattia, and Peter Walkowiak, who brought in some huge and amazing plants! Michael Buckner was an excellent Plant Forum Host, as he always is. In addition to the plants described above, those below were also displayed.

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

Can you spot the phony plant this month? The phony plant in the May newsletter was *Bletilla strident*, CHINESE SHRILL ORCHID.

*Aeonium arboreum var. rubrolineatum*  
(The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

*Anthurium whitelockii* (possibly *Anthurium faustomirandae*)  
(Pura Vida Tropicals, Bob Dimattia, Vista, 5/09)

*Brassia Ryo Toyonaga SPIDER ORCHID* (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/09)

*Curcuma longa* TUMERIC  
(Pura Vida Tropicals, Bob Dimattia, Vista, 5/09)

*Cyphostemma ‘Fat Bastard’* (C. hardyi hybrid. Per Miles Anderson, “this hybrid of questionable heritage whose mother was *C. juttae* and father is still a mystery.”) (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

*Drimiopsis maculata* (syn. *Ledebouria petiolata*)  
(The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

*Dyckia ‘Black Gold’* (Mike Brewer, El Cajon, 5/09)

*×Gasteraloe ‘Bill Baker’* (*Aloe variegata × Gasteria verricosa*)  
(The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

*Kalanchoe beaverdii* (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

*Ledebouria ovatifolia* (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

*Oxalis gigantea* (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

*Pachypodium bispinosum* (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

*Pachypodium succulentum* YEAST ROOT (The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)
**May Plant Forum**

**Pachypodium yummyyummyum** FEAST ROOT (The Plant Nut, San Diego, 5/09)

**Paphiopedilum Ho Chi Minh** (P. delenatii × P. vietnamense)

**SLIPPER ORCHID** (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/09)

**Paphiopedilum rothschildianum** SLIPPER ORCHID
(Chaemy Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/09)

**Puya sp.** (Kathy Walsh, San Diego, 5/09)

**Salvia clevelandii ‘Pozo Blue’** GREY MUSK SAGE
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 5/09)

**Tillandsia fasciculata** AIR PLANT
(The Plant Man, Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 5/09)

**Vriesea hybrid** (Pura Vida Tropicals, Bob Dimattia, Vista, 5/09)

**Vriesea imperialis** (Pura Vida Tropicals, Bob Dimattia, Vista, 5/09)

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**HOW TO READ THE PLANT FORUM ENTRIES**

[1] Latin name (**Pastryus dulcis**); **bold** names indicate plants with full descriptions.

[2] Cultivar [‘Cheerio’]

[3] Common Name [DONUT PLANT]


[5] Distribution [7-Eleven to Vons]

[6] Description, comments, cultural directions [This fast-growing…]

[7] Name and city of member, date plant displayed [Betty Crocker, San Diego, 5/96]

[8] Initials of person who wrote description [K.M.]
May Meeting Report

We had the most amazing meeting in May, with a virtually full room and a terrific group of five speakers. There were handouts, recipes, blueberries to taste, a lot of information to absorb and a marvelous sense that this was the place to be! Karan Cooper gave a brief (but fascinating) overview of the history of tomatoes: did you know that although this New World food was considered poisonous in Europe, once the French named it “Love Apple” sales went through the roof? There are over 7500 registered heirloom tomatoes: Karan explained what makes them “heirlooms” and why they’re so worth trying in our gardens. Best tidbits: you only need to water tomatoes about every 2 weeks, and any tomato will grow well in a 15-gallon pot with well-amended soil and at least 6 hours of sun a day. Karan had a great selection of tomato plants to sell, and business was brisk indeed!

Ramiro Lobo has been working for a decade on improving blueberries for growing in California, and he had samples of a number of types for us to taste. These yummy relatives of the azalea plant are now a major California cash crop; in 2009 about 30 million pounds will be harvested and sold, making production in this state the largest in the nation. Even a 2-3 day improvement in earliness of the crop makes a big difference, and that’s one thing he’s been focusing on. Blueberries are a very healthy anti-oxidant and a good crop for home gardeners, with attractive shrubs that can bear for 15 years (maybe more!) given the acidic soil they need (you’ll probably need to add peat moss to local soils) and plenty of sunshine.

Sporting a crown of bay leaves, and with infectious laughter; Karen England shared some Sweet Bay lore and a great recipe for a seasoning blend. Bay is the Herb of the Year for 2009, and Karen says the small plant you buy in the nursery can grow to 40′ tall here (though it responds well to pruning). This Mediterranean evergreen tree does very well in local gardens – Karen suggests stripping the leaves from long stems and using them for BBQ skewers. She even cooker her oatmeal with a bay leaf, and suggests trying it for sweet dishes as well as the usual savory ones. Karen also sold books from the International Herb Association and dispensed great advice.

Why grow Japanese veggies? How about a sweet pepper that cooks in just 10 seconds, or a ginger plant with edible flowers growing at ground level? Mia Yamada McCarville, owner of Cedros Gardens (see page 19), shared lots of great suggestions with us about which Japanese vegetables to grow and how to use them, and provided tempting recipes, too. Did you know that you can use red shisho to make a pink-colored vinegar, or use it to wrap sushi? Mia sold some started veggies and also seeds from the Kitazawa Seed Company; I’m planning my Red Komatsuna now and expect to harvest it in just 21-40 days!

Our final speaker, Tom Del Hotal, specializes in rare fruits for growing locally, and we learned about five especially good ones. Acerola (Malpighia glabra) is an evergreen tree to about 15′ tall, with pretty pink flowers that turn into fruit very high in vitamin C (65 times that of an orange!). The handsome Starfruit (Averrhoa carambola) hails from Sri Lanka. Also rich in Vitamin C (and anti-oxidants), it ripens in December and homegrown fruit is far better than anything you can purchase. Grumichama (Eugenia brasiliensis) is another large shrub or small tree with red new foliage, white flowers, and very tasty, black, cherry-like fruit. For something completely different grow Jaboticaba (Myrciaria cauliflora), a very sweet Brazilian fruit which is borne directly on the trunk of the tree.

Our thanks to all these great speakers for their fine presentations and generous donations for the Opportunity Drawing. It was an especially good meeting and the feedback has been tremendously positive. Thanks go to Richard Frost (see page 7) for donating a dozen boxes of plants and fertilizer to the drawing; We also thank Green Thumb Nursery (San Marcos), which donated two $25 gift certificates, and the brand new Gardens by the Sea Nursery (Leucadia), which donated five $30 gift certificates. Buena Creek Gardens also supplied a very nice selection of plants for the drawing.  

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Floral Association Historic Garden Tour
Three gardens in Bankers Hill and three gardens in Point Loma.
June 6th: 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM
Tickets on Sale Now!
Tickets: $15. advance sale.
$20. day of tour.
Proceeds will provide funds for education programs, scholarships, and publication of a book compiling representative articles from our magazine, California Garden, now celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Selected garden related vendors (orchid growers, succulent planters, greeting cards, whimsical pottery, geraniums from Friends of Musrton, garden art, bird feeders), Master Gardener information and San Diego Heritage Society, for information, 619-232-5762.
NEEDED: Reliable live-in house/garden/pet sitter for when we go traveling. Need a person who likes dogs, can feed our fish, birds and hand water a few things. Payment negotiable. Bobbi Hirschkoff (858) 756-3337.

FREE: Thirty Opuntia cactus pads (you could start a fence). Call Ava at (619) 294-8779 and leave a message.
Let's Talk Plants!
June 2009, No. 177

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GRAND OPENING

Hamilton Children’s Garden
at Quail Botanical Gardens

Saturday, June 13, 2009
Noon to 4 PM

Ribbon cutting ceremony at noon. Entertainment and activities for the entire family throughout the afternoon to include live music, story telling, crafts, light refreshments and more. Free admission.

(Please consider carpooling)

230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA
www.qbgardens.org

COMMENORATIVE TILE PROGRAM
A LASTING TRIBUTE TO THE ONES YOU LOVE

Purchase a commemorative tile and it will be etched with the message of your choice and permanently installed on a “sitting wall” in our new Hamilton Children’s Garden.

Visit www.qbgardens.org/childgarden or contact Tracie Barham at (760) 436-3036 x216 for more information.
**Paul Ecke Jr.**

**Flower & Garden Show**

**at the San Diego County Fair**

**2009 STAGE SCHEDULE**

**WWW.SDFAIR.COM/FAIR**

---

**Fri, 6/12**
- 11:30 Basic Rose Care
  - Dick Streeper
- 1:00 Water Gardening
  - Santa Fe Nursery
  - Ed Simpson
- 2:30 Landscaping with California Natives
  - California's Own Native Landscape Design
  - Greg Rubin
- 4:00 Worm Composting
  - Mission Hills Nursery
  - Tiger Palafox

**Sun, 6/14**
**San Diego Rose Society Day**
- 11:30 Rose Care Basics And Potted Roses
  - San Diego Rose Society
  - Ruth Tiffany/Al Heck
- 1:00 Landscaping With Roses
  - San Diego Rose Society
  - Sue Streeper
- 2:30 Growing & Exhibiting Winning Roses
  - San Diego Rose Society
  - Bob Martin/Linda Clark
- 4:00 Hands On Pruning Demo
  - San Diego Rose Society
  - Gary Bulman

**Tue, 6/16**
- 11:30 Fruit Tree Selection & Care
  - UCCE Master Gardener
  - John Marsh
- 1:00 Trees: Things you don’t know, and should
  - UCCE Master Gardener
  - Robin Rivet
- 2:30 Super Market Bouquets from Store to Home
  - Dos Gringos
  - Suzy Long
- 4:00 Orchid repotting
  - Sunset Valley Orchids
  - Fred Clarke

**Wed, 6/17**
- 11:30 30 Great Drought Tolerant Plants
  - Doug Kalal
- 1:00 Getting Started with Drip Irrigation
  - DIG
  - Ben Raines
- 2:30 Stunning flower arrangements
  - Floral Design Instructor
  - Betty Patterson del Sol
- 4:00 Designing "Green" Lawn Alternatives
  - Benoit Exterior Design
  - Cindy Benoit

**Thu, 6/18**
- 11:30 Native Medicinal Plants
  - Herbalist
  - Carole Brown
- 1:00 How to Conserve Water in Your Garden
  - Nature Designs
  - Steve Jacobs
- 2:30 Color Your Garden Beautiful
  - Weidners' Gardens
  - Evelyn Weidner
- 4:00 Drought Tolerant Gardening
  - San Diego Horticultural Society
  - Cindy Sparks

**Fri, 6/19**
- 11:30 Everything about Growing Plumerias
  - Southern California Plumeria Society
  - Carl & Joy Herzog
- 1:00 Getting Started with Drip Irrigation
  - DIG
  - Ben Raines
- 2:30 Epi's to Know & Grow
  - San Diego Epiphyllum Society
  - Phil Peck
- 4:00 Benefits of Green Roofs
  - Good Earth Plants /GreenScaped Buildings
  - Jim Mumford

**Sat, 6/20**
**Enviro Fair**

**Sun, 6/21**
**Asian Arts Society Day**
- 11:30 Bonsai & Beyond
  - Asian Arts
  - Asian Arts
  - MaryAnne Monck
- 1:00 Creating a Hon Non Bo
  - Asian Arts
  - Brenda Storey
- 2:30 Tray Landscapes
  - Asian Arts
  - Chris Manion
- 4:00 Vietnamese - style Bonsai
  - Asian Arts
  - Van Moch Nguyen

**Tue, 6/23**
- 11:30 The "New Green" Botanical Floral Design
  - The Dutch Flower
  - Jolene De Hoog Harris, CCF
- 1:00 Organic Rose Care
  - Jack Shoultz
- 2:30 Super Market Bouquets from Store to Home
  - Dos Gringos
  - Suzy Long
- 4:00 Caudiciform Succulents
  - The Plant Man Nursery
  - Joyce &Michael Buckner

**Wed, 6/24**
- 11:30 30 Great Drought Tolerant Plants
  - Doug Kalal
- 1:00 How to Conserve Water in Your Garden
  - Nature Designs
  - Steve Jacobs
- 2:30 Agaves: A Growing Art
  - Horticulture Instructional Associate
  - Jason Kubrock
- 4:00 Designing "Green" Lawn Alternatives
  - Benoit Exterior Design
  - Cindy Benoit

**Thu, 6/25**
**Del Mar Rose Society Day**
- 11:30 How to Grow Beautiful Roses
  - Del Mar Rose Society
  - Kathy Reed McCarthy
- 1:00 Favorite Roses of the Del Mar Rose Society
  - Del Mar Rose Society
  - Virginia Holt
- 2:30 Fragrant Roses
  - Del Mar Rose Society
  - Linda Gluckman
- 4:00 Organic Rose Care
  - Del Mar Rose Society
  - Jerry Letteiri
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri, 6/26</td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>How to Conserve Water in Your Garden</td>
<td>Nature Designs</td>
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<td>1:00</td>
<td>Worm Composting</td>
<td>Mission Hills Nursery</td>
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<td>2:30</td>
<td>Taking Care of Store Bought Orchids</td>
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<td>Outdoor living with EZ Retaining Walls</td>
<td>Keystone Pacific/RCP Block &amp; Brick, Inc.</td>
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<td>Sat, 6/27</td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Palomar Orchid Society Day</td>
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<td>Orchids</td>
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<td>Outdoor Orchids for Southern California</td>
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<td>Cymbidiums for Our Area</td>
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<td>Sun, 6/28</td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>San Diego County Dahlia Society Day</td>
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<td>Growing Dahlias</td>
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<td>Dahlias</td>
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<td>30 Great Drought Tolerant Plants</td>
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<td>Mon, 6/29</td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Propagation of Staghorn Ferns</td>
<td>UCCE Master Gardener</td>
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<td>Plan your Green Garden Wedding</td>
<td>I Do “Wedding Flowers”</td>
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<td>2:30</td>
<td>Adventures in Low Water Use Gardening</td>
<td>Proven Winners</td>
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<td>Tropic Look in an Arid Region</td>
<td>Vice President of SD Bromeliad Society</td>
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<td>Tue, 6/30</td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>10 Outdoor Growing Orchids</td>
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<td>Super Market Bouquets from Store to Home</td>
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<td>Wed, 7/1</td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Heirloom Tomatoes</td>
<td>Master Gardeners</td>
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<td>Feng Shui in the Garden</td>
<td>Kristina Ming</td>
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<td>Starting a Vegetable Garden</td>
<td>Master Gardeners</td>
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<td>Designing “Green” Lawn Alternatives</td>
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<td>Thu, 7/2</td>
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<td>Getting Started with Drip Irrigation</td>
<td>DIG</td>
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<td>Cultivating African Violets</td>
<td>Carlsbad African Violet Society</td>
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<td>2:30</td>
<td>Going Dry for Good</td>
<td>Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca</td>
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<td>4:00</td>
<td>Exotic Air Plants</td>
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<td>Fri, 7/3</td>
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<td>Adventures in Low Water Use Gardening</td>
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<td>Sun, 7/5</td>
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<td>San Diego Bonsai Society Day</td>
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<td>Bonsai</td>
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**What’s New:**

**Plumeria** - more & more coming in and budded out.

**Hydrangeas** - Mopheads & Lacecaps - In White, Pinks and Blues - simply gorgeous.

**Euphorbia martinii** & **Euphorbia lathyris** - No flower this year- try next year.

**Euphorbia** - Flower of the year

**Doll Phormiums** - fans are about 2' mounds with very long lasting blooms.

**‘Spectabilis’** - Euphorbia 'Spectabilis' - (a beautiful elephant ear)

**Euphorbia nicaeensis** - (another spectacular euphorbia)

**Euphorbia** - Leaves are double and have beautiful colors

**Euphorbia** - Green leaves with a gorgeous magenta flower on a long stem.

**Water plants** - Arrived as I write this. Lots of Water Lilies in bud and bloom in pinks, cream, yellow, peach and blue - just gorgeous.

**Other aquatic plants** - Horsetail Reed, Yellow Snowflake, Water Cress, Pink Pickerel, White Fairy Lily.

**Candelina spectabilis** - Great rock garden plant. Green/greenish yellow leaves with a gorgeous magenta flower on a long stem. Blooms on & off thru Spring, Summer & Fall (that’s the spectabilis part).

**Euphorbia martini** & **Euphorbia Rudolph** - fabulous lime green & chartreuse (there’s that color again) flowers respectively.

**Love Plants (the Flax)** - We have more than normal varieties in the smaller 1 gallon sized – Amazing Red, Tom Thumb, Dusty Chief and Jack Spratt. Drought tolerant and low maintenance.

**Mandevilla laxa** - ‘Chilean Jasmine’ - Very fragrant white showy flowers - should stay green all year here.

**What’s Happening? for June 2009**

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

**Jun. 6, 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.

**Jun. 7, 10am – noon, Special Tour:** Informative walk through the Garden with David Yez, a professional horticulture staff member. Free. Meet at main entrance.

**Jun. 9, 9:30 – 10:30am, Ask the Landscape Designer:** Connie Beck will provide personalized landscape design counseling at the Water Conservation Garden. Email info@theGarden.org or phone for appointments. $60/members, $75/Non-members.

**Jun. 15, 6:30 – 8:30pm, Bye Bye Grass, Part II:** Nan Stemann on lawn extermination options ($45/Member, $50/Non-member).


**Jun. 18, (50/9.95) – Join Vickie Driver for an introduction to dealing with the water-shortage. Bring your plants off to a good start. Note that most of these plants like a lot of sun, the shorter days and cooler times of day to prevent quick evaporation.**

**Jun. 20, 3 – 5pm, Bye Bye Grass, Part II:** Nan Stemann on irrigation systems, much more. $45/Member of either QBG or Water Conservation Garden, $50/Non-member.

**Jun. 21, 9:30 – 11:30am, Stocks and Special Occasion:** Special shuttle tour for people with difficulty navigating the terrain. Additional reserved are required. $26, 10:30am – 1:30pm, Ask the Landscape Designer:** Linda Whitney will provide personalized 15-minute landscape design consultations at the Water Conservation Garden. Call to reserve your appointment. $60/members, $75/Non-members.

**Jun. 27, 9am – noon, Toss Your Turf (Less Water, Less Grass, More Fun! Join Vickie Driver for a short course in turf removal. Get tips for evaluating your soil, your irrigation system, plus creative ideas for beautiful low-water-use landscape. Two registrations for the price of one (same household only). $20/Members, $30/Non-members.

**Quail Botanical Gardens (contact info on other side)**

**Jun. 4, 11:30am – 7:00pm, June 20, 9:00am – noon, Wonder Woman, Under the Study of Australian Plants:** Background information on the Australian landscape along with basic information on the cultivation and care of these specimens. $80/Members, $100/Non-members.

**Jun. 19, 10am – noon, Grow a Better Vegetable Garden by Thinking Like a Farmer:** Dalechampia – Guinea Goldvine, Lonicera – Kids are a great excuse for a short course in turf removal. Get tips for evaluating your soil, your irrigation system, plus creative ideas for beautiful low-water-use landscape. Two registrations for the price of one (same household only). $20/Members, $30/Non-members.

**Quail Botanical Gardens (contact info on other side)**

**Jun. 7, 6:30pm, San Diego County Pictorial Society Program:** TBA. Beginners Class at 6:30 is in room 100, the general meeting begins at 7:30pm in Room 101. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Admission is free, everyone is welcome. www.sdchs.org.


**Jun. 7, 10am, Vista Garden Club:** Visit to our Garden members in our luncheon, Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace Dr. www.vistagardencub.org.

**Jun. 6, Walter Andersen Nursery:** 200am Fuchsia – Varieties & Care and at 1pm How to Grow Giant Pumpkins, San Diego, 3642 Enterprise St, (619) 224-8271. 9:30am, June 6, Walter Andersen Nursery: $35, 9:30am, John R. and Carolyn Wilson, 12357 Danforth Road, Fullerton. (714) 278-3407 or www.fullertonbarboretum.org.

**Jun. 9, 7pm, San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale:** Strange and exotic plants will be gathered together for your viewing. There will be sale of choice specimen plants for the novice and collector as well. Potting service and cultural information. Room 101 and Patio, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdsucculent.org.

**Jun. 9, 1 – 5pm, San Diego Rose Society Annual Rose Show:** Enter the competition between 6 and 9:30am. The show will be held at the Barona Convention Center. $5 cost. 7923 Wildcat Canyon Road, Lakeside. www.sdrosesociety.org.

**Jun. 9, 5:30 – 8:30pm, Women’s Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona. (760) 788-6709 or ramonagardenclub.com.

**Jun. 10, 7pm, San Diego Epiphyllum Society:** Information on the Australia and New Zealand orchids.

**Jun. 10, noon, Ramona Garden Club:** Program TBA. Public is welcome to attend. Ramona Woman’s Club, 324 Main Street, Ramona. (760) 788-6709 or ramonagardenclub.com.

**Jun. 13, 9:30am – 12pm, A Better Vegetables Garden:** Nan Stemann on lawn extermination options ($45/Member, $50/Non-member).

**Jun. 13, 10am, San Diego Poinsettia Society:** Program TBA. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.bsociety.org/stan_dg.html.

**Jun. 13 – 14th, 4pm, Fullerton Arboretum Perennial Plant Sale:** Huge selection and variety of perennial flowering plants. Potting Shed at the Arboretum. 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton. (714) 278-3407 or www.fullertonarboretum.org.