

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

May 2009, Number 176

Local Garden Tours

SEE PAGES 8 & 10

ANNUAL SPECIAL EVENING

SEE INSERT

WIN A PLANT

PAGE 4

SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

PAGE 5

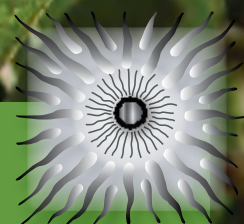
FREDERICK LAW OLMSTEAD

PAGE 12

PRUNERS WE LOVE

PAGE 14

On the Cover: Bay Leaves



SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

APRIL MEETING PHOTOS BY STACEY DORES



Alyogyne huegelii



Brugmansia x candida 'Double White'



Cytisus x praecox 'Carla'



Epiphyllum hybrid



Melianthus major

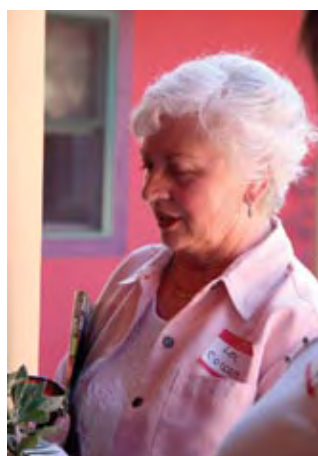


Fremontodendron californicum
(from Opportunity Drawing)



Leucocoryne

JANUARY NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION PHOTOS BY STACEY DORES



Membership Co-Chair Susan Morse, Lee Cocco, various new members.

In This Issue...

- 4 Important Member Information
- 5 To Learn More...
- 5 Science Fair Winners
- 5 From the Board
- 6 Successful Drought Tolerant Gardening:
A Spring Garden Tour
- 7 Plants That Produce
- 7 Garden Gourmet
- 8 Community Outreach: Garden Tours
A Plenty
- 9 Welcome New Members!
- 9 Discounts for Members
- 9 What's Up At Quail Botanical Gardens?
- 10 Book Review
- 10 Community Outreach: Garden Tours
A Plenty
- 12 The Real Dirt On...
- 14 Dealing With Steep Slopes
- 14 Sharing Secrets
- 17 April Plant Forum
- 21 April Meeting Report

Inserts: Calendar/Resources/Ongoing Events

COVER IMAGE: Sweet Bay (*Laurus nobilis*) is the Herb of the Year and a culinary ingredient in stews, soups and meats. Use it in the closet to deter moths, too! Photographed at Quail Botanical Gardens by Rachel Cobb.

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 8 | The Garden as Companion: A Very Special Evening with internationally celebrated artists and gardeners George Little and David Lewis. See Ticket Order Form for details. |
| June 12 – July 5 | San Diego County Fair Display Garden |
| June 13 | SDHS Garden tour in Clairemont area – details in June newsletter |
| July 13 | Perennials, Trees and Shrubs for the Southwest, by Mary Irish (members free, non-members \$5) |
| August 10 | Special event to honor Steve Brigham as Horticulturist of the Year |

www.sdhortsoc.org



Next Meeting: May 11, 2009, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: FROM GARDEN TO TABLE: “DELICIOUS TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS”

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

In an exciting change of pace, the May meeting features five experts who will each speak about ten minutes on their particular topic. May is a great time to plant your edibles, so plan to attend, bring a friend, and purchase some plants, seeds and books to get yourself off to a good start.

Herbs: Karen England, from Edgehill Herb Farm (www.edgehillherbfarm.com), will speak about herbs and bring books from the International Herb Association and issues of Maryjanes Farm magazines to sell. Karen is a member of The Herb Society of America, a popular garden speaker, and teacher of cooking with herb and edible flower classes, specializing in the art of cooking with lavender, roses and scented geraniums.

Heirloom Tomatoes: Karan Cooper, a Master Gardener, grows about 42 to 70 varieties of tomatoes each year, including varieties from all over the world, and will talk about some of the best for growing in San Diego. She started gardening at age 2 with her grandfather, and had a vegetable garden in every house she lived in. About 15 years ago she started looking for odd or uncommon tomato varieties to plant and now has seeds from England, France, Spain, Croatia and Bosnia! She will bring plants in 4" pots to sell.

Low-chill Blueberries: Ramiro Lobo will share his expertise in the challenges and opportunities in growing Southern Highbush blueberries in our mild climate. He'll review research efforts to promote blueberries as a viable commercial crop for California farmers, and you can taste several varieties from his research. Ramiro has been the Small Farm and Agricultural Economics Advisor for the Univ. of California Cooperative Extension in San Diego County since 1997, conducting research and activities to educate and support small-scale agricultural producers. His efforts have resulted in increased acreage dedicated to blueberry production locally, and throughout California, have increased awareness about this crop among California consumers, and have increased blueberry availability at farmers' markets and retail outlets.

Asian Vegetables: Mia Yamada McCarville, owner of Cedros Gardens in Solana Beach (see page 19), will talk about growing Asian vegetables (there's lots more than Bok Choi!). A native of Japan, she has been interested in gardening since childhood gardening with her parents as a hobby. Mia opened Cedros Gardens in 1992 and has been operating the nursery without the use of conventional fertilizers and treatments; she offers on-site consultation and design service. She will bring starter plants to sell.

Rare Fruit: Tom Del Hotal's specialty is in fruiting plants for warm winter climates. A nurseryman for 35 years, Tom is a horticulture instructor at Southwestern College, and owns Fantasia Gardens nursery, which specializes in fruiting plants. Tom is a past president of the San Diego Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers. He'll be showing uncommon fruiting plants: Grumichama (*Eugenia brasiliensis*), Jaboticaba (*Myrciaria cauliflora*), Acerola (*Malpighia glabra*), Star Fruit (*Averrhoa carambola*), Cherry of the Rio Grande (*Eugenia aggregata*) and Dragon Fruit (*Hylocereus* sp.).

To learn more 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

Judy Bradley – First Vice President, Co-Chair-Program Committee
Mark Collins – Finance/Budget Committee
Julian Duval – Quail Botanical Gardens Representative
Pat Hammer – Events & Outreach Committee
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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BECOME A SPONSOR!

Do you own a garden-related business?

SDHS sponsorships have high recognition and valuable benefits, including a link to your website, discounts on memberships for your employees, and free admission to SDHS events. This is a wonderful way to show your support for the SDHS. Sponsors help pay for our free meetings, annual college scholarships, and other important programs. Sponsorships start at just \$100/year; contact 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

WIN A PLANT BEFORE THE BREAK!

At our meetings we sell Opportunity Drawing tickets for swell plants that are sold to us by local nurseries. But not all of our members can stay for the second half of the meeting – after the break – which is when we do the drawing. We're now doing the drawing BEFORE the break, so if you need to leave early you'll still have the opportunity to win a great plant. Proceeds from the drawing go to support the SDHS and help pay for the meeting room.

TREE BOOK ON SALE

At the May meeting just \$20 buys you *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*, which we produced and published. This beautiful book has over 600 color photos and descriptions of 260 trees all photographed in San Diego. The regular retail price is \$34.95. Having a check made out to SDHS (or exact change) will speed up the purchasing process. If you've waited to buy the book, don't delay any longer!

GET YOUR HORT BUCKS!

If someone joins because you told them about us, and they give us your name when they pay their dues, we will mail you a "Hort Buck" worth \$5 towards Opportunity Drawing tickets, name tags, Plant Forum CDs or dues. A list of the members who got Hort Bucks this year is on page 9. To get your Hort Bucks just ask your friends to give us your name when they join. Even better – give your friends a membership as a gift and put your name down for the Hort Bucks!

IRIS BOOK DONATION

Thanks to new member Katharina Notarianni for donating a copy of her gorgeous book, *The Beauty of Irises*, to our library. To purchase a copy for yourself see ad on page 22.



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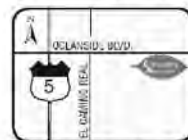
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 Friday-Saturday.....7:30am-6:00pm
 Sunday.....9:00am-5:00pm

To Learn More...

DELICIOUS TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

By Ava Torre-Bueno

This month we'll investigate YouTube for videos that expand on the garden to table theme. The most obvious one is GardenGirlTV at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/GardenGirltv>

This link takes you to Patti Moreno's YouTube site where you can watch videos about urban organic gardening as well as how to cook the many foods you grow.

Then search in YouTube for "Square Foot Gardening" to see many, many videos about this highly efficient way to grow vegetables for your table. To see how far some urban farmers can go, search YouTube for:

WSJ clip: suburban farming, an idea whose time has come/

These are folks who are farming their own front and back yards AND their neighbors!

Here's a video about an urban homestead just up the road in Pasadena – search YouTube for Homegrown Revolution - Radical Change Taking Root

Also see the Path to Freedom website at: <http://www.pathtofreedom.com>

This is a family that has turned a tenth of an acre into a farm that feeds and sustains them and from which they sell to local restaurants.

There's nothing like eating what you grow! Only a cow can eat your lawn – pull it out and make a garden for yourself and your family!

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>. 🌿

Science Fair Winners

By Al Myrick

April first was no April Fool's day for the two winners and two runners up of the San Diego Horticultural Society's Science Fair judging in Balboa Park. Our judging "Dream Team" of Carl Price, Ellen Reardon, Phil Tackill, Janet Wanerka, "Bamboo" Bob Dimattia, George Yackey, Dale Rekus and Cindy Sparks (and led by Al Myrick) once again did their self-rewarding civic duty in interviewing dozens of outstanding horticulturally related projects to choose our 2009 winners and two honorable mentions.

Our choice in the Senior Division is **Alicia Guerra**, an 11th grader at Bonita Vista High. Her Project: "Supplementary Analysis of the Latency of Macronutrients, Electrical Conductivity." Alicia invented a simple filtration system to filter grey water for use on plants. In addition to our award, Alicia placed a first in general judging and will go to the State science fair competition. Her project also received many other professional society awards. Our award for the Junior Division goes to **Aaron Schrock**, a 7th grader at Santa Fe Christian, for his project entitled: "Impact of Different Kinds of Grey Water on Plants." Aaron tested 24 plants in four sample sets to determine whether plants grew better in wash water containing biodegradable or non-biodegradable soap. Aaron's project placed second in the general judging. Our judges also recognized two projects in the Junior Division for Honorable Mention. They are: **Daniel Pekin**, a 7th grader at School of Madeleine, for "Worms Versus Chemicals," and **Riley Adams**, a 7th grader at Rhoades School, for "Experimental Methods of Eradicating Invasive Pampas Grass."

Our two top winners will each receive a check from SDHS for \$100. All four students will receive a one-year SDHS family membership. They all have been invited to the SDHS August meeting to be introduced and to present their projects. We hope you'll visit their displays and ask about their projects. 🌿

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. She's ready to train someone new to take over, so if you have a head for numbers this is your dream job! [Bookkeeper Teresa McGee (no relation) does the data entry, invoicing, bill paying, and many other tasks.] Please call Susi at (760) 295-7089 and let's talk!

YOUR BOARD AT WORK

Your board members have been quite busy keeping things running and working on new projects. Here's some of the things we're spending time on these days:

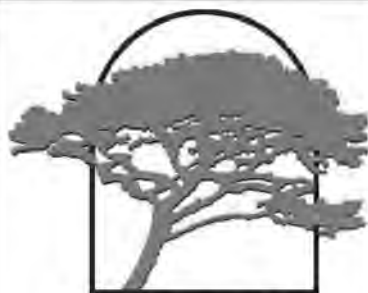
Website Upgrade – By June we hope to have our new and greatly improved website up and running, thanks to the efforts of the website committee (Sally Sandler, Bill Teague, Shari Matteson and Jason Kubrock). The website designer is Rachel Cobb, who does such a tremendous job making our newsletter so attractive. The new website will have useful – and fun! – interactive features, a whole new look, and expanded information.

Future Speakers – The program committee (Judy Bradley, CarolAnn Lewin, Jennifer Axelrod, Lorraine Bolton, Juli Gillett and Bill Nugent) are putting together a great lineup of speakers for 2010. Watch for more meetings around that critical topic – sustainable gardening, and lots of speakers we haven't heard from before.

Local Garden Tours – Pat Hammer heads up the tour committee (with Heather Hazen, Kathy LaFleur and Jim Wright). They're putting the finishing touches on two local tours as we go to press – one will be in and near Clairemont and the other will go inland. Details in upcoming newsletters!

Community Outreach – In April (and by the end of May) our Membership Co-Chair Susan Morse, aided by a number of volunteers, represented SDHS at seven different community events. It's a great way to share our horticultural knowledge and let people know about the many benefits of belonging to the Society.

SDHS at the Fair – One of our biggest outreach and education events of the year is the display garden we have at the San Diego County Fair. Bill Teague, Jason Kubrock, and other board members and volunteers are busy designing our garden for this year's Fair, which runs from June 12 through July 5. We hope you'll all come see it and say hi to our Horticulturists of the Day who stand near the display to answer a myriad of gardening questions. 🌿



Cuyamaca College
Botanical Society

Cuyamaca College Botanical Society

28th Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet

Thursday
May 14
6 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Mission Bay

For more information
regarding Scholarships
and Internships
contact John Thomas
at
(619) 660-4262
or
john.thomas@gcccd.edu

Successful Drought Tolerant Gardening

Edited by Cindy Sparks

A Spring Garden Tour: Drought Tolerant Gardening

Your homework this month is to visit successful drought tolerant gardens in your climate zone, and gather ideas for your new plantings. Take your digital camera or cell phone to capture the scenes you like.

First, See the Big Two:

Water Conservation Garden (www.thegarden.org) in El Cajon has a Cactus and Succulent garden, a native plants area, and many Mediterranean climate plants. This free inland public resource has interpretive exhibits and a full schedule of free or low-cost classes. While you're there pick up the just-updated *The Nifty 50* brochure listing top Water Smart plants, the garden's current Calendar of Events, and *California Friendly Gardening for San Diego County*, an interactive CD.

Quail Botanical Gardens (www.qbgardens.org) in Encinitas: a large, public coastal garden with demonstration gardens featuring Mediterranean plants, herbs, firesafe landscaping and native plants. Docent-led tours, classes, and lectures are available. A major new Children's Garden opens in June.

Next, See Special Purpose Examples:

San Diego County Water Authority Headquarters, 4677 Overland Dr, San Diego, and the City of San Diego Environmental Services Building, 9601 Ridgehaven Ct., San Diego. These are two of the best inland commercial showpiece gardens (think bullet-proof, low maintenance, all four exposures, nobody-lives-here-but-it-still-looks-great).

LUX Art Institute (see photo, www.luxartinstitute.org), 1550 S. El Camino Real, Encinitas, has a steep hillside site with a young native garden (designed by Greg Rubin, www.calown.com). See this if you have a hillside, cut or slope to plant, or if your land abuts wildlands or canyons.

If you live near the beach, see the Self-Realization Fellowship Meditation Garden's seaside cactus and succulent garden, up on the bluff overlooking the surf; Encinitas - Highway 101 near K Street.

Then, Let Your Fingers Do the Walking

Include noteworthy web resources in your toolbox. These two commercial nurseries provide some of the best-organized free information



"Home" grouping at LUX.

Photo: C. Sparks

on native plants and their hybrids: Tree of Life Nursery specializing in California native plants, has a wonderful catalog with plant photos and descriptions. (www.treeoflifenuresery.com). Las Pilitas Nursery has a search engine for your location/zipcode and detailed conditions, plus you can sort on choice of plant size, height, color, water needs (www.mynativeplants.com).

If Your Eyes Have Glazed Over from Information Overload

Take a virtual tour of pretty examples. Underlying information is just a click away. www.bewaterwise.com, click on *garden spot*. Read *Planning Your California Friendly Garden In Seven Easy Steps*. Nothing says you can't simply copy something you see and like.

Your new CD, *California Friendly Gardening*, has virtual gardens with resources and plant lists paired with big, clear photos. If you didn't buy one earlier, check out the copy in our Horticultural Society library.

And Last, Go for a Walk

The best examples of what will grow well in your area may await in a neighbor's yard. Take a walk around your neighborhood, paying special attention to the landscapes you find intriguing. Be prepared to meet new friends. Gardeners everywhere are happy to tell you about their plants and techniques.

Upcoming: special treatment of succulents, bird-friendly, and native plants. Then we'll cover design and have you ready to plant in the fall.

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

Plants That Produce

GREEN VEGGIES AND HERBS FOR EVERY GARDEN, PART I

By Richard Frost

One of the joys of my vocation is working with hundreds of kinds of herbs and vegetables. This month I want to share with you several varieties that I feel are under-represented in home gardens and everyday meals.

I prefer growing lettuce in a pot. Prune the desired amount of leaf right before your meal, rinse them off and place in your salad spinner to remove excess moisture. In addition to the standard varieties, try Red Sails lettuce for the added anthocyanins, and mild-tasting Mache that is loved by people of all ages.

Now I think salad is more interesting with added greens. Use Salad Burnett leaves for a mild cucumber flavor. Tender young leaves of Chard, Kale, and Spinach are a good addition. Leaves of Shiso and Heal All are also likely not to offend anyone's tastes. When it becomes too hot to grow Spinach, switch to Amaranth Leaf.

Arugula has almost become a salad staple in southern California. The Roquette and Runway varieties develop into large dandelion-size plants which become stronger and more sour in taste with age. The Sylvetta variety is more compact and develops a strong pepper taste with age. For more peppery taste there is the relatively mild Chicory, the moderate Endive, the stronger Frisée, and the pungent Radicchio.

For people who like sour greens there is the mild Red-Veined Sorrel, the stronger French Sorrel, and the pungent Asian Mustard Greens. For European mustard flavors there is Water Cress leaf (*Nasturtium officinalis*), Curly Cress, and my favorite: Upland Cress. Use these in a fish sandwich, stir fry, or any place you like mustard.

Some people like Chervil (aka French Parsley) instead of the standard Italian Parsley. But why grow either of these annuals when you can have the perennial Mitsuba – Japanese Parsley (*Cryptotaenia japonica*)? Along these same lines, the annual Cutting Celery (*Apium graveolens* cultivar) is less fibrous and better tasting than standard celery – a great substitute in any situation. But you could be growing the perennial Chinese Celery (*Oenanthe javanica*) year-round! And for that matter, if you don't mind a hint of Anise flavor, the perennial Lovage is also an excellent choice.

Did you know that the native peoples of the Americas use Epazote in the same way that Europeans used Celery? Use it as a substitute – in moderation, and you will cause just about any dish with celery to change continents. Likewise, the culinary Cleveland's Sage will add a southwestern flair to any recipe calling for Sage. For the traditional Sage flavor chefs will choose the Berggarten cultivar, but the giant Holts Mammoth Sage and colorful Purple Sage are said to be its equal in blind taste tests.

For Tarragon lovers, it has to be French Tarragon. If this is too tart for you, consider Spanish Tarragon (*Tagetes lucida*) which is in the Marigold group of Daisies. But if you would like even more zest, it is the perennial Winter Savory for you – a beautiful dark green plant that works well in a pot or a planter. I think the tarragon flavor goes well with most foods, including omelets, pastas, and even roasts.

Hopefully this has gotten your taste buds warmed up. Next month I will add more to this subject, so plan on having one heck of a good thyme!

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

STIR FRY PROVIDES FOUR IN ONE

By Alice Lowe

These days it seems we're all gourmets, but we're also health-conscious, budget-conscious, and strapped for time. Quick and delicious one-pan meals using fresh ingredients have been around longer than any food fads – just consider Chinese stir-fries and Japanese "teppanyaki" tableside cooking.

With or without a wok or iron hotplate, you can adapt this preparation to any ingredients you have on hand. Stir-fries can be built around meat, fowl, fish or tofu, though usually these are used sparingly rather than dominating the dish. I love to stir-fry in roast peanut oil – it takes the high heats and adds wonderful flavor and fragrance; grapeseed or vegetable oils are fine too, and of course olive oil, though it burns easily.

I always start with onion – sometimes diced tiny, sometimes in big chunks – a couple of minutes by itself to release the flavor and soften just a little. Carrots, broccoli, cabbage and mushrooms make a winning trio any time of year. Occasionally I stir in cherry tomatoes for enough time to get nice and hot but not to burst – even out-of-season and flavorless, they take on a wonderful taste and texture. And greens, lots of greens, whatever's available. Ava Torre-Bueno shares my CSA (Community-Supported Agriculture) produce deliveries and has been delighted with the array of fresh, leafy greens. A stir-fry devotee, she offers the following, which I plan to try:

"My stir-fry has gotten fancier since I've been eating farm food with you. My basic stir-fry is a hunk of ginger sliced thin and sautéed in olive and sesame oil that has mild curry and cumin in it. Then I add half a pound of firm tofu cut in cubes. After I turn that all over I add 1/4 head of sliced cabbage, some sliced beet greens, and today I used the dandelion greens, too. I add almost a tablespoon of low-salt soy sauce and a couple of tablespoons of water and cover, turning a couple of times, and cook it till the greens are the consistency I like. I used to just put the tofu and ginger over lettuce, but I like all these greens a lot better."

What else? Throw on a handful of chopped cilantro and/or green onions before serving, and a generous squeeze of lemon or lime, a splash of soy sauce, a dash of sesame oil. Go hot with chili garlic or Sriracha sauce, or milder but still spicy with black bean or oyster sauce. If you like it saucy, cornstarch mixed with stock can be stirred in near the end until it thickens. Traditional stir-fries are cooked quickly, uncovered, over high heat, but you also can let them blend and simmer by covering and turning down the heat. And finally, we think of stir-fries served over rice, but why not rice or buckwheat noodles. Or couscous. Or quinoa. There you have it – healthy, inexpensive, quick and yummy – four in one.

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



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Community Outreach

GARDEN TOURS A PLENTY

By Linda Johnson

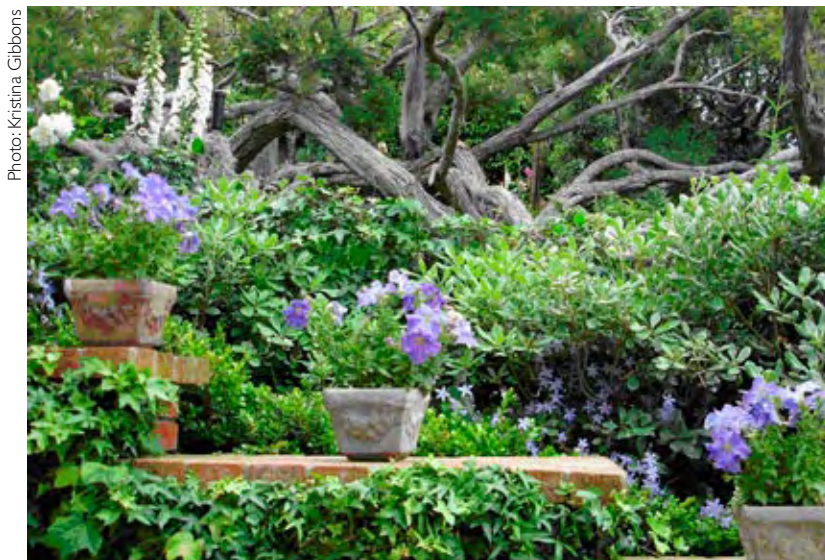
La Jolla Historical Society's Secret Garden Tour of Old La Jolla Saturday, May 9, 10:00am-4:00pm

Seven beautiful gardens on this 11th annual tour with a twist...shhhh...will remain secret until the day of the tour, when they will be revealed in the program booklet handed out to those with reservations. (One of last year's gardens is shown below). Benefiting the discovery, collection and preservation of La Jolla's heritage, this event also features music performed by local musicians, displays by local designers, and paintings of the gardens by local artists.

Tickets sell out every year, so hurry and make your reservations! The cost is \$40 for La Jolla Historical Society members, \$50 for non-members; and for the Platinum Tour, \$140 for LJHS members, and \$150 for non-members. The Platinum Tour features shuttle transportation, a bonus garden, a special brunch, and guided tours of all the secret gardens. Purchase tickets at www.lajollahistory.org or by mail (download a form from the website, mail with payment to LJHS, P.O. Box 2085, La Jolla, CA 92038).

Volunteers who help with 2-hour shifts as garden docents or with set-up or check-in will get a free reservation for the Self-Guided tour (for before or after their shifts). **Contact:** Kristina Gibbons, Office Manager, LJHS, at (858)459-5335.

2008 Secret Garden Tour



Mission Hills Garden Club's "Back to Our Roots" Garden Tour and Walk Saturday, May 9, 10:00am-4:00pm

One of the biggest garden tours of the year, this event's 14 gardens feature the theme "Back to Our Roots," demonstrating good gardening practices, including: low water-use gardens, recycling of garden materials, and planting less grass. The Mission Hills Garden Club (www.missionhillsgardenclub.org) will donate proceeds to garden and landscape-related projects in the Mission Hills area. The event begins at the Mission Hills Nursery; tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the event. Purchase in advance at www.missionhillsgardenclub.org or at Mission Hills Nursery, 1525 Fort Stockton Drive; Cedros Gardens, 330 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach; or Walter Andersen Nursery, 3642 Enterprise St., Point Loma. For day of the event, purchase only at Mission Hills Nursery. **Contact: 619-923-3624.**

Continued on page 10

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:

We welcome SterlingTours and Forget-Me-Not Landscape Design as our newest Sponsors!

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| Geoffrey & Shem Clow | Simone Mager |
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| Claude & Jaqueline | Teri Rider |
| Gigoux | Jaqueline Ridge |
| Alice Guerra | Aaron Schrock |

NEW ADVERTISERS:

JUNE SPECIAL SPEAKER, INSERT

Cactus & Succulent Society Show, INSERT

Huntington Gardens Plant Sale, PAGE 13

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) | Susan Morse (1) |
| Connie Beck (1) | Al & Dora Myrick (1) |
| Cecily Bird (1) | Jan Neill (1) |
| Linda Bresler (1) | Cindy Sparks (1) |
| Karylee Feldman (1) | Darlene Villanueva (1) |
| Lori Johansen (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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| | |
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| Norm Applebaum & | Jane Minshall* (2006) |
| Barbara Roper | Bill Nelson* (2007) |
| Gladys T. Baird | Tina & Andy Rathbone |
| Debra Lee Baldwin | Peggy Ruzich |
| Wayne Carlson | Susi & Jose Torre-Bueno |
| Laurie Connable | Don Walker* (2005) & |
| Julian & Leslie Duval | Dorothy Walker |
| Edgar Engert* (2000) | Lucy Warren |
| Jim Farley | Evelyn Weidner* (2001) |
| Sue & Charles Fouquette | Pat Welsh* (2003) |
| Penelope Hlavac | Betty Wheeler |
| Debbie & Richard Johnson | |

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

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

What's Up at Quail Botanical Gardens?

CREATING MAGIC WITH SUCCULENT PLANTS

Water rationing will soon be upon us—what better way to cut back on our water usage than to plant a succulent garden? Any one of us can plunk down a bunch of succulents but how do we create an environment that is enchanting, even magical?

In "Creating Magic with Succulent Plants," you can learn from three well-known experts in the field of succulents how to create a lush and lovely landscape with these amazing water-wise plants. On May 14, Debra Lee Baldwin, award-winning photojournalist and author of the bestseller *Designing with Succulents*, will give a general introduction with a sneak peek at her forthcoming book on succulent container gardens. On May 21, Michael Buckner, landscape designer and owner of "The Plant Man" nursery, will talk about overall landscape design and factors that make it work—soil prep, cultural requirements, etc. And on May 28, horticulturist Patrick Anderson, creator of one of the most celebrated succulent gardens in California, will show you how to combine succulents with other plants and create marvelous garden vignettes. On Saturday, May 30, all three experts will participate in a panel discussion let by Julian Duval to answer your questions on gardening with succulent plants. After a short break, we will take a tour of the succulent plantings at Quail Botanical Gardens, which will include a new succulent garden surrounding the Administration Building.

May is a busy month at Quail Botanical Gardens. In addition to the class listed above, we have the Chocolate Festival (May 9 – see ad on back cover), Palm and Cycad Sale (May 30), and a huge array of classes including Bye Bye Grass with Nan Sterman, Container Gardening with the Flower Girls, and Free Composting Workshop with the Solana Center Master Composters. For details please visit www.qbgardens.org

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Saturday, May 30, 9 am – 12 noon

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Book Review

Leaves In Myth, Magic & Medicine

By Alice Thoms Vitale
Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh



Every once in a while a book is so beautifully designed that it's almost impossible to walk past it in a bookstore. *Leaves* is one of those books. I think the designer fell in love with the book as I did. It seems to invite you to pick it up. It's small and square (six and three-quarters inches on each side) and thick. When

you open the book, it fits nicely in the hand. The background of the dust jacket is the palest celadon green. A large print of a cecropia leaf (*Cecropia palmata*) in a medium green fills the front. The lettering is in a green so deep, it's almost black. The text and the illustrations (other than the leaf prints) are a nice woody brown on the same pale celadon as the dust jacket.

Leaf autoprints done by the author are the heart of the book. The dust jacket tells us that she's in her nineties, a retired librarian, and now an artist and lecturer. She collected most of the leaves in her 30 years of travel around the United States and Europe. For this book she selected leaves, with a few exceptions, of trees, shrubs, and woody vines that grow in the U. S. or produce products which are well known here.

She used a simple but exacting technique to make the prints. She inked each leaf carefully with a small roller and then lowered the paper onto it. When the ink had soaked in, the paper was carefully removed and allowed to dry. The results are so striking, it almost seems you could lift the leaves off the pages.

Her text, although secondary to the prints, is fun. It's a compendium of information about the plants from both ancient and modern sources. For example, in the text about the California laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) we learn that Native Americans wrapped the leaves around their heads to relieve headache. New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) was the substitute of choice after British tea was boycotted before the Revolutionary War. American Shakers used peach leaf tea (*Prunus persica*) to get rid of worms (not in the garden). Silkworms need 200 pounds of mulberry leaves (*Morus alba*) to produce one pound of silk.

Each leaf gets a two, three, or four page "chapter." The book (ISBN-13: 978-0-7607-8920-9) includes 110 plants in its 352 pages. It's hardbound, and as you would expect with a book written by a former librarian, it has an extensive bibliography. In addition to this book, Vitale's beautiful images are also available in an address book and as postcards. Any of the three would make a nice gift for a gardener.

I'm surprised to note that *Leaves* was originally published in 1997 by Harry Abrams, Inc., and republished in 2007 by Barnes & Nobel—up to now, a bookseller only. Book publishing is going through radical changes. Keep an eye out for news stories about this. I think you'll find them interesting. 🌿

Community Outreach

Continued from page 8

**Bonita Valley Garden Club's
Annual Garden Tour "Bonita in Bloom"
Wednesday, May 13, 10:00am-3:00pm**

This fundraising event features five unique and beautiful Bonita Valley gardens, with proceeds from the tour supporting horticulture scholarships for students at Southwestern and Cuyamaca Colleges. The self-guided tour includes gardens with spectacular views, terracing, outdoor living spaces, many water features (including falls and ponds with koi), lots of blooming flowers, and trees from pines to Japanese maples.

Tickets are \$15 in advance; an optional box lunch is available (with advance reservation) for \$10. Day of the event tickets (\$20) may be purchased starting at 9:30am at the Bonita/Sunnyside Library, Community Room, 4375 Bonita Rd., Bonita 91902. A plant sale and raffle will also be held at the Library on the day of the tour. **Contact: Vera Matthias, (619) 479-0429.**



**Fallbrook Garden Club's Annual Garden Tour
Saturday, May 30, 9:00am-3:00pm**

Enter a turret on a castle to reach one of the beautiful gardens on this fifth annual tour, benefiting the Fallbrook Garden Club scholarship fund and other community projects. Also included are gardens with art and sculptures scattered among drought-tolerant and tropical plants (see photo below), a vegetable garden, a train garden, a labyrinth and many others.

Tickets (\$20 for one person, \$35 for two), are sold only from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the day of the tour at the Fallbrook Historical Society, 260 Rocky Crest Road, Fallbrook. Garden-related items will also be sold at the Historical Society. Also, visit www.fallbrookhistoricalsociety.com for other events and information. **Contact: Pat McDougal, Garden Tour Chairperson, at (760) 275-7320.** 🌿



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**FREDERICK LAW OL MSTED**

By Linda Bresler

Frederick Law Olmsted is generally acknowledged to be the founder of American landscape architecture. The National Park Service also proclaimed him to be "the nation's foremost park maker." Olmsted was born into a wealthy Hartford, Connecticut family in 1822. Just before he was to enter Yale College a bad case of sumac poisoning weakened his eyes and forced him to give up his college plans.

After trying and failing at being a farmer, he toured England and other European countries with his brother, worked as a seaman, and traveled throughout the southern United States as a newspaper correspondent. From his travels through England, he became greatly influenced by the English "picturesque" style of landscaping. Drawing on his experiences there, in 1852 he wrote *Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England*.

Olmsted was influenced by a growing international feeling that cities needed to be transformed into more hospitable places, and not just be centers of commerce. The idea of city beautification took hold among the leaders of society. The theory behind this movement was that the more aesthetically pleasing you make a city, the more people would want to live in that city and the happier they would be.

In 1857, Olmsted was appointed as the Superintendent of New York City's Central Park. After Andrew Jackson Downing, an influential landscape architect and Olmsted's mentor, who had been working on a design for the park, died in an accident, Olmsted collaborated with Downing's former partner, Calvert Vaux, an English-born architect, on the project. Their plan, titled Greensward, was chosen in a design competition. Besides designing the 843 acre park, Olmsted oversaw its development.

Central Park was a tremendous success, and established the themes which are now closely associated with Olmsted. He incorporated hills, trees, lakes and curved walkways to give visitors intriguing vistas and a feeling of serene isolation from the city. Olmsted believed that common green space must be equally accessible to all citizens. He also believed in the power of landscaped scenery to exercise a restorative and civilizing influence.

In 1859, Olmsted married his brother's widow, Mary Cleveland (Perkins) Olmsted, and adopted her three sons. They had two additional children together. During the Civil War, Olmsted took leave as director of Central Park to work in Washington, D.C. as Executive Secretary of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, which was a precursor to the Red Cross. He tended to the wounded during the war.

In 1863, Olmsted resigned his position with the park over political differences. He accepted a position as Superintendent of the Fremont Mariposa Mining Estates, a gold-mining venture in northern California. After two years he returned to New York, where he and Vaux were reappointed landscape architects for Central Park. The park took 25 years to complete and negatively impacted Olmsted's physical health

Continued on page 14

Above: Frederick Law Olmsted, 1893, by T. Johnson, engraver; from a photograph by Notman, James. "Frederick Law Olmsted." October 1893. The Evolution of the Conservation Movement, 1850-1920, Library of Congress.

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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:

Tell us about your pruning shears – what brand do you like, how do you keep them sharp, any tips you'd like to share?

Walter Andersen prunes 1000 roses a year with his shears: "I think the best shears out there are probably Felco. For the most part, they seem not to wear out, if cared for. They make many different ones for different hands, and some for lefties. They are super good quality and if you care for them properly they should last almost forever. Many of the parts are replaceable, like the blades, so putting in a new blade should make them almost as good as new. I'll probably get spanked for this, but what I mostly use is a Corona anvil type pruning shears. There are several reasons I like these. In most cases they take less pressure (strength) to cut a 5/8" branch or less. They are relatively inexpensive, around \$20, so if you happen to misplace them or worse throw them in the trash with all of your prunings, you have not thrown away a small fortune, or an heirloom. They have bright red handles, which helps to see them if you lay them down amongst some clippings. A small file will keep the blade sharp. Sometimes you can find replacement blades, but it is a chore to change them. Corona also makes a ratchet pruner that is great for folks who just don't have the strength to use ordinary shears. For these to work, you squeeze the handles several

Olmsted Continued from page 12

due to the complexities of the implementation process. Olmsted and Vaux worked together to design Prospect Park in Brooklyn, and several other projects.

Among Olmsted's many other projects were the design of city parks for Boston, Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Buffalo, New York; Mount Royal Park in Montreal; the redesign of the grounds of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.; Stanford University in Palo Alto; University of California, Berkeley; and the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. In designing residential communities near large cities, Olmsted sought to create a new kind of community. He wanted to join the best aspects of the city and country life by linking the residential suburb with the central city working place by rapid transit. Some of his most successful designs were the communities of suburban Chicago's Riverside; Atlanta, Georgia; and Belle Isle, Michigan.

Olmsted also strongly influenced the development of the country's national park system. He wrote a report to the California legislature calling for the preservation of Yosemite and Big Tree Falls. This report established precedent as the first methodical interpretation of a democratic government's duty to preserve public lands. Delivered in 1865, the report laid the groundwork for the creation of state and national parks.

Olmsted retired in 1895 due to failing health and died in 1903. His landscape architecture firm was continued by his sons and remained in business until 1980.

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

times for a cut, and this leverage means you use much less strength than using other types of shears. It does take longer to make cuts, 3 or 4 squeezes per cut, but these are very good for older folks who just don't have the strength to prune with most other shears. I usually prune over 1000 roses each season as our bare root roses arrive, the anvil type Corona shear works well for me. Some claim the anvil type shears tends to *crush the stem* on one side. If you are pruning roses 1/4" above an eye I don't think it matters much if the stem is crushed some; they all seem to grow. I have not encountered any problems this way. If you are pruning softer stems this may be a concern, and then the bypass type shear would be best."

Vivian Blackstone likes Felcos: "I mostly use Felco pruners, but as a back-up when other people come around I use Corona, and have a spare pair of Fiskars. I have them sharpened by someone who comes around to Henry's Ace Hardware on different days. By cleaning/oiling them after each use the blades last longer. I also use Japanese pruners (no English name) sold at the Bonsai Club in Balboa Park or elsewhere."

Linda Bresler says, "I use Felco pruning shears, the ones for small hands. I find that my hands don't get as tired from repetitive pruning with the smaller size."

Kathy Gatlin likes a ratchet pruner: "I simply could not survive without my Florian hand pruners! Bought the first pair many years ago at the Del Mar Fair after watching the demo at the Florian booth. The ratchet action is the key that makes them so wonderful; repeated small compressions slice easily through a one inch branch even with the arthritis in my fingers. Before the Fair increased entrance security, it was possible to get through the gate with used pruners in hand and the Florian guys would sharpen and hold them for you. Now if the pruners get out of alignment or have any other issue, you can send the old pair to the company and they will exchange with a new pair for \$11. For me that's a bargain as they are an indispensable part of my gardening. Note: When I helped my neighbor prune her roses this year, she often struggled to cut through canes. I kept trading pruners with her and before we were done she was at the computer ordering her Florians!"

Will Johnson prunes as part of his landscaping business: "I sharpen my blade regularly – at least once a week. I use my pruners for digging out weeds/roots, so the tip of the blade goes dull frequently. I've used diamond sharpeners for years; you can lay the pruner on its side on the tailgate of the truck, file it for a minute or two, and it's good to go. Nothing like a razor-sharp blade! When the sharpening reduces the blade length too much, I replace the blade. After years of heavy pruning, I have a bit of arthritis in my pruning hand. Despite that, for my grip, I like Corona's 1" aluminum model #6250. It is lighter & a bit more comfortable though more expensive than Corona's forged model #3180. It's also easy to get repair parts (new blade/spring), and the company absolutely guarantees their products against everything you can throw at them, (including abuse). I've used Bahco & Felco – but Corona is a better value for me. I recently tried the newer ergonomic Fiskars pruner, 'approved by the Arthritis Association.' I found the gears clog with dirt, the bypass (scissor-action) got sticky – back to the Coronas."

Roxanne Kim-Perez takes good care of her pruners: "I love my little pruners that I found in my mother-in-law's house. Every time I use her pruners it reminds me about her. She probably bought this one because it was inexpensive at the time. It's a Corona #8 with red grip handle. I love this one because it is small, light and easy to carry around. I carry it in my car's glove compartment, and it's small enough to fit in my purse. When I go to the nursery I will have little cuttings

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Sharing Secrets Continued from page 15

for my clients to show what the plants are like so they can see the flowers. After I finish using my pruners, I clean them with antibacterial hand wipes that I carry around in the car. It's handy and you can clean it right away before you put away for next time use. But of course, you need to dry off the pruners with a paper or cloth towel after using the wipe. I carry these items with me all the time, because you just never know when you might find that beautiful flower."

Alice Lowe found her pruners: "When I bought my house 15 years ago, I found a pair of old, even then, pruning shears in a little storage room attached to the garage. I don't remember what I'd been using and had brought with me, but from the time I first gripped them, I've never used any others. They're all steel, blackened with age, with black rubber covers over the handles, and no name or identifying marks on them. They're quite small and very simple - straight blades, a coil spring and a latch. But they're mighty - they cut through everything and never lose their sharpness. Because they're so nondescript looking and could easily be overlooked, I've tied a bright orange ribbon on them so as to find them when I've left them in a pot or a patch of dirt, although more than once I've misplaced them for days at a time. I try to remember to put them in the shed at night but have often left them out, even in the rain. I occasionally clean them off with olive oil, but not as often as I should; and yet they continue to reward me with loyal service. I think fondly of Mrs. Hunt, the woman from whom I bought the house. She was infirm and moved in with family; I think her gardening days were long over and her pruning shears forgotten, so I'm glad to have given them a new lease on life and to enjoy them as I'm sure she once did."

Cathy Tylka says, "I inherited a pair of Friskars. They are stainless steel and are from Finland, and do not rust and continue to have an excellent cutting blade. I have misused them for about 3 years, and altho terribly dirty they are still wonderful. I think my friend, who

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- April 4 & 5
- **Blues Day**
- April 18
- **Canon Photo Workshop**
- April 19
- **Arts & Crafts Fair**
- April 18 & 19
- **Orchid Sale**
- April 24 - 26
- **Bonsai Show and Sale**
- May 9 - 10
- **Mother's Day Celebration**
- May 10

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originally purchased them, got them online. I don't have many tools that I would brag about, but these are it. I do have a back up pair; all they say on the blades is Japan and I think I purchased them at Home Depot; the best I can say is they work."

Melissa Worton got expert advice about her pruners: "Felco 10 Left-hand pruner is what I use. Years ago, when Roger Swain was the featured speaker at SDHS, he and I had the opportunity to have a conversation regarding left-handed garden tools. He measured my hand against his and recommended the Felco model 10. He was spot on with his recommendation. At the end of our chat, he gave me an important piece of advice, 'Don't loan them out!'"

Tynan Wyatt uses different pruners for different size jobs: "For any twigs or branches less than about a 1/2" I love using my Felco hand pruners, but anything over that and I have to say I'd rather use a sharp pruning saw. I find the loppers I've used so far have a tendency to tear rather than cut the back side of the bark of tree branches, making that part of the cut heal more slowly than the rest, which increases exposure to pests and diseases. Using a pruning saw to cut these medium size branches might take longer, but I like the clean cut I get."

The question for next month is:

What is your oldest potted plant?

Send your e-mail reply by May 5 to info@sdhortsoc.org. ✉

April Plant Forum

By Mo Price, Susi Torre-Bueno and Cathy Tylka

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.

Cistus xcorbariensis (syn. *Cistus xhybridus*) ROCKROSE (Cistaceae) S. Europe

A dense spreading and mounding shrub growing 2-4' tall by 4-5' wide, this is an butterfly attracting plant. Likes full sun and prefers well-drained soil. Tolerates seaside conditions. Blooms April to October, with reddish buds followed by white flowers with yellow centers. The waxy evergreen leaves are dark green. Low water requirements (some references say it is drought-tolerant). The plant is a natural hybrid of *C. populifolius* x *C. salviifolius*. (Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 4/09) – C.T. & S.T-B.

Clarkia unguiculata ELEGANT CLARKIA (Onagraceae) California

A beautiful native annual with 1-2" wide late spring and early summer flowers in various shades of white to dark pink. It is native to San Diego County (and elsewhere), and can get over 3' tall and wide in a good location. One of the best reference books on our native flora, *California Native Plants for the Garden*, notes that, "The blossoms are well spaced along the stems and are produced over a long period of time. Individual petals have a long, stalk-like base and give the flowers

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April Plant Forum

a spidery appearance." A long-lasting cut flower, too! Will reseed in the garden, so site it carefully. According to the on-line catalog for J. L. Hudson, Seedsman (www.jlhudsonseeds.net), "The parched, ground seeds were eaten with acorn mush." (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/09) – S.T-B.

Cytisus xpraecox 'Carla' WARMINSTER BROOM

(Leguminosae [Papilionaceae]) Garden Hybrid

This stunning plant is a cross of *C. multiflorus* (from Portugal and Spain) crossed with *C. purgans* (from Southern Europe and North Africa). It is an evergreen shrub which grows to 5' tall and wide in sun or partial shade. It blooms in April and May, with eye-catching pink and crimson flowers with pale yellow edges. The foliage and stems are bright green. Although some brooms are invasive, this hybrid is not. Once established, this plant takes minimal water. Many other forms of *Cytisus xpraecox* are known, with flowers in a variety of colors. (Mo Price, Encinitas, 4/09) – M.P.

Prunus ilicifolia ssp. lyonii CATALINA CHERRY (Roseaceae)

California, Baja California

California Native Plants for the Garden, notes that this evergreen tree is "found in chaparral and oak woodlands in Baja California and on four of California's Channel Islands... It is considerably larger than hollyleaf cherry and often grows as a tree reaching 45 feet. The flat, shiny, 2- to 5-inch-long leaves often lack the serrated margins characteristic of hollyleaf cherry." Although it is unlikely to attain 45 feet in garden situations, this handsome evergreen tree will often grow to 10-25' tall and about 10-15' wide, making it a nice choice for a native garden. In spring it bears clusters of creamy-white flowers, which are followed by edible blue-black cherries (once an important part of the Native American diet for local tribes) which are attractive to birds. Plant it in well-drained soil in full sun to light shade. Drought-tolerant once established. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/09) – S.T-B.

Rhus integrifolia LEMONADE BERRY (Anacardiaceae)

So. California, Arizona, Baja California

This versatile evergreen plant ranges in size from about 4-20' tall and wide, performing well with very little water (can be quite drought-tolerant) and providing habitat for native wildlife. It asks little besides sun to part shade and good drainage, and the common name comes from the refreshing drink made by soaking the reddish fruits in water (many animals eat them, too). Long-lived (a formally-pruned hedge plants in the 1940s continues to thrive at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden) and good along coastal bluffs (where it stays low), this shrub can be pruned into a small tree. The thick leathery leaves provide a dark green background for the white to pink flowers that appear in late winter to spring. Use lemonade berry as an informal screen or hedge, or lace it out for a more open look. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/09) – S.T-B.

Sisyrinchium bellum BLUE-EYED GRASS (Iridaceae) California to Oregon, Baja California

A charming perennial in the iris family, blue-eyed grass is a fairly common native plant in San Diego County. Clumps of bluish-green flat-leaved foliage (about 4-12" tall and wide) are topped with yellow-centered flat blue flowers in spring. Flower color varies – some forms are pure white and the blues go from pale to deep

San Diego County Fair Paul Ecke Jr. Flower & Garden Show Breakfast in the Gardens Friday, June 12

Join us on Opening Day for Breakfast in the Gardens at 9:00 AM. Following breakfast, at 9:45 AM Eric Larson, Executive Director of the San Diego County Farm Bureau and a director of the Southern California Water Committee, will speak on the Farm Bureau and its role, a short history of farming in San Diego County, a description of the commercial horticulture industry in San Diego, challenges the industry is currently facing, and market trends that growers are responding to. After the talk, breakfast guests are free to enjoy docent led tours of the *Rhapsody In Bloom* themed gardens prior to the fair gates opening to the public.



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April Plant Forum

violet-blue. Seed is produced freely and helps maintain this delightful plant in the garden. If not watered at all in summer it will go dormant, re-appearing in late fall with the rainy season. With some water, however, it will often bloom for months, especially near the coast. Not bothered by pests or diseases, this plant, and the many cultivars now available, should be used more often. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/09) – S.T.B.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the April plant forum, especially to Sue Fouquette who brought in many native plants (in keeping with the theme of the meeting). Tom Piergrossi did a fine job, as always, as our Plant Forum Host. 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 March newsletter was *Mimulus* 'Miss Chievous' MONKEY SEE MONKEY DO FLOWER.

Alyogyne huegelii 'Rich Blue' BLUE HIBISCUS
(Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 4/09)

3 *Bletilla striata* CHINESE GROUND ORCHID
(Mary McBride, Vista, 4/09)

3 *Bletilla strident* CHINESE SHRILL ORCHID
(Noisy Gardener, Anytown, 4/09)

Brachysema sp. or cv. (Mary McBride, Vista, 4/09)

3 *Brugmansia* × *candida* 'Double White'
(John Gilruth, Rainbow, 4/09)

Epiphyllum hybrid (John Gilruth, Rainbow, 4/09)

3 *Galvezia speciosa* ISLAND BUSH SNAPDRAGON
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/09)

Lathyrus odoratus 'Cupid' CUPID SWEET PEA
(John Gilruth, Rainbow, 3/09)

Leptospermum sp. or cv. TEA TREE (? , 4/09)

Leucocoryne sp. or cv. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/09)

Lotus scoparius DEERWEED (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/09)

3 *Melianthus major* HONEY BUSH
(Darlene Villanueva, El Cajon, 4/09)

3 *Pittosporum napaulense* GOLDEN FRAGRANCE
(Sheila Busch, Escondido, 4/09)

Rosa 'Mr. Lincoln' (Louise Anderson, San Marcos, 4/09)

3 *Salvia africana-lutea*, syn. *Salvia aurea* BROWN SALVIA,
GOLDEN SAGE (Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 4/09)

Tillandsia aeranthos (Jim Wright, San Diego, 4/09)

Tillandsia schiediana (Jim Wright, San Diego, 4/09)

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April Plant Forum

Lotus scoparius



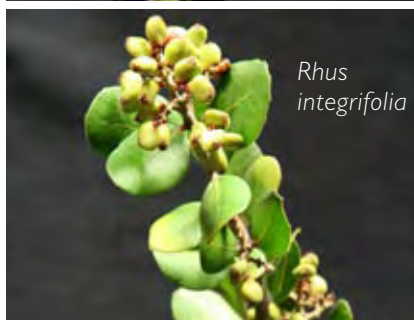
Pittosporum napaulense



Clarkia unguiculata



Rhus integrifolia



Prunus ilicifolia ssp. *lyonii*



HOW TO READ THE PLANT FORUM ENTRIES

[1] **Pastryus dulcis** [2] '**Cheerio**' [3] DONUT PLANT ([4] Pastryaceae)
[5] 7-Eleven to Vons [6] This fast-growing annual produces copious quantities
of distinctive edible fruit that is circular in shape with a central hole. The fruit
resembles a donut, from which the common name derives. Provide ample
moisture. ([7] Betty Crocker, San Diego, 5/96) — [8] K.M.

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

[2] Cultivar ['Cheerio']

[3] Common Name [DONUT PLANT]

[4] Family [Pastryaceae]

[5] Distribution [7-Eleven to Vons]

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

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

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

April Meeting Report

I've always enjoyed the passion that April speaker Mike Evans (founder of our sponsor Tree of Life Nursery) brings to his talks, and from the enthusiastic response at our meeting it was clear that his message reached appreciative ears. Mike's description of a native plant garden as, "an easy place to be in," and one that allows the gardener to "avoid too many rules," struck a positive note. He's correct, of course, that California natives planted in California gardens are quick to attract local wildlife, and that a garden of natives is more than an exercise in water conservation. It is a way to connect with the local environment, a relief from the order and structure of more formal gardens, and an opportunity to engage yourself, and your family (especially the younger ones) with local nature.

Mike showed many images of native plants in the wild and in gardens, reminding us that, "our environment does shape who we are." His description of a garden as needing, "care and love, not maintenance (which is what you perform on a car)," is right on. For a

great garden that you can really enjoy, follow his I.D.E.A. suggestions: **I**dentify a theme, **D**esign accordingly, **E**ngage with it (especially kids), and **A**dmire it." Creating a native plant garden is more like making a painting than taking a snapshot – you try to capture the essence of the larger natural landscape rather than trying to get it "exact." Even a pot of native plants will bring hummingbirds and insects to your yard, and sometimes that's enough if all you have is a very small space.

Thanks, Mike, for reminding us that we don't need to be slaves to our gardens, that we should plant something relaxing, and that we should make the time to get the younger generation interested in nature so that they appreciate it in the larger context. Mike also brought an especially generous selection of natives, mostly in 5-gallon pots, for our Opportunity Drawing (held before the break). There were lots of ticket sales, so I hope we'll see more natives in more members' gardens! ☺

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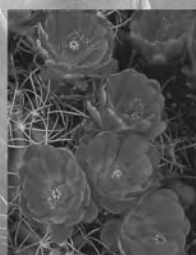
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Continued on other side...

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George Little and David Lewis have been collaborating on their unique concrete sculptures

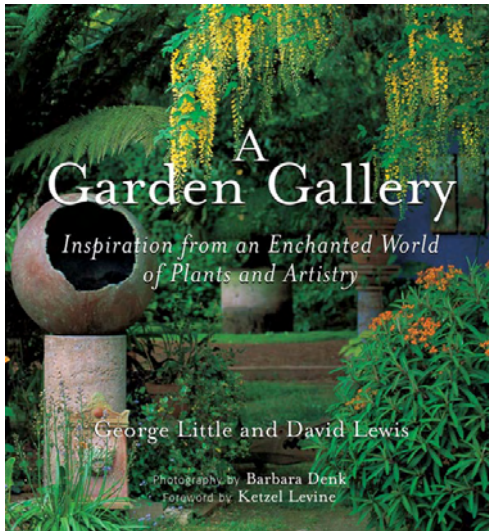
since early 1992. They are both interested in the classics. George has more than 30 years of experience in sculpting and watercolor. David worked for years as an archaeological illustrator. They live on a small island in Puget Sound working in a studio surrounded by their internationally known garden gallery. Their beautiful color washed concrete sculptures and installations have been widely photographed and can be seen in many books, magazines, and on television. Their sculpture has been placed in private and public gardens and homes across the country.

A Garden Gallery: Inspiration from an Enchanted World of Plants and Artistry

By George Little and David Lewis

Photographs by Barbara Denk

Foreword by Ketzell Levine



Celebrated internationally as artists and gardeners, Little and Lewis open the gates to their renowned Puget Sound garden and share their personal wisdom for what informs and inspires their wild fantasia of plants, hardscape, and art. Water features, oversized and broadleaved plants, expansive use of color, zone-pushing tropicals, architectural emphasis, and elements of classicism and mystery — all combine to create a magical space. The authors describe how you too can achieve this kind of retreat for reflection in your own backyard. From practical advice on how to make a slow-drip natural fountain, to building an inexpensive Tuscan-style wall, you will be encouraged to use your imagination and take risks. Stunning photographs will inspire you. This book has won the Garden Writers Association Silver Award.

An excerpt from this book:

When we began our garden years ago, it was as sculptors who loved gardening. We did not have, and still do not have, a plan for how the place should look or what it would become in the future. We started for simple enjoyment in the act of gardening and a love of the results, of the atmosphere that it produced. We appreciated how it made us feel. From the beginning we were keenly aware of our feelings about, or our impressions of, pot arrangements, plantings in beds,

placement of fountains, and uses of color. Did the area we had just changed from the previous year or newly re-made this year move us in some way? How? How did it seem to affect visitors? We gardened by just doing what worked for us, though we also wanted to know something about how it worked without attempting to intellectualize it too much ...

To purchase the book at the event:

Member price \$18 (incl. tax)

Non-Member price \$22 (incl. tax)

2009 Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

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

JUNE 6th and 7th

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

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

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

Potting service will be available along with
cultural information

SHOW HOURS:

Saturday, June 6: 10am to 3pm

Sunday, June 7: 10am to 4pm

(Judging will be after 3pm Saturday)

SALE HOURS:

Saturday, June 6: 10am to 5pm

Sunday, June 7: 10am to 4pm

**SDCSS Members only shopping on Saturday from 9
to 10**

For additional information please visit:

www.sdcss.com

**If you have trouble finding a parking spot use the Balboa Park
TRAM** The free tram provides access to Balboa Park's museums
and attractions. You can park in the Inspiration Point lot and wait at
Tram Central, a shady arbor with benches. The tram will deliver you to
into the heart of Balboa Park. Trams pick up from Tram Central every 8-
10 minutes. Riders may also board at one of the designated pick-up
areas around the Park. The tram operates seven days a week: 8:30am -
6:00pm.



What's Happening? for May 2009

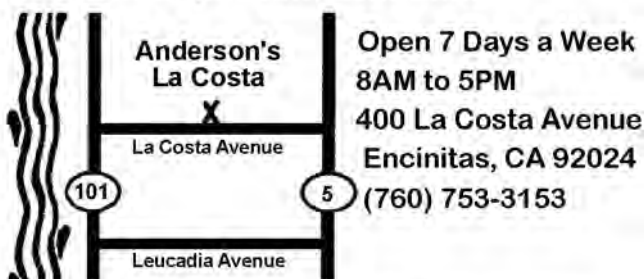
The SDHS is happy to publicize items of horticultural interest. See other side for resources & ongoing events.
Send calendar listings by the 10th of the month before the event to calendar@sdhortsoc.org.

▼ SDHS Sponsor

Anderson's La Costa Nursery & Garden Design Center

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www.AndersonsLacostaNursery.com

Hello to all and welcome to the merry month of May. Here's just a few of the selections available in the nursery in this prime planting month. We have also expanded our cactus, succulents and drought tolerant plant selections.

- Lots of *Perlargoniums* in now – Cranesbill, Cordifolium, Johnson's Blue, Lavendar Lass, Chocolate Candy and Jolly Bee.
- *Agonis flexuosa* 'After Dark' – a small spreading tree, gets to 18' tall and 15' wide. Dark burgundy foliage with small creamy flowers in spring. Drought tolerant and evergreen.
- *Abelia grandiflora* 'Francis Mason' – 3' to 4' tall and wide. Tubular white flowers all summer, attract hummingbirds and butterflies. New foliage growth is bright yellow.
- Crimson *Mandevilla* 'Sun Parasol' vigorous, heavy blooming sun lover. Fast growing vine with huge crimson red flower to 5" across.

In the Shade Area:

- Lots of New Guinea *Impatiens* in pink, lilac, orange, and purple.
- *Coleus*, at least 10 different varieties
- Colored *Callas*
- *Plectranthus* 'Troys Gold' – gets 1' tall and to 3' across, an Australian native grown for the lovely foliage.
- Ground covers for the shadier spot – *Lamium* (Spotted Dead Nettle), *Ajuga Reptans*, *Lysmachia*
- *Hydrangeas* – all coming into bloom – pinks, blues and whites.
- *Brunnera macrophylla* – long spikes of striking light blue flowers, blooming now; to 1' tall. Spreads by rhizomes, very hardy and reliable.
- *Fuchsias* – 4", 1 gal, patio trees and fabulous hanging baskets. Profuse bloomers from now thru fall or until it gets cooler – maybe November!! Make sure the hanging baskets get plenty of water – they'll complain by drooping promptly if they need more water.
- **Water plants** are here in force – Water lilies many in bloom, Water Hyacinths, Aquatic Irises, Cannas, Green Taro, Dwarf Horsetail. Double Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) – bright yellow flowers. Water Forget-me-not, Lavender Musk (looks like Lineria), Water Snowflake (yellow flowers), Water Pennywort and much more.
- 15 gallon **Baby Queen Palms**. Will grow no taller than 12' – 14', with a trunk like bright green Bamboo.
- **Bedding plants** (get ready for the list): Sunflowers, Marigolds, *Salpiglossis*, *Ageratum*, bedding Dahlias, *Browallia*, *Lobelia* (many colors), Dusty Miller, California Poppies, Zinnias, Petunias and Supertunias, 4" *Penstemon*, *Satureja*, *Celosia* (yellow, orange and red), 6 packs of *Lantana* & *Erodium*, *Hypericum*, *Vinca*, *Verbena*, Carnations (and more).

- It is the peak time to plant **Tomatoes**. We have so many – here are a few: Abraham Lincoln (popular since the 1920's), Carbon (one of the darkest black tomatoes), Celebrity (large glossy red tomatoes), Sweet Million (red cherry), Black Krin, Siberian (Heirloom, juicy red fruit), Red Cherry (what else to say?), Prince Borghese (large Italian heirloom), Yellow Pear (tiny yellow pear shaped fruit), Lemon Boy (high yielding, mild flavored, lemon-yellow fruit), Champion (solid, meaty fruit – great for sandwiches), Old German (large meaty heirloom) and Stupice (another heirloom).

The Water Conservation Garden (contact info on other side)

- May 3, 1:30pm, Ask the Horticulturist Tour:** Informative walk through the Garden with David Yetz. Bring your questions; meet at main entrance for 45 – 60 minute tour. Free.
- May 13, 6:30 – 8:30pm, Bye Bye Grass, Part I at Quail Botanical Gardens:** Lawn extermination options. \$45/Member of QBG or WCG, \$50/Non-member.
- May 17, 9:30 – 10:30am, Special Access Tour:** For individuals who have difficulty navigating the terrain of the garden, explore from the comfort of the Verbeck Shuttle with David Yetz. Seats 4 – 5 people; advanced reservations are required, no exceptions. Free
- May 17, 3 – 5pm, Bye Bye Grass, Part II at Quail Botanical Gardens:** Evaluating your irrigation system, creative ideas for plantings and hardscape. Same price as for May 13.
- May 20, 5:30 – 8:30pm, Ask the Landscape Designer:** Connie Beck gives personalized 45-minute landscape design consultations at the Water Conservation Garden. Email info@theGarden.org or call for appointment. \$60/members, \$75/Non-members.
- May 21, 6 – 8PM, H2O – 911! – Living with the Water Crisis:** Vickie Driver gives simple steps for saving water and money inside and outdoors. Two registrations for the price of one – same household only please! \$20/members, \$30/Non-members.
- May 22, 10:30am – 1:30pm, Ask the Landscape Designer:** Linda Whitney gives personalized 45-minute landscape design consultations at the Water Conservation Garden. Call to reserve your appointment. \$60/members, \$75/Non-members.

Quail Botanical Gardens (contact info on other side)

- May 14-30, Creating Magic with Succulent Plants:** DETAILS ON PAGE 9.
- May 20, 7 – 9pm, Creating Container Gardens with Drought Tolerant Perennials, Succulents, Unusual Foliage and Colorful Flowers:** The Flower Girls" cover everything about container gardening. A variety of planted containers will be displayed and discussed. \$25/Members, \$30/Non-members.
- May 30, 9am – 3pm, Palm and Cycad Sale:** Rare palm and cycad species; 11am tour of palms and cycads; 1pm Mark Riedler talks about Palms of Madagascar. Free with admission to the Gardens.
- May 30, 10am – noon, Free Composting Workshop:** Learn how to compost food scraps and yard trimmings, plus vermicomposting. Compost bins and worm bins for sale afterward. Workshop is taught by Solana Center Master Composters. To register contact the Solana Center (760) 436-7986 or www.solanacenter.org.

May 1 – 2, 9:30am – 5pm, Del Mar Rose Society Rose Show: Del Mar Library, 1309 Camino del Mar, Del Mar. Contact Ellen Breen ebreen@ucsd.edu or Kathy Reed kathyreed@adelphia.net.

May 2, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am Cactus & Succulents. (San Diego, 3642 Enterprise Street, (619) 224-8271); 9:30am, Class and Book Signing: Fire wise Planting – Rick Halsey (Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, (858) 513-4900). www.walterandersen.com.

May 2, 9am – 2pm, May 3, 10am – 2pm, Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Plant Sale: Palomar College Arboretum, 1140 W. Mission Rd. San Marcos. vmbroughton@cox.net

May 2, 1 – 4pm, California Coastal Rose Society Rose Show: All are encouraged to exhibit. Entries accepted 6:30–9:30am on May 2. Judging 10–noon; afterwards the show is free and open for public viewing. Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave. Carlsbad. (760) 967-3856 or www.californiacoastalrose.com.

May 2, 1 – 5pm, May 3, 10am – 4pm, San Diego Iris Society Spring Show and Sale: Judged show and plant sale. Members will answer questions about growing iris. <http://sites.google.com/site/sandegoirissociety>.

May 2, 2 – 5pm, May 3, 10am – 4pm, Vista Garden Club 75th Standard Flower Show and Plant Sale: All amateur gardeners are encouraged to enter; no entry fee; the show is free and open to the public. This is a Standard Flower Show and is judged by accredited judges. Brengle Terrace Recreation Center, 1200 Vale Terrace, Vista. www.vistagardenclub.org.

May 4, 12:30am, Dos Valles and CGCI Palomar District Floral Design Forums: Jim Johnson will be designing "From the Garden to the Table".. The Woman's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe St. Carlsbad. \$8 per session. (760) 729-4976 or www.dosvallesgardenclub.org.

May 5, 6:30pm, S. D. County Orchid Society: Beginners Class 6:30 in room 104; general meeting 7:30pm room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Free, all welcome. www.sdorchids.com.

May 9, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Gifts for Mother. (San Diego see May 2) 9:30 am, Gardening for Butterflies. (Poway see May 2). www.walterandersen.com.

May 9, 9am – 2pm, La Jolla Garden Club's Gardener's Market: Plants, floral arrangements, more. Chase Bank, 7777 Girard Ave. La Jolla. (858) 454-6227 or (858) 551-8272.

May 9, 9am – 4pm, May 10, 11am – 4pm, San Diego Epiphyllum Society Show and Plant Sale: On the 9th the plant and cutting sale will be in the courtyard Casa del Prado. On the 10th the Show and Plant Sale will be in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.epiphyllum.com.

May 9, 10am, San Diego Bromeliad Society: Pam Koide-Hyatt and Robert Kopfstein will be presenting. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html.

May 9, 1pm, San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society: Program TBA. Free. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdcss.com.

May 9, 4:30pm, "Colorful Low-Water Salvia for the Garden": Walk at South Bay Botanic Garden at Southwestern College; Free parking in lot E; walk begins at the 1800 building (Landscape and Nursery Technology Department). Call (619) 421-6700, x5371.

May 10, 12:30pm, Mabel Corwin Branch of the American Begonia Society: Workshop "Beyond Pots" by Michael Ludwig on how to plant in wood and other interesting containers. Tour the nursery. Kartuz Greenhouses, 1408 Sunset Dr., Vista. (760) 753-3977 or nandmkeith@att.net.

May 10, 1pm, Southern California Plumeria Society: Jeff Hopper on "Growing Plumeria from Seed". 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.

May 11, 6:00pm, details on page 3 From Garden to Table: Delicious Tips From the Experts

May 12, Noon, Dos Valles Garden Club: "Perennials and Drought Tolerant Plants" by Judy Wigand. St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center. www.dosvallesgardenclub.org.

May 12, 7pm, San Diego Geranium Society: Program TBA. Everyone welcome. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. (619) 447-8243 or www.sdgeranium.org.

May 13, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club: "A Camera in Your Garden". Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego. www.plgc.org.

May 13, 10:30am, Poway Valley Garden Club: Guided Tour of Barona Casino's drought tolerant gardens, water themed gardens and over 400 David Austin Roses. Old Poway Park, Templar Hall. Carpool to Barona. (858) 748-1025 or home.roadrunner.com/~pvgc/.

May 13, noon, Ramona Garden Club: Landscape Designer Doug Kalal on 30 Great Drought Tolerant Plants. Ramona Woman's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona. (760) 788-6709 or ramonagardenclub.com.

May 14, 6pm, Modern Ecology and Conservation of Natural Resources: Ants Marching: a Biological Invasion in Your Own Backyard. Free, registration begins at 6pm. San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park. www.sciencematters.ucsd.edu.

May 14, 7:30pm, Southern California Horticultural Society: John Schoustra on “Pelargoniums from Angels to Zonals”. Free. Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles. (818) 567-1496 or www.socalhort.org.

May 16, 8am – noon, Alta Vista Gardens: Volunteers are needed for general garden and nursery work. (760) 945-3954 or www.altavistagardens.org

May 16, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Grafting & Budding. (San Diego; see May 2), No Poway Class. www.walterandersen.com.

May 16, 9am – Noon, Gardeners 4 Peace: Pease brig tools, water and a cheerful spirit for the work party. Contact Ava at gardeners4peace@hotmail.com.

May 16, 10am, San Diego Garden Club: Special Workshop follows the meeting, which is free and open to the public. Jim Redina on the art of Bonsai. Each participant will receive instructions on bonsai basics and will then have a small tree in a bonsai pot to take home. Workshop \$30/Members; \$35/Non-members. Malcolm X Library & Performing Arts Center, 5148 Market St., San Diego. (619) 269-6184 or www.sandiegogardenclub.com.

May 16, 10am, San Diego Garden Club Special Workshop: Jim Rendina will be demonstrating the art of Bonsai. Each participant will receive instruction on bonsai basics and will learn how to style, wire and repot the tree from a nursery container into a bonsai pot. \$30/Members, \$35/Non-members. Prepaid reservations must be made be May 1. Malcolm X Library & Performing Arts Center, 5148 market Street, San Diego. Meeting before the workshop is free and open to the public. (619) 269-6184 or www.sandiegogardenclub.org.

May 18, 6pm, San Diego Rose Society: Suzanne Horn on David Austin Roses. Pot Luck Dinner. Free, visitors always welcome. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. sdrosesociety.org

May 16, 1:30 – 2:30pm, Agri Service, Inc. Community Gardening Series: Free monthly classes with Master Gardeners Diane Hollister and Pete Ash. In May they discuss “Worms: they’re not just for fishing” El Corazon Compost Facility, 3210 Oceanside Blvd. Reserve space: (800) 262-4167 ext. 4.

May 19, 7pm, California Coastal Rose Society: Program TBA. At 6:15pm Dr. Joel Ross will continue his series of lectures for Rose-Aholics. Heritage hall, 2650 Garfield, Carlsbad. www.californiacoastalrose.com.

May 19, 7pm, San Diego California Native Plant Society: Sample various food and drink items and learn a little about how then are prepared and used from the people whose ancestors have been appreciating native plants for a very long time. Open to the public, Free. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. cnpssd.org.

May 21, 1pm, Bernardo Gardeners Club: The Hummingbird Lady, Marion Stacey will explain how to enjoy and support the local and migrating birds and she will bring the babies that she is currently feeding and rehabbing. RB Swim & Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo. (858) 673-8728 or www.bernardogardeners.org.

May 21, 7:30pm, San Diego Fern Society: Program TBA. Guests are welcome. Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.sdfem.com.

May 23, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Tropical Fruits, (San Diego; see May 2) 9:30am, How to Build a Pondless Waterfall. (Poway; see May 2) www.walterandersen.com.

May 23, 4:30pm, “Palms for the Tropical Look”: See May 9.

May 25, 2pm, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club: Program TBA. Rancho Bernardo Public Library, Community Room, 17110 Bernardo Center Drive. San Diego. www.lhnpc.org.

May 27, 6pm, Mission Hills Garden Club: Howard Bishop, The Bird Man of Carlsbad, will talk about attracting birds to your garden. Birdhouses will be available for sale. United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego. (619) 923-3624 or www.missionhillsgardendclub.org.

May 27, 7pm, California Rare Fruit Growers, San Diego Chapter: “Citrus, Mulching and Psyllid Update” presented by Dr. Gary Bender. Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. www.crfgsandiego.org.

May 30, Walter Andersen Nursery: 9:00am, Attracting Butterflies & Bees. (San Diego; see May 2) 9:30am, Irrigation. (Poway; see May 2) www.walterandersen.com.

May 30 – 31, 10am – 4pm, Fullerton Arboretum Herb Weekend: Free. For those who like to cultivate, cook, smell, taste and enjoy the beauty of herbs. Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Rd. Fullerton. (714) 278-3407 or fullertonarboretum.org.

Garden Tours

May 1, 3 – 6pm, VIP Tour, May 2, 10am – 2pm, Clairemont Town Council Garden Tour: Waterfalls, bay views, ideas on how sprucing up an unwanted hill, more! Tickets: \$15, UPS Store, 4809 Clairemont Drive. VIP Tours: \$25. (858) 204-4085 or clairemontonline.com.

May 1 – 3, 10am – 4pm, Sage and Songbirds Garden Tour: Five bird-and-butterfly gardens in Alpine and a raptor rehabilitation facility. See website for locations to purchase tickets. \$15/Day of event, \$10 each/groups of 10 or more. (619) 445-8352 or chirp.org

May 9, 9am – 4pm, Annual Tour of Fallbrook: Features native plants, family fruit and vegetable gardens, light refreshments. Tickets: \$20. Send check payable to Fallbrook AAUW with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Fallbrook AAUW, 252 Calle Linda, Fallbrook, CA 92028 or day of the event pay at Palomares House, 1815 Stage Coach lane in Fallbrook.

May 9, 10am – 4pm, Secret Garden Tour of Old La Jolla: DETAILS ON PAGE 8.

May 9, 10am – 4pm: Mission Hills Garden Walk: DETAILS ON PAGE 8.

May 9 – 10, 10am – 4pm, Artist Studio and Garden Tour in Encinitas: Features homes, gardens and studios of San Dieguito Art Guild members. \$20. Tickets available at The Off Track Gallery, 687 S. Coast Highway 101, Encinitas or offtrackgallery.com.

May 13, 10am – 3pm, Bonita in Bloom: DETAILS ON PAGE 10.

May 30, 9am – 3pm, Fallbrook Garden Tour: DETAILS ON PAGE 10.

Resources & Ongoing Events

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

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN: Open 9-4 daily, free. Docent-led tours every Saturday at 10:30am & Sunday at 1:30pm. 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon; (619) 660-0614 or www.thegarden.org

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

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

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

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

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

Canyoneer Walks: Free guided nature walks Saturday & Sunday. (619) 232-3821 X203 or www.sdnhm.org

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

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

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

Garden TV and Radio Shows

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). Tapes avail. from SDHS library.

- Lots of **Peppers, Sages** (new nice looking one there today is Ecuador Sage). Also Basils, Dills, Italian Squash, Cabbage – Ruby Perfection, Eggplant and Lemon Verbena.

- The Herb and Veggie section is just full of tasty goodies – and good for you, too!!

Into the garden -

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

- **Pride of Madeira** (*Echium fastuosum*): When the gorgeous spikes of bloom on Pride of Madeira are spent cut down to the plant's gray foliage.

- **Trailing African Daisy** (*Osteospermum fruticosum*): Give its annual pruning in early May after bloom to avoid buildup of thatch which would cause risk of summer fungus.

- **Wisteria:** Train young plants onto strong support. Don't let long streamers twine around each other. Once size and shape is reached begin in May to cut back all unwanted new growth to two or three buds from main branch.

- When hand-picking those hard-to-see **tomato hornworms** sprinkle the plants lightly with water first.

- **Plant citrus and other tender trees.** Keep soil well mulched to hold in moisture. Feed fruit trees now that they're actively growing.

- **Plant cactus, succulents, and palms** and water to settle them in well.

- **Remove faded blooms and seedpods** from spring-blooming bulbs; leave the foliage on until it dies back naturally.

- For bushier Mums with lots of blooms this fall **pinch back stems** after each 6” of growth.

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

- Maintain a good **mulch** of organic matter covering garden soil throughout the summer.

- **Avoid overhead irigation** so late in the day that foliage cannot dry completely before sunset.

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

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

Bulbs: As their blooms fade remove the flowers from tulips and daffodils and give them a dose of fertilizer. But leave those leaves where they are!!

Fertilizing: Fertilizer is your garden's friend - don't neglect to feed your little green ones. After applying give fertilizer a thorough watering-in.