

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

November 2009, Number 182

The Huntington's Chinese Garden

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READY, SET, GO

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MASTER GARDENERS GOING GREEN

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WATER RATIONING STORIES

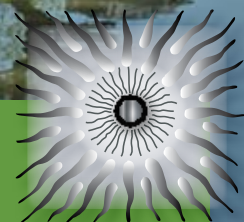
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SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

On the Cover: Chinese Garden at The Huntington Botanical Gardens

OCTOBER MEETING PHOTOS BY STACEY DORES



Paphiopedilum Shadow
Magic x Black Buddha



Boophone disticha dried flower



Boophone disticha



Euphorbia obesa



Kefersteinia mystacina



Ficus burtt-davyi



Ampelopsis brevipedunculata



Hylocereus undatus



Stapelia glanduliflora



Paphiopedilum Dragon
Flag x Maudiae



Orostachys boehmeri



Hibiscus
schizopetalus

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Water Conservation Garden

COVER IMAGE: November speaker David MacLaren has supplied this beautiful image of Liu Fan Yuan, the new Chinese Garden at The Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino. The garden, "reflects traditional Suzhou-style scholar gardens and features a 1.5-acre lake, a complex of pavilions, a tea house and tea shop, and five stone bridges, set against a wooded backdrop of mature oaks and pines. This initial phase of the garden covers about 3.5 acres of a planned 12-acre site."

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

- December 14** René van Rems on *Fabulous Holiday Decor from Overlooked Garden Treasures*
- January 11, 2010** Amy Stewart on *Wicked Plants: The Weed that Killed Lincoln's Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities*
- February 8** John Greenlee, author of *The American Meadow Garden and Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses*
- March 8** Pat Welsh debuting her new book, *Pat Welsh's Southern California Organic Gardening: Month By Month*
- April 12** Joe Walker on *Top Plant Picks from Australia*
- May 10** A Special Evening with Brad Lancaster on *Rainwater Harvesting*

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org

Next Meeting: November 9, 2009, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Topic: DAVID MACLAREN ON: "LIU FAN YUAN - FROM DREAM TO REALITY: DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUNTINGTON'S CHINESE GARDEN"

Meeting is open and everyone is welcome. Admission: Members/free, Non-Members/\$5.

Parking is free. Meeting Place: Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Del Mar; Info: (760) 295-7089



Horticulturist David B. MacLaren will be giving us a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at a very different kind of garden from what we're used to seeing. MacLaren's presentation will trace The Huntington Botanical Gardens' Chinese Garden, Liu Fang Yuan, from its inception (as a dream of Dr. James Folsom, Director of the Gardens at The Huntington) to its present state. You'll hear about the challenges of working with Chinese and American design and construction companies, the intricacies of the design phase, and the daunting task of building traditional Chinese structures in a high seismic zone. Learn about the future of the garden, including plans for the next phase of construction and eventual completion of the entire twelve plus acre site.

MacLaren is the Curator of Asian Gardens at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, where he has worked for over 9 years. As Curator, he is responsible for all the gardens and plants from Asia, including the Japanese Garden, the Chinese Garden, the Camellia Collection, and all the other Asian plants. He has a BS in Ornamental Horticulture from California State Polytechnic University at Pomona, is a state licensed Landscape Contractor, and a Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture. A local boy and a true Southern Californian, he grew up in Temple City and now lives in Arcadia.

To learn more visit www.huntington.org and see page 5. 🌿

The Mission of the San Diego Horticultural Society

is to promote the enjoyment, art, knowledge and public awareness of horticulture in the San Diego area, while providing the opportunity for education and research.

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 1994

SDHS BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Bishop – Member at Large
Judy Bradley – First Vice President, Co-Chair-Program Committee
Mark Collins – Finance/Budget Committee
Julian Duval – San Diego Botanic Garden representative
Peter Jones – Member at Large
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Cathy Tylka – Treasurer, Chair-Budget & Finance Committee
Paula Verstraete – Volunteer Coordinator
Don Walker – Past President
Lucy Warren – Secretary, Liaison to H&G Shows

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

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

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

Sponsorship Info: Susan Morse, sponsor@sdhortsoc.org

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BECOME A SPONSOR!

Do you own a garden-related business?

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

Sponsors are listed on page 9; those with ads in the newsletter have the words **SDHS Sponsor** above their ads.

We thank them for their extra support!

Important Member Information

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1: Volunteer Coordinator Co-Chair

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

2: Membership Committee

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

3: Tour Coordinator

We have enjoyed many wonderful local and out of town garden tours in the past, with the most recent being the June 2008 trip to Philadelphia. We need a member to head the tour committee so we can continue to hold these popular tours; several members are ready to work with you. For local tours the Tour Coordinator will take the lead on contacting garden owners and previewing local gardens, plan a schedule for local tours, maintain a registration database and coordinate volunteers. For out of town tours a travel agent did the vast bulk of the detail work in getting buses, accommodations, entry to public gardens, etc. In the past someone on the tour committee (or a member who had friends in the tour city) arranged for our entry to the private gardens. If you've enjoyed going on these tours now's your chance to step up and organize them! Call Susi at (760) 295-2173 for details.

RESTORE OPEN DAYS IN SAN DIEGO

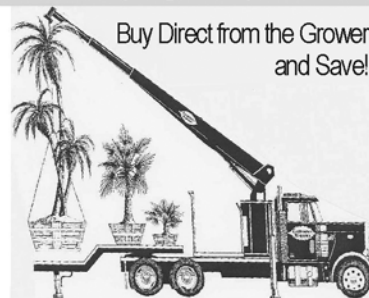
From 2003 through 2007, the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program in San Diego was an outstanding sensation. Over 9,000 people visited 50 of San Diego's best private gardens, making it one of the most successful in the United States. The Garden Conservancy is eager to bring back San Diego for the 2010 Open Days season. We are looking for volunteers to help us do that. Your efforts would also support the San Diego Horticultural Society as a partner organization: up to 45% of the proceeds could benefit SDHS. Visit www.gardenconservancy.org for more info about Garden Conservancy projects. To explore what is involved in volunteering, please call 1-888-842-2442 or e-mail info@gardenconservancy.org.

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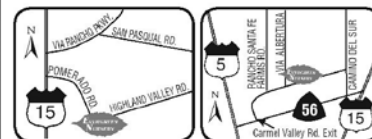
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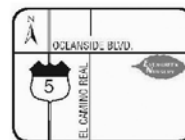
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 Sunday.....9:00am-5:00pm

To Learn More...

VISITING CHINESE GARDENS

By Ava Torre-Bueno

The Chinese Garden at the Huntington is the first stop as you tour these lovely gardens:

www.huntington.org/huntingtonlibrary.aspx?id=490

Heading North, you come to Portland, Oregon:

www.portlandchinesegarden.org

Seattle, Washington's Chinese Garden is just about to open:

www.seattlechinesegarden.org

Crossing the border you come to Vancouver, British Columbia:

www.vancouverchinesegarden.com

Then hop the Pacific and check out these sites about gardens in China:

www.imperialtours.net/suzhou_garden.htm

This site has many, many links to all aspects of the Chinese garden:

www.chinaplanner.com/gardens/index.htm

Finally come home and visit the small Chinese Garden downtown at the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum:

www.sdchm.org

Now, shift to Japan and visit the Japanese Garden in Balboa Park:

www.niwa.org/display/home.asp

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>. 🌿

Save \$\$\$ on Compost Bins

From the website for Solana Center for Environmental Innovation (www.SolanaCenter.org): "Where do you live in San Diego County? The Cities of Encinitas and Carlsbad subsidize ... the price of home compost bins for their residents. However, if your city is not offering a subsidized rate at this time, you can still purchase a home compost bin directly from the Solana Center at a reduced price. Also, you can build your own compost or worm bin.." The website has information on making your own bins, too, plus lots more useful stuff.

The Solana Center is open 9am-4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays for bin sales, and can also ship your bin. Please leave your name, number and address on the "rotline" (760.436.7986, ext. 222) or email composter@solanacenter.org. [Thanks to Louise Anderson for alerting us about this.] 🌿



From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

IF YOU ENJOY OUR GROUP...

Won't you make time to become more involved in the SDHS? Our wonderful volunteers make everything we do possible, and if you've been reaping the benefits of membership we hope you will now be the one to share your talents and pitch in to help. If you'd like to join any of the committees listed in the left column on page 4, or if you can help in other ways, please let me know. This is an excellent way to put your skills and enthusiasm to good use!

TWO MORE CHANGES ON THE BOARD

Jackie Ravel, who joined the board in September, has had to resign for health reasons, and we hope she feels better very soon. Her position as Tour Coordinator is open again, and we very much hope that someone will step up soon to fill this important vacancy – details are on page 4.



We have added one more member at large: Jim Bishop, who has been a member since our very first meeting! Jim has been involved in these local groups: Mission Hills Garden Club (Board member twice while co-chairing garden walk), Cuyamaca College spring garden show, San Diego Floral Association, Rainbow Cyclists,

Uptown Rotary and the San Diego Pops. He says, "I've been a long-time member of SDHS and always attended and contributed to SDHS events whenever I can. It is one of the best (if not the best) sources of horticultural information in Southern California and I'd love to contribute my own talents and perspectives to the organization. Also, I would like to involve SDHS (and anyone else) in making the San Diego County Fair Flower and Garden show into one of the best in the country. I'd also like to use this venue to educate the public on waterwise and correct plant choices for Southern California. And of course...gardeners are the best people in the world and I always enjoy working with them." Welcome, Jim!

WINNING IS EASIER

We have changed our monthly Opportunity Drawing – tickets are now drawn before the meeting break so you don't need to stay late to win great plants! Our generous local nurseries are now donating the plants, and we thank them for their support. Prior to the meeting we will list the nursery and plant names on our website. Each nursery is also sending an expert to describe their plants and answer your questions. Finally, we've moved the Opportunity Drawing table to near the entry, so you see it as soon as you walk in the door. All proceeds from ticket sales help SDHS to provide you with great member benefits. 🌿



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Cuyamaca.edu/ohweb
Cuyamaca College
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Successful Drought Tolerant Gardening

Edited by Cindy Sparks

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

Ready, Set, GO

By Cindy Sparks

If you have followed along, you have a detailed plot plan of your new drought tolerant area with hardscape and irrigation designs, a plant layout and specific plant list with Latin names. This may be a good time to reflect to make sure all the pieces fit together. Fall is the best time to plant almost everything, as the fall/winter rains bring nature's best water to nourish new transplants. If you are not ready, take the time to get ready, but get moving now.

If you removed plants in preparation, it's critical that all old plant material is gone. This is especially true if you removed lawn, notably warm-season grasses. Water first, check for weeds or new sprouts, and remove them before you plant.

If you have new hardscape items in your plan, install them now. Then install your new irrigation system. Buried lines go in now; micro-spray lines can be placed after planting. A garden hose is a credible irrigation component.

Purchase your plants. Remember my insistence on choosing the right plant with the right performance? It's time to re-take your vow. Invest the effort to locate all the plants that you've selected. The search will be worth it.

Resist the urge for immediate satisfaction. Plants from one-gallon or even 4" pots overcome transplant shock and adjust to your conditions more readily than larger plants. The

younger plant will establish more quickly, and outpace the growth of a larger-when-planted specimen.

If you have chosen natives, dig a hole the same depth as the rootball, fill with water and let it drain. Next, plop in the plant, firm the soil and water in very well. Do not fertilize. Stand back and wait two weeks before you water again.

Add mulch to cut evaporation and cool the soil in hot weather. Its breakdown feeds a rich soil population of beneficial bacteria, fungi and higher life (especially worms). Selected natives may prefer a no-rot variety, but all plants in our desert environment will benefit from a thick layer of mulch. Don't mound it against the plant stems.

Water as needed until plants are established. The smaller the pot, the smaller the rootball. Aim for long watering to soak deeper than the roots, then wait until the top half of the rootball is in dry soil. That makes the roots go deep. How much to water depends on your soil, conditions, and chosen plants. It will take until or possibly through next summer for your new plants to develop adequate root systems to thrive with your target watering use. Check your plants regularly. Get up close and personal, so any sudden insect attack or suspected sunburn can be countered

immediately. Plants that die of dry conditions can be replaced; plants that die of too much water may leave root rot (Phytophthora) in the soil. Pursue your initial water-use goal and encourage your new plants along that path.

Next month: maintenance is the next step toward establishing your successful new landscape.



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Plants That Produce

MORUS THE MULBERRY

By Richard Frost

Most fruiting Mulberries are in the biological genus *Morus*, although the related Chinese Mulberry is in the nearby genus *Maclura*. There is a lot of ambiguous information out there about fruiting mulberries so I hope this month's column will help you sort things out. You should be able to find a fruiting mulberry that interests you in bareroot form this winter at a local nursery.

The fruits of Mulberries are compound fruits, much like a blackberry in appearance and sometimes in taste. The fruits are a half inch or so wide and the length varies from 1 to 6 inches depending upon the species and cultivar. The colors of the fruit are initially green and then become white, red, pink, lavender, purple, or black – again depending upon the species and cultivar. One myth I would like to dispel right away is that color is not an indicator of taste.

The most common species of fruiting mulberries is *Morus alba* – which a student of Latin will tell you translates to “white Mulberry.” This species is native to ancient China and has been cultivated throughout Asia for at least 4,000 years. It generally becomes a large tree, 30 or more feet high if not regularly pruned. Here's an important fact to remember: the fruits of the “white Mulberry” can ripen to white, pink, lavender, red, purple, or black depending on the cultivar, so keep in mind that a “white Mulberry” does not necessarily have white fruit. Further, not all white-fruited white-Mulberries have outstanding sweet fruit. If this is what you are looking for then be sure to obtain either the cultivar ‘Tehama’ or ‘Hunza White Seedless’. Other excellent choices include ‘Downing’ (aka ‘Pink Downing’ for its pink fruit), and the *Morus alba* cultivar ‘Black Mulberry’, which is a black-fruited white Mulberry.

Not everyone who likes mulberries wants a large tree to maintain. For you we have the great tasting *Morus alba* cultivar ‘Paradise’, which has lavender colored fruits and grows to about 15 or 20 feet unpruned. The *Morus* hybrid ‘Gerald Dwarf’ is a 10 to 15 foot tree (unpruned) with outstanding black fruit. Also consider the *Morus nigra* cultivar ‘Black Persian’. The latter has the added benefit of being an inherently smaller species that grows better as a tall shrub than a tree.

I have recently heard suggestions that “Persian Mulberries” have the best fruit. Now the species *Morus nigra* (“black Mulberry”) is native to the Persian region. However, mulberries have been cultivated and transplanted all across Asia for millennia. Specifically, one of my colleagues is from central Persia and he has a white-fruited *Morus alba* cultivar which he insists is a true Persian mulberry!

Last but not least, you should be aware of *Maclura tricuspidata*, the “Chinese Mulberry” or “Che” (also Cudrang, Zhe). This moderate size tree produces a light red fruit about the size of a ping-pong ball. The taste and texture of the fruit is reminiscent of a raspberry. The plant has some thorns but the fruit is well worth it.

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

San Diego Master Gardeners Are Going Green

SIGN UP NOW FOR EMAILS AND OUR NEW E-NEWSLETTER

By Mary James

All it takes is a simple click of the “Go Green” button on the Master Gardener Web site to stay on top of San Diego Master Gardener events and programs.

Visit www.mastergardenerssandiego.org today and be the first to get information on Master Gardener not-to-be-missed seminars, plant sale and new garden tour, as well as tips on plant care and pest management. Plus, beginning next year, you'll get a copy of our new quarterly e-newsletter.



This digital out reach is aimed at newbie and experienced home gardeners, plant society and garden club members, students and teachers. It's easy and confidential to do. And it's free!

When you sign up, you can select topics of interest, so we can send you targeted information. By providing your zip code, we can let you know of events and Master Gardener appearances in your neighborhood.

While you're signing up, take a few minutes to explore our Web site. It's packed with gardening information from experts at UC Cooperative Extension on everything from eliminating gophers to growing tomatoes, monthly garden tasks and our programs in schools and community gardens.

And if you have a Facebook page, visit our page and become a fan. Even if you're not on Facebook, visit our page for weekly updates on gardening news and events. Click on the Facebook link on our Web site home page.

While we are making changes to broaden our outreach, our Hotline will remain the same reliable source of answers to all your gardening questions. Call us at (858) 694-2860 Monday-Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. when the phones are staffed by Master Gardener volunteers.

Questions also can be emailed by clicking the contact button on our Web site home page. ☘



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:

How did your garden fare with the water rationing this summer, and what changes did you make to reduce your water use? This was also the question that was answered in the September 2009 newsletter. It's such an important topic we've repeated it again – and got about three times as many replies!

Walter Andersen is having problems: "For me, water rationing is the pits. My back lawn is dirt, not even a weed, but I did stop watering it all together, like zero. My Bishoffia tree has lost about half of its leaves, the rest are kind of curled like they get when they need water. I have watered that a little, but I would guess reduced it by 75% or so. Out front my King Palms look quite stressed. Lots of browning on the leaves, most of the other Palms look 'OK' but some of my *Phoenix roebelenii* show stress, like the leaves do not unfold properly. My *Ficus petiolaris* is down to about 1/2 its leaves and they are smaller as well. I really don't like this at all." Walter has also contacted the Mayor and City Council, encouraging them to build another desalination plant in addition to the one in Carlsbad, which is scheduled to begin construction soon and should be operational before the end of 2012 (for details visit www.carlsbad-desal.com).

Tom Biggart says, "Our garden is in the process of a major reorganization. Two acres is a lot to care for and now, with the water problem, it is impossible. The first thing done was to let one whole section die and go to weeds that just have to be mowed in the early summer. It doesn't look that bad as it is in the hilly part of the property. I had planted quite a few natives there and most of them will survive, although most of it is south facing and very hot and sunny all day. There were 12 avocado trees in part of that area and I have let all of them die except for 4 that are nearer the house and provide shade and visual interest. I've taken all of my thirsty plants and moved them to one small area where they can be cared for properly. Then I've gone to succulents, cactus, and other xerophytic plants in those areas. I think that in a few years the garden will be interesting again and we'll have a few bucks to go to a movie now and then!"

Vivian Blackstone made four major changes with great results: "First, I changed my automatic water timer from 10 minutes, 3x a week to 7 minutes, 3x a week. Second, I changed many of my drip line outlets, put new ones on as the old ones looked clogged. Third, changed most of my boysenberries from a drip system in the ground to 1 and 2 gallon pots with a drip line in them. Fourth, I replaced two main spray heads, (that were on top of plastic 1/2" pipes) with a DIG irrigation line system that has 12 line (plastic/rubber) outlets. You don't need to use all 12, you can use 4, 6, or 8. When the next water bill came it showed I was using 61% less water. I was amazed!"

Karen Contreras replaced her lawn: "We took out our front lawn and planted a vegetable garden. We added drip irrigation with mulch and reduced our overall water consumption by 35%!"

Bonnie Cosgrove also removed most of her lawn: "We started planning in February and March by attending the Del Mar Garden show and participating in the Oceanside Native Plant home tour as well as the AAUW home tour in Encinitas. We visited the Water Conservation Garden several times and met with one of their landscape specialists. Through the Oceanside home tour, we met a native plant specialist who helped us redesign our front and back yards, keeping the basic design features but replacing lawn and many plants with California natives. About 3/4 of our lawn (in front and on the side) was removed and replaced with stabilized DG. We downsized the back lawn by 1/3. Our water savings have been 20-31 percent so far; that should go down more as the natives need less water now. My husband and I are happy! There is less maintenance required, too!"

Rosi and Rick Crouch tell us: "We won the prize for Padre District Landscaping Contest this year. We are very proud of our yard, and it has done extremely well this year. We planted most of our drought tolerant plants last October and November, after removing all grass from the front of our property. We set up our drip system (the most difficult task of the makeover!) over the next few months, and had it completely on-line by May or early June. We watered about 15 minutes every 10 days until the heat set in, and then we watered once every week for 15 minutes. The plants thrived throughout the hot days of summer, and are in full bloom right now. The hummingbirds, butterflies, bees and lizards are in heaven. Our water consumption has been reduced by about 50% since we began, even during the hottest months of the summer. We are thrilled! The colors, scents, and lovely creatures and so much more interesting than grass... double the enjoyment and savings. I recommend the transformation to everyone! Hoping for a rainy winter so we can turn off the water for 2-3 months altogether."

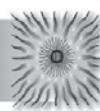
Carol Fuller started five years ago: "I embraced the water-wise, California friendly, xeriscape (whatever the newest buzz word is) garden five years ago. My garden did great! No losses, no extra water and lots of jealous neighbors because I had plants that didn't look like they were dying. I was already at a very low water use level. I replaced my in ground drip irrigation with soaker hoses under mulch. I control when it goes on and off. No timer, it's too easy to rely on that instead of your own eyes. At the hottest times here in Poway (100 degrees plus) I still only turned it on 1 time a week for about 45 minutes."

Continued on page 14

HANDSOME NEW NAMETAGS

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

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Welcome New Members!

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

Robert Brown
Leslie Crawford
Dawn Davis
Ruth Garcia
Rosemarie Michelson
Victoria Monigold
Merilee Morgan
Mystic Lake Gardens
Sheila Roman
Dorothea Sotiros
Heather & Huyen Vu

NEW ADVERTISERS:

Stanton Iris (BACK COVER)

Water Conservation Garden (INSERT)

HORT BUCKS ARE GREAT!

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

Kimberly Alexander (1)	Al & Dora Myrick (1)
Connie Beck (1)	Jan Neill (1)
Cecily Bird (1)	Jackie Ravel (1)
Linda Bresler (2)	Cindy Sparks (1)
Buena Creek Gardens (1)	Linda Stewart (1)
Karylee Feldman (1)	Susi Torre-Bueno (1)
Lori Johansen (1)	Marcia Van Loy (1)
Kathy LaFleur (1)	Darlene Villanueva (1)
Cathy McCaw (1)	Jim Wright (1)
Susan Morse (1)	

Discounts For Members

Pick up a Grangetto's Preferred Customer Savings Card at any Grangetto's location (see ad page 23). Get a 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 **San Diego Botanic Garden** (formerly **Quail Botanical Gardens**).

SEE THESE ADS FOR MORE DISCOUNTS:

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	Westward Expos

LIFE MEMBERS

*Horticulturist of the Year

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

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

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

What's Up at San Diego Botanic Garden?

FIRE SAFETY - A NEW DISPLAY AND GARDEN

By Dave Ehrlinger

The city of Encinitas Fire Department received a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fire Safety and Prevention Grant to install a defensible space exhibit adjacent to our Landscape for Fire Safety garden and south of the main parking lot close to the Ecke Building. The display features a miniature model house with a mini-landscape that demonstrates the type of fire-safe landscape design, spacing, and plant sizes appropriate for sites at the edge of natural areas. The display demonstrates building construction features and the kind of landscaping that creates defensible space around the home. A series of educational labels on building construction, landscape design, plant selection and maintenance provide information to protect against the dangers of wildfires.

Defensible space is the area around a house or building where fuel is trimmed, reduced, or cleared to slow the spread of wildfires. Anything that can burn on your property is potential fuel for a wildfire. Fire safe landscapes have generally smaller, lower plants and more open spaces between plants. Defensible space also provides firefighters space to operate and do their job.

Among the best plants to use for fire safety are succulents because they store water in their leaves and stems. Their high water content makes these plants hard to burn. Common succulents include cacti, aloes, agaves, yuccas, jade plants, aeoniums, and ice plants. There are many species and varieties for landscapes that range from tree aloes to shrubs, perennials and groundcovers.

Groundcovers add color, beauty, and small size to fire-safe landscapes. Some good groundcover choices are creeping lantana, prostrate rosemary, gazania, bearberry cotoneaster, yarrow, dymondia, and dwarf coyote bush. Succulent groundcovers are especially good choices. In addition to some kinds of sedum and crassula, smaller types of ice plant are some of the best fire-safe groundcovers. Lawns are, in fact, considered a type of groundcover and are fire-resistant, but for water conservation choose types of grass that use relatively low water, like hybrid Bermuda and buffalo grass.

Continued on page 13

New E-Mail? New Street Address?

Please send all changes (so you will continue to receive the newsletter and important notices) to **membership@sdhortsoc.org** or **SDHS, Attn: Membership, PO Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869**.

We NEVER share your e-mail or address with anyone!

Book Review

NOT MANY SHOPPING DAYS LEFT TIME TO GO TO THE BOOKSTORE!

By Caroline McCullagh

Time to think about Christmas, Hanukah, Winter Solstice and other important December holidays. Here are a few of the interesting books I saw during a quick trip to a local chain bookstore. I guess I have to tell the truth. I did happen to buy just a few of these already, but don't let that interfere with your desire to buy one for me. I can always exchange it.

I always start with the clearance tables. I found *A Field Guide to Wildflowers of North America* by Joan Barker (ISBN 978-1-4054-6309-6) for only \$3.99. It's a sturdily bound paperback. This nicely designed book covers 180 wild flowers organized by color. I was surprised that about half the flowers covered were yellow. I wonder why that is. The photos are attractive and the information included is comprehensive. It would be a good addition to any library.

On the extensive calendar shelves, I counted 16 garden-themed calendars. Some had breathtaking photos, but the one that really caught my eye was *The Old Farmer's Almanac Gardening 2010 Calendar* (ISBN 978-157198-488-3, \$8.99). It includes—along with 365 days—folklore and gardening hints. Did you know that the full moon in January is the Wolf Moon? I didn't. Nor did I know that hares take to open country before a snowstorm, or that grasshopper eggs hatch when lilacs bloom. So maybe it's not all useful information, but it's sure interesting.

On to the garden section: My first find was *Waking up in Eden: In pursuit of an Impassioned Life on an Imperiled Island* (ISBN-13 978-1-56512-486-8, Paperback, \$13.95) by Lucinda Fleeson. This book, about the potential extinction of native plants in the Hawaiian Islands and the effort to preserve them, touches several of my interests. I look forward to reading it. More later.

The next on my couldn't-pass-it-up list is *Homegrown Whole Grains: Grow, Harvest & Cook Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rice, Corn & More* by Sara Pitzer. What more, you ask? Lots more. And even recipes! (ISBN 978-1-60342-153-9, \$14.95.)



You want another one? How about *Wicked Plants: The Weed that Killed Lincoln's Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities* by Amy Stewart. I almost bought this one, but then I remembered that Ms. Stewart will be the speaker at our January 11 meeting, so I'll probably be able to buy the book there and get it signed. [Editor's note: This is a *fabulous* book – I'll review it in the January newsletter. It is full of fascinating facts about fatal flora – an easy read and a lot of fun!]

There are many more books that really wanted to jump into my hands, but my husband was waiting in the car, and I'd have a lot of "splaining to do, Lucy" if I came back with 25 books. I'll just mention a few more: *Edible and Useful Plants of California* by Charlotte Bringle Clark, \$21.95; *Pruning Made Easy: A gardener's visual guide to when and how to prune everything, from flowers to trees* by Lewis Hill, \$19.95; *Let it Rot!: The Gardener's Guide to Composting* by Stu Campbell, \$12.95; *Tough Plants for California Gardens: Low Care, No Care, Tried and True Winners* by Felder Rushing, \$24.95; and *Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World* by Paul Stamets, \$35.

Ah, so many books, so little time. ☹

Community Outreach

By Linda Johnson

GIVING THANKS FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SERVING SPECIAL NEEDS

San Diego County is fortunate to have a large number of non-profit organizations serving thousands of individuals with special needs. Thanksgiving is a great opportunity to pay tribute to these organizations, which all work tirelessly to improve the lives of others every day.



TERI: TRAINING, EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTE

TERI, Inc., is a private, non-profit agency serving the needs of children and adults with autism and other developmental/learning disabilities. Through programs that enrich their clients' lives and focus on the potential in all people, TERI provides families with support throughout a child's lifespan. TERI's Mission is: "We believe every individual with developmental and learning disabilities has the right to lead a valued, meaningful, and fulfilling life of uncompromised quality in their community."

Part of TERI's 20-acre San Marcos campus is home to an Agricultural Program that serves as outdoor classroom and vocational training site. Here, the experience of tending plants, flowers, and vegetables can be as valuable as what participants learn in a traditional classroom setting. The program includes: raised bed gardens (wheelchair accessible); pumpkin patch for growing future Jack-O-Lanterns for distribution to residences, schools, and adult programs; and opportunities for students to assist with many of the routine landscaping duties around the property.

Donations of plants and growing materials are much appreciated. Contact: Laura E. White, Director of Development & Community Relations, at 760-721-1706 or visit www.teriinc.org.

ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE'S CENTER

A vital community resource that works to empower adults with developmental disabilities, St. Madeleine Sophie's Center provides a two-acre certified organic garden for students. Under the supervision of horticultural managers, the program teaches adult students the skills and commitment required to maintain, nurture and care for a growing environment. The site includes: greenhouses; propagation houses; worm farm; citrus orchard; herbs; ornamental trees/shrubs; vegetables; and seasonal flowers. The program also provides opportunities for students to earn a paycheck while reaping a harvest of goodwill and respect in their community. Working students sell plants and organic vegetables M-F, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The public is welcome!

Donations are also vital to the ongoing future of the non-profit St. Madeleine's, and to their continued ability to serve their students and the community. To donate, contact: Nora Boswell at sboswell@stmisc.org or 619-442-5129 x3117 or visit www.stmisc.org.

Continued on page 13

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The Real Dirt On...

**ROBERTO BURLE MARX**

By Linda Bresler

Roberto Burle Marx (1909-1994), a world-renowned Brazilian landscape designer, is credited with having introduced modernist landscape architecture to Brazil. Along with his artistic designs of parks and gardens that made him world famous, he was also known as an artist and public urban space designer.

Burle Marx moved to Rio de Janeiro at a young age with his family. One of his neighbors was Lucio Costa, a Modernist architect who later designed the city of Brasilia. Costa gave Burle Marx his first commissions.

At the age of nineteen, Burle Marx went to Berlin to study painting. While in Berlin, Burle Marx often visited the Dahlem Botanical Gardens. He was surprised to see many Brazilian plants in the collection. The Brazilians always dismissed their own vegetation as scrub and brush, preferring to import pine trees and gladioli for their gardens. He realized that these native Brazilian plants were truly extraordinary and quickly came to see the untapped artistic potential in their varied shapes, sizes and hues.

After he returned to Brazil in 1930, he began collecting plants in and around his home. Over the years, he became a mostly self-taught botanist. More than fifty plant species have been named for him, and he was one of the world's leading experts on bromeliads. Even in his old age, Burle Marx regularly traveled to the Amazon and Southeast Asia to search for unusual and attractive plants that he could cultivate in his home garden and then use in new projects.

In 1949, he acquired a large estate called Barra de Guaratiba just outside Rio de Janeiro to house his growing collection of plants. This property was donated to the Brazilian government in 1985 and became a national landmark. It houses over 3,500 species of plants and remains open to the public.

As an artist, Burle Marx created paintings, drawings, sculptures, tapestries, jewelry, and sets and costumes for theatrical productions. He always thought of himself mainly as a painter. "Landscape design," he once wrote, "was merely the method I found to organize and compose my drawing and painting, using less conventional materials." Burle Marx's garden designs were like abstract paintings, some curvilinear and some rectilinear, using native Brazilian plants to create blocks of color.

His first landscape design was for a private Brazilian residence created by architects Lucio Costa and Gregori Warchavchik. In the U.S., Burle Marx's earliest known project was the Burton Tremaine house in Santa Barbara, CA, which was commissioned in 1948. Other notable garden designs include the Hilton Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico; the Organization of American States headquarters in Washington, D.C.; and a revamping of Biscayne Boulevard in Miami, Florida.

Burle Marx gained the most satisfaction from working with public spaces because all social strata could enjoy them. These public designs included the hanging gardens in Brasilia, many large projects in Rio de Janeiro, and over three miles of the sidewalk along Copacabana beach adorned with colorful abstract stone mosaics.

At the peak of his career, Burle Marx was highly esteemed among his peers in the United States. The American Institute of Architects awarded him its fine-arts prize in 1965, saying that he was "the real creator of the modern garden."

Karen Van Lengen, Dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia has stated that, over the last decade, Burle Marx has emerged as "something of a hero" for a new generation of American landscape architects. He is admired not just for his formidable technical skills as an artist, but also for his focus on the scientific side of landscaping, and the attention he paid to plant communities and their relationship to the environment.

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

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Although they sometimes get a bad name many native plants really have good fire resistance, especially if they are watered once or twice a month in summer and fall. Some good choices are lemonade berry, quail bush, laurel sumac, coyote brush, toyon, and low-growing perennials.

Some native plants are very flammable, however. Avoid chamise, also called greasewood. Buckwheat, sage, and California sagebrush dry out in late summer and fall and can burn easily. All of these should be trimmed back close to the ground in late summer to minimize the amount of flammable material.

Fire-safe landscapes should be watered monthly in summer and fall to reduce flammability and improve appearance. Maintenance is important—remove dead leaves, twigs, and branches and trim plants back to reduce their size.

Trees are one of the most important elements in fire-safe landscapes because trees provide a large amount of potential fuel for fires. It is wise to keep trees further away from homes. Remove any tree branches within ten feet of buildings. Thin out larger trees to reduce the amount of fuel. Help prevent ground fires from spreading up into trees by pruning the lower branches of trees and large shrubs. Remove dead branches. Trim overhanging branches above roads and driveways.

Using mulch in the landscape is a big asset in fire safety. Mulch reduces water loss so that plants are less flammable. In addition, mulch reduces weeds, temperature, erosion, and improves appearance. Inorganic mulch like gravel and decomposed granite is not flammable while organic mulch such as shredded and chipped wood is also useful.

As a part of this FEMA grant an informative fire safety brochure is available. In addition, a Firewise Plant Display Garden was installed at Sun Vista Park, in the Olivenhain area of Encinitas. For more information about fire safety, visit www.cityofencinitas.org/firewise. ☘

ARC OF SAN DIEGO—ADVOCACY, RESPECT, COMMITMENT

The Arc of San Diego, a private, non-profit corporation, is one of San Diego's largest human-services agencies. Founded in 1951 by a determined group of people who felt they had to "do something" for children with mental retardation, Arc blends a long history of service with a national reputation for success. The Arc has a rich tradition of developing quality programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities, while promoting social, economic, and personal independence. The belief that people with developmental disabilities have unlimited potential and the right to equality of opportunity underlies all of their programs.

Arc of San Diego empowers persons with developmental disabilities, and their families, by working in partnership to create opportunities to achieve their individual goals within the community. As part of their employment goal, Arc provides staff for a number of areas, including landscaping and grounds maintenance. For more information, call: (619) 685-1175 or visit www.arc-sd.com. ☘

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John Gilruth wrote, "My garden and avocado grove did not fare well at all. We have increased our plantings of succulents, etc. that we sell at farmers' markets, and our water allocation is based on 2006 consumption - the year we planted 350 more trees. I had to pay over \$2000 in august and \$1100 in September for water - thanks to protecting the delta smelt. It seems farmers and growers are not important anymore. When are our representatives going to take steps to save us growers? So my garden did not fare well and during the very hot weather we could not water enough and have had fruit drop and some loss of plants in our botanical section."

Marilyn Guidroz's garden did well: "The water rationing changes did not affect my garden too much. I always water by hand with a hose. It helps me to stay in touch with my garden and visit with each plant on an individual basis. I can judge the amount and frequency of water needed with greater accuracy just by looking at the plant and feeling the soil. Sometimes a plant just needs a little extra TLC and I wouldn't notice it otherwise. Some plants just need too much TLC and I yank them out and send them to the compost heap. No wimps in my dry garden! I do, however, always allow the fruit trees to be given extra special care and 'more water, less often' seems to suit them just fine. I gave up lawns a long time ago and do not miss them at all. I think lawns and poor irrigation habits are the cause of most of our water rationing problems. There are so many better choices now that can look green and soft and not need all that water and maintenance."



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Cheryl Hedgpeth-Nichols says, "I have a mature tropical garden. In the back, I water once every 5 days. According to the city guidelines, I would have to water twice a week to follow the proper days of the week watering guidelines. Since the back is private, I decided to stick to the every 5 days schedule, rather than water more often. In the front, I have added to the brick patio entrance, and after 10 years, finally had someone update the sprinkler system to make it more efficient. I am adding more succulents in the front garden, and starting this month, reducing the watering schedule to once a week, on one of the mandatory watering days!"

Will Johnson made several important changes: "We've reduced irrigation several ways. (1) Removed the small front lawn - installed CA natives (in early summer). (2) Installed a pop-up irrigation system that waters more accurately. (3) Replaced part of a large planted area in the back yard with a flagstone patio - (40% less irrigated area). (4) Installed landscape drip line to irrigate ornamentals & edibles on different valves. (5) Paid more attention to watering schedules (my Cyber-Rain irrigation timer works from my computer). (6) Inside the kitchen I reuse a 2-gal (kitty litter) bucket, collecting water from the hot tap prior to running the dishwasher - I toss this onto the plants outside the kitchen. A 12' patch of bulbs & groundcover gets free watering from almost daily dumps."

Barbara Kocmur changed her equipment: "I replaced the original sprinkler heads with the new rotor heads and not only did almost everything survive, the water usage was reduced by 27%. Now I get to find new drought tolerant plants to fill in the few empty spaces."

Britta J. Kuhlow says, "My garden fared well. I have for a number of years been saving the water I use in the kitchen to rinse vegetables and plates and taking that water out to the garden. I have a graywater system from the washing machine that takes the water to the ornamentals and fruit trees. I save the warm-up water in the bath to flush the toilet. I have installed a rainwater capture system that saves over 300 gallons each time it rains and about 50 gallons when there is a heavy fog. So, the plants haven't suffered and I still have reduced my water consumption."

Becky Landes shares this good news: "Now that the state of CA has relaxed the greywater restrictions, we can all take advantage of simple greywater irrigation systems. I turned an ordinary Rubbermaid trashcan into our collection bin. I drilled a hole in the trashcan and put in an adapter that connects to a hose on the outside. We attached a 3/4 inch diameter hose and run it out to water ornamentals in the back yard. The trashcan sits on a cooler to elevate it and help the water drain out. The hose can reach 100 feet from the washer. Our bougainvillea seem to really like the greywater! Be sure you follow greywater guidelines and use greywater detergent. Amazing what you can do with things sitting around the house. This gives us about 80-100 gallons of free irrigation water per week. I posted my whole greywater project on the Instructables.com website if you want to check it out: www.instructables.com/id/Simple-Laundry-Greywater-System/. They actually liked it enough to feature it and it was on their home page for a few days."

Alice Lowe tells us, "As I've converted to mostly succulents over the past several years, water rationing hasn't been a problem. But in trying to conserve even more, I found that some flourished with less water, taking on more brilliant color and flowering more effusively, while with others it appears that I pushed the limit of just how little they can take, especially as most are in containers, and I did lose a few. As water takes a long time to warm up in my house, I've started keeping two-gallon buckets at both sink and tub and filling them at every use - it's enough to give herbs and a few thirstier plants a daily drink during hot weather."

Don Lowe says, "I have been following the mandated three days a week and total time specified per station. I water from 3 to 6 minutes, depending on the area, twice in the morning on watering days at 8:00 and 9:00 to get deep watering without runoff. The small lawn as well as all planters, trees and ground cover are doing very well and look great. I believe deep watering twice in succession is the answer and can be useful for others to know."

Terri Maguire had interesting results: "Well, my garden (meaning my trees, shrubs and perennials) did just fine with the water rationing of course. These things don't ever need nearly as much water as the general public seems to think. It was my ridiculous Marathon sod (which I'm slowly trying to eliminate over the years) that suffered. The biggest problem with the sod was the 'fairy ring' fungus (large white toadstools scattered inside and outside a 'ring' in the lawn whereby the lawn gets a brown ring and the inside is especially green). I am currently combating this fungus (and seem to be winning) by using Tri-c organics Myco Drench on the area. It's a good fungus that seems to be beating out the bad fungus. I also removed 1/3 of my ridiculous lawn in the front and added a dry streambed with pretty

Continued on page 16

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drought tolerant shrubs and perennials which I, my neighbors, the butterflies and hummingbirds seem to be thoroughly enjoying!" The plants that Terri used in her front yard included: an Olive Tree, dwarf Raphiolepis 'Pinkie', Artemesia 'Powis Castle', Purple Angelonia, orange Osteospermum, fuschia Verbena, Sedum kimmachii and Aeonium 'Schwarzkopf'.

Tania Marien's lawn is suffering: "My garden did not fare well. The backyard lawn is now dirt. I stopped watering it last year intentionally. It is to serve as both a disabled-accessible garden and an experiment in permaculture. The front yard lawn is ill. There isn't much, but with the three-day per week restriction, the weakest part of the lawn that I would normally nurse through summer has extended its reach considerably. It is what it is. You just have to roll with it. My trees and larger bushes are fine. They are watered first. I don't care about the lawn."

Shellene Muller was already saving water: "Astonishing enough, I was already watering my plants every four days, so when the watering rationing was implemented, I wasn't bothered by it nor where my plants. I did, however, switch my watering schedule to start at 6:00pm in the evening (instead of 5:30am in the morning) and noticed a difference in my plants: they were much happier."

Anne Murphy, who also replied in September, says, "Getting rid of lawn made a big difference. Watering once a week or less works well. Even for new plantings - if they get the \$50 hole for the \$5 plant, they need very little more than that. (A \$50 hole is no deeper than pot that plant is coming out of, two to three times as wide as pot; hole is filled with water, and after it drains, repeat fill/drain cycle several more times - then plant). Also, I acclimatize plants that come from nurseries to my lean garden conditions: I buy plants in smallish pots, repot in larger pots using regular garden soil, and after their roots have moved successfully into my garden soil in these pots they move fairly happily - most of the time - into the garden."

Kathryn Nunn says, "Our garden still flourished despite restriction on water use. We only have a small oval of grass and now it is smaller still because I took another 18 inches of it to expand my succulent border. The sprinklers were reduced to ten minutes twice a week for the grass. We bought timers for our fountains and they now turn off at 5:00 pm and come on at 9:00 am. This reduced the evaporation of water. For the month of July and August we just unplugged them completely. I watered my organic vegetable garden by hand to reduce wasted water and this helped as well. My plan for winter is to take out the majority of the roses and replace them with something less thirsty."

Ruth Ann Parker got new hardware: "My irrigation system has been retrofitted with Hunter MP rotator nozzles. They deliver the water in a more efficient manner thereby less water is needed. I'm even replacing the big rotors with these MP rotator nozzles. The rotator nozzles are advertised to save 30% and I believe they do."

Kathie Rubenson did great: "I just watered less! I found that the plants could survive with less than I thought. In addition, I did a lot of hauling water! I keep a plastic pitcher in the kitchen sink: when I rinse fruits and veggies, rinse off my hands, etc., I catch that water in the

pitcher and then water potted plants with that. And although we put in a pump to get the hot water up to our bathroom without having to turn on the tap, I catch in a bucket the little bit that is still cool as the hot makes it to the tub from the pump under the sink. That also waters potted plants. With these behaviors, plus putting in low-flow toilets and other changes, we have saved 36-39% each of the last three billing periods!"

Jackie Seidman shares a simple secret: "I cut down 1 minute from each of my 26 zones. Also, only watering the three mandatory days helped. I had the lowest water bill in many years. I had a problem with one carrotwood tree going into shock, but I deep watered it and it recovered just fine."

Alex Stanton, of Stanton Iris Gardens, recommends bearded iris as low-water plants: "I have wells at both of my gardens (is that cheating?). Bearded Iris only need to be watered every week to 1-1/2 weeks. This makes them an excellent low water plant. If you stop watering them, they will go dormant, and most of them will come back when you apply water again. In fact, when temperatures exceed 90 degrees it is better not to water them because of problems with fungal and bacterial root rot. If you water bearded iris every day you will KILL them; they cannot tolerate excessive watering. In my early years of iris growing, I lost about 30% of my plants because I didn't know how to water. Modern reblooming iris make a beautiful garden addition that will bloom several time each year. They grow quickly, and come in all sizes and colors from SDBs at 8 to 16 inches to Tall Bearded Iris that have flower stalks that are over 27-1/2 inches. Tradition says that the SDBs will not grow and flower in warmer climates, but I have over 100 varieties of Standard Dwarf Bearded Iris that I've grown for years, and many start blooming within 90 days of planting, and continue to bloom throughout the year for me. Bearded Iris are an excellent Drought Tolerant Plant!"

Sharon Swildens' garden is suffering: "I live in Poway - the city with the most decrease in water use in the San Diego area. We are required by the city to reduce our water consumption to not water more than 10 minutes per station, three times a week, or be fined. This rationing occurred during temperatures ranging from 80 to 100 degrees F. My 1-acre garden is in stress. There are no living annuals, few flowers, some bushes have died, and the needles and leaves are being shed from the trees due to the lack of water. I have had to remove the suggested oscillating water sprinkler tops and put on the old ones since the new ones required more time and were responsible for extreme dryness in their areas.

The Poway City Council put in a new tiered water rate as of September 1st which was placed there to punish and give incentive to the heavy water users which are the one acre and over lot owners. People cut back, the city parks and city land did not; so the private larger lots are brown patched while the city properties and all properties with wells are green.

Since it is hard to significantly change one's landscaping water use and maintain the health of one's yard; our largest change was to remove our front yard's grass and replace it with decorative stone. However, we do not think this will do the whole job since there are three trees within the stoned area so the ground must still be watered to some extent since the roots of the trees extend out quite far. It did reduce our water bill, our mowing, and our fertilizing. Our grass in the back yard is in stress, with huge blotches of dead grass - from

Continued on page 18

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lack of water and from excess rabbits who come in the night to feed. I keep on trying to save my plants with the hose, but the ground is too dry, too deep. The collective decrease in watering by everyone in the extreme heat has caused the ground in general to dry out. I think we may have to remove our grass in the backyard to save the rest of the yard. It is a frustrating summer for a gardener in Poway. One of my neighbors went xeriscape. I would hate to give up my old living plant friends. Most of my plants are drought tolerant - but even they need some water and the older and larger they are, the more they need. What we really need is reclaimed water for the garden. When is San Diego going to look to the sea instead of looking to the north for help? Why are new developments not required to have reclaimed water for landscaping? Can we continue to have the number of golf courses we have without using reclaimed water? We have an old problem that we still refuse to face - self-sufficiency."

Stephen A Zolezzi did great despite the heat: "Through spring and summer of this year I reduced water use by 24% on half an acre divided into 4 gardens in East County! Even with excessive heat spells we experienced many plants did just fine with less - I was over watering and have learned a valuable lesson I will use in continuing to focus on plants that can stand up to my local water restrictions. Curbing my plant appetite to fit our water supply/cost reality is like having your stomach stapled, hands tied and lips sewn together, but I know I can, I know I can, I know I can!!!"

The question for next month is:

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

Send your e-mail reply by November 5 to info@sdhortsoc.org. 🌿

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Brown Widow Spider

By Walter Andersen



[Editor's note: As we go to press I got a series of e-mails from Walter Andersen, relating his experiences in mid-October with a Brown Widow spider. Take care in your garden to avoid getting bitten!]

I was working in Poway and a lady came in with a bag and took out a clump of leaves off of her citrus tree. She brought it in to confirm what she thought it was. She said I think these are Brown Widow Spider eggs. I had heard of them being in our area recently, but have never seen one, nor the egg sac that I know of.

Anyway another lady was in the store and kind of came to see what was there and she said "Yes, definitely those are Brown Widow Spider egg sacs". She had an I.D. card hanging from her neck, I put on my reading glasses and it said "Ann Sixtus, Department of Agriculture." I asked, "do you work for the Ag Department?" She said, "Yes, I came in to check the Orchids you received from Hawaii." It was pure coincidence that they came in about the same time. But also it was great to have an expert confirm what the first lady suspected.

I put the small branch in a plastic bag to take home to take a photo, and also have show and tell in San Diego. Jody and I were moving the leaves to get a better shot and Jody says, "There she is!!!!" Sure enough, the spider was hiding in the leaves. Jody rushed to get a jar and we stuffed it all in the jar for tomorrow, sealed with clear packing tape too.

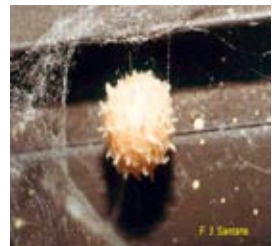
I thought you might want to put something in the newsletter that Brown Widows may be hiding in some of our shrubbery and to be careful, especially where the foliage is kind of thick. With this branch, we had to carefully peel away some of the leaves to get a good look. I have another photo my daughter-in-law took at the store; it shows more of the webbing.

Ann Sixtus, the Ag lady, said they have a distinctive egg sac: they look like they have thorns, almost like little white Liquidambar seed cases. The egg case is about 7/16" in diameter and almost white. There was fine webbing almost covering the space they were in. There were 5 egg sacs in the group.

This spider has more of an orange color to the hourglass shaped spot than the Black Widow. If you Google it you can see at the joints of the legs those areas are much darker than the rest of the leg. I think it is pretty easy to identify by the spot on the belly, the light and dark legs and the spiny egg sac.

Anyway I thought it was interesting. Ann Sixtus said when she is working in her yard she always wears gloves, just in case, to protect her hands.

Often when I pick up a 15-gallon container with a lip, in the back of my mind, I think, "is there a Black Widow under this lip?" I do see Black Widows often, but have never been bitten. I don't know of anyone who has, but they are out there. Some information I read about the Brown Widow says they are more toxic than Black Widows; other sources say it is not as bad. Anyway, they are around, both of them! 🌿



OCTOBER PLANT FORUM

By Susi Torre-Bueno

What is the Plant Forum?

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

Manihot esculenta CASSAVA, TAPIOCA
(Euphorbiaceae) South America

The large palmate leaves of tapioca give a decidedly tropical look to your garden, and this plant has many interesting features which make it a worth addition. Widely cultivated for its starchy root, all parts of the plant are poisonous and to be edible the root must be properly processed. In our climate it is a winter-deciduous semi-woody shrub that can grow rapidly to 10-15 feet tall and about as wide. It leafs out as soon as the weather begins to warm, and soon is covered with large leaves. Small flowers are wildly popular with bees, and if pollinated the plant yields ½-inch round fruits that can assume a pumpkin-orange color in the fall and look quite festive. When the fruits become dry they can explosively open (especially on warm days) and send the large seeds up to 40 feet away, effortlessly scattering the plant around your garden. Excess seedlings are easily pulled out, but if you have the space a small grove of cassava is quite attractive in summer. (Linda Espino, San Diego, 10/09) – S.T.B.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the October plant forum, especially to Michael Buckner, our excellent Plant Forum Host (and bringer of some terrific plants!). Charley Fouquette did a great job talking about the fascinating orchids he (and others) exhibited. 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 October newsletter was *Amaryllis donaldbella* NAKED GENT.

Albuca spiralis (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/09)

Aloe plicatilis (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/09)

Ampelopsis brevipedunculata BLUEBERRY CLIMBER, PORCELAIN BERRY, PORCELAIN VINE (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/09)

Boophone disticha CAPE POISON BULB
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/09)

Dovyalis caffra KAI, KEI (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/09)

Euphorbia obesa BASEBALL PLANT, SEA URCHIN
(Steve Mediano, San Diego, 10/09)

Ficus burret-davyi (bonsai form, 5 years in training) (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/09)

3 *Hibiscus schizopetalus* (coral-flowered form) FRINGED HIBISCUS, JAPANESE LANTERN (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/09)

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Hylocereus undatus GREEN DRAGON, DRAGON FRUIT, NIGHT
BLOOMING CEREUS, PITAHAYA (Erik & Irina Gronborg, Solana
Beach, 10/09)

Kefersteinia mustachio MOUSTACHED KEFERSTEINIA (Orchid
Lover, El Cajon, 10/09)

Kefersteinia mystacina BEARDED KEFERSTEINIA
(Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/09)

3 *Lycoris aurea*, syn. *L. africana* GOLDEN SPIDER LILY
(Sheldon Lisker, Temecula, 10/09)

Masdevallia Ken Dole Alba (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/09)

Melaleuca diosmifolia GREEN FLOWERED MELALEUCA
(Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 10/09)

Mestoklema tuberosum (Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/09)

Orostachys boehmeri HARDY DUNCECAP
(Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 10/09)

Pachypodium gracilis (crest form)
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/09)

Paphiopedilum Alma Gaubert x *Luna Moth* SLIPPER ORCHID
(Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/09)

Paphiopedilum Dragon Flag x *Maudiae* SLIPPER ORCHID
(Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/09)

Paphiopedilum Shadow Magic x *Black Buddha* SLIPPER ORCHID
(Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/09)

Paphiopedilum Satchel Paige SLIPPER ORCHID
(Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 10/09)

Pittosporum sp. (Jolanta Lewak, Del Mar, 10/09)

Sansevieria sp. (Linda Espino, San Diego, 10/09)

Stapelia glanduliflora (Linda Espino, San Diego, 10/09)

Strobilanthes gossypinus PERSIAN SHIELD
(Michael & Joyce Buckner, San Diego, 10/09)

Tamarindus indica TAMARIND (Mark Johnson, Escondido, 10/09)

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.]

**Bring a plant from your garden
to show off at the
November Plant Forum!**

October Meeting Report

When most people think about zoos they think about the animals, so it isn't a great surprise that not many members were aware of the impressive seed-banking efforts going on at the San Diego Zoo's Institute for Conservation Research (formerly CRES). At our October meeting we were privileged to hear a fascinating presentation by Zoo horticulturist Dr. Bryan Endress, with a fast-paced look at the Zoo's partnership with local, national, and international groups to address critical plant conservation issues in our region.

The Institute for Conservation Research is the largest zoo-based research institute in the world, with a staff of 135 people. Founded 20 years ago, its newest division, only two years old, is Applied Plant Ecology. Their focus is on conservation restoration and sustainable management worldwide, and their goal is to "merge research and application with a focus on solutions." Their current activities in Southern California include seed banking, Native Seeds for Native Americans projects, and restoring local cactus wren habitats destroyed by wildfire.

Seed banking is "the controlled storage of seed to preserve the species." San Diego County is a biodiversity hotspot – in the top 10 worldwide in terms of how many species are endemic: over 1500 species are native to our county (out of 6000 species native to California). We are also living in a highly threatened ecology, with challenges from population growth, exotic plants, and increasing frequency of wildfires. Our ecosystems are at great risk for "type conversion," or the total destruction of native habitats by invasive exotic plants.

The goal of the Applied Plant Ecology division, working along with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (England) on the Millennium Seed Bank Project (<http://tinyurl.com/kewseed>), is to "bank 20% of the world's flora by the year 2020," and about 10% has already been banked. The Zoo's seed bank goal in 2005 was to collect 300 seed types from San Diego County. To date 345 species have been banked in a specially-built straw bale building, with duplicate seeds sent to several other locations as well. The division determines which local species to target, finds the plant populations, monitors the phenology, assesses the collection, cleans and freezes the seeds, and periodically tests for viable germination.

When collecting seeds they take up to 20% of the seeds they find, along with lots of data. For successful seed banking, which is done so as to be able to re-introduce plants threatened with extinction, at least 100,000 seeds of a species is needed at each seed storage location. Collecting seeds can be a significant challenge, part of which is determining when the seeds are ripe (in some species this occurs only one week per year!) and then painstakingly cleaning the seeds of insect pests and debris, plus any soft fruit which surrounds

the seed itself.

Once the seeds are clean and ready, they are dried to a relative humidity of 15% to induce dormancy and then frozen at -20° F. Long-term storage takes place at Kew and a small handful of other places. Ongoing research into how to induce germination of stored seeds is critical, and much remains to be learned in this area. For example, some seeds require cold or warm stratification, a hot water soak, or other means to break dormancy. Some need fire or smoke to germinate, and "smoke water" can increase germination rates from zero to over 70% for some species.

A very new project of the Applied Plant Ecology division is habit restoration in the San Pasqual Valley for the cactus wren, a "species of concern" which is rare in our county. The birds nest only in cactus scrub, and recent wildfires destroyed hundreds of acres of their required habitat. Current plans call for a restoration of 45 acres near the Zoo. Native Seeds for Native Americans is another project that involves doing outreach and education about traditional plants. The Zoo has been working with a number of groups, including the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians in Valley Center, to help them to establish demonstration gardens and educational programs for young people. To learn more visit www.sandiegozoo.org/conservation/plants/seedbank_project.

Thanks, Bryan, for a look at an important area of horticulture. Judging from the many questions after the talk, our members are quite intrigued, and some may want to be involved as volunteers. There are plans to train seed collecting volunteers, and we'll keep members informed about this opportunity to make a difference in our community. ☺

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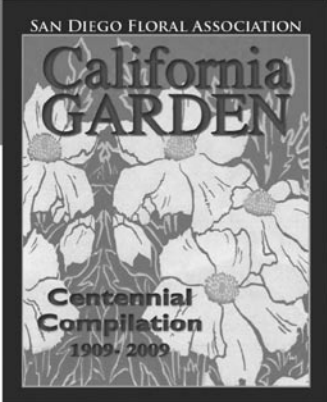
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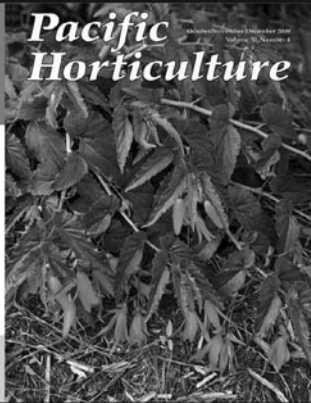
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WATER SMART GARDENING FESTIVAL

More Beauty with Less Water

Saturday, November 14, 2009, 9am-3pm

Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College



Special Guest: Diana Lindsay, Parobotanist for the San Diego Natural History Museum and author, presents *Indian Use of Local Desert Plants* with a demonstration of how Native Americans used local plants to thrive in their desert communities. 1pm in classroom.

Major Sponsors:



Highlights

Plant Sale

- Large selection of beautiful drought tolerant plants.

Ask the Experts

- Free Landscape Design Consultations, call 619-660-0614 x 10 to reserve time.
- Water Smart Gardeners, Master Composters, Master Gardeners, Veggie Gardeners, and more.
- Expert presentations on drought tolerant garden design, plants, and irrigation.

Fun for Kids!

- Ms. Smarty Plants "Plantastic" Show!
- Face Painting
- Water Agency Activity Booth

Free Admission and Parking



619-660-0614 x 10
www.thegarden.org

What's Happening? for November 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

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

November can bring us glorious weather for gardening in the San Diego area. Warm but mild days and cool nights are ideal growing conditions for cool-season plants. November is a particularly good time to add trees, shrubs and ground covers to your landscape. November can deliver some much needed rain here – you may want to prune dense trees and make sure young trees are well-staked now before the winter arrives.

Plenty of loose **Paperwhite** bulbs. Remember to plant Paperwhites every two weeks now for a long display in December.

Azaleas are coming towards their bloom time and we have some very lush 5-gallon plants in bloom.

The Cyclamen are very full now and 6" Mums for inside and out. Holiday Cactus are very full of buds, they are fabulous when in full bloom.

Ceanothus is a great California native – one of the many varieties on hand is *Ceanothus arboreus* 'Cliff Schmidt', Feltleaf Ceanothus. Gets big...to 16 feet tall and 12 feet across. Blooms Spring and Fall; in bloom now. Gorgeous!!

Restocked our **Herbs & Veggies** with: Plump Strawberry plants, Parsley, Valerian, lots of Lettuce(s), Winterbor and Redbor Kale, Spinach, Oregano (Greek, Hot & Spicy, Gold, Sweet Variegated), English Thyme, Lemon Thyme, many Basils, Cat Grass & Cat Thyme, Chives, Onions, Marjoram, Dill, Fennel, Italian Parsley.

The bedding annuals and perennials look enticing:

- Nemesia, Arctotus and Osteospermum, Bacopa – both Lilac & White, Sanvitalia tequila, Iceland Poppies, many Violas, Pansies, Snapdragons, Sweet Peas and much, much more.
- **For shady areas:** The Cyclamen are in full bloom – all colors and sizes are on hand and Primroses and nice Begonias to brighten your mood and home.

For indoors

- Big Ferns – lush, tropical and elegant. Maidenhairs in 4, 6 & 8", Boston's (6 & 10" – HUGE). Also Kimberly Queen, Bear Paw, Rabbit's Foot, Silver Dollar, Mother Fern and Autumn (just to rattle off a few).
- Great Orchids & Cymbidiums
- Great selection of Breytia, Kalanchoe, Bromeliad, Anthurium, Persian Violet, African Violet, Crossandra, Azalea, Hibiscus – just a few of your choices.

(continued on other side)

The Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College

Drive West, El Cajon, (619) 660-0614 or www.thegarden.org

Nov. 5, 6-8pm, Hillside Gardening: How to make the most of gardening on a slope. Topics include erosion control, proper plant selection, terracing, and irrigation tips. \$25. This class is offered in partnership with Cuyamaca College's Community Learning Program. For info and to register call (619) 660-4359.

Nov. 7, 9am – noon, Beautiful Landscape on a Low Water Budget: Learn seven principles of this water smart gardening method. Includes a garden tour after class. \$25/members; \$35/non-members. For information and to register, call (619) 660-0614.

Nov. 14, 9am – 3pm, Water Smart Gardening Festival: An exposition on water smart gardening. Buy drought tolerant plants, hear talks on water wise gardening, and visit the Ask the Designers area for a 20-minute landscape design consultation. Visit website above for details. Call (619) 660-0614 x10 to reserve your design consultation. Free admission and parking.

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

San Diego Botanic Garden (formerly Quail Botanical Gardens):

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

Nov 4, 6:30 – 8:30pm Green Roofs and Urban Sustainability: a comprehensive introduction to green roofs Members \$25, non-members \$30, Pre-registration required.

Nov 5, 12, 19, and 21st 7 – 9 pm Orchids Are Easy: Learn how easy it is to grow orchids Members \$80, non-members \$100. Includes free admission to the Garden (or guest pass if you are a member) to attend the Orchid Festival on Saturday

Nov 8, 2 – 4pm Palm Springs-Style Gardening: how desert gardens may be designed to enhance the appeal of many diverse architectural styles. Free with admission or membership.

Nov 21, Orchid Festival: learn the basics about orchid care. Presented by the Palomar Orchid Society. Cost: Free with admission or membership.

Walter Andersen Nursery Saturday Classes:

9am Point Loma Nursery:

Nov. 7 - Poinsettias

Nov. 14 – Dormant Fruit Tree Spraying

Nov. 21 – Winter Color for Your Yard

9:30 Poway Nursery classes:

Nov. 7 – Holiday Planters

Nov. 14 – Xeriscaping

Nov. 21 – Dormant Fruit Tree Spraying

FREE, details at www.walterandersen.com; addresses in ad on page 17

Nov. 6, 9am-noon, Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club: Morning in the Garden: two speakers; Care & maintenance of Poinsettias and Invertebrate pests in the garden. \$10 for non-members includes refreshments. For information call (858) 756-1554.

Nov. 6, 1pm, Carlsbad Garden Club: Aenne Carver will present "The Thrifty Gardener." Free. Dove Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad.

Nov. 7 & 8, 11am-4pm Ikenobo Japanese Flower Arrangement Show and sale: Free admission & workshops, Casa del Prado, Rm 101, Balboa Park call Karen at (858) 350-5186 for more information

Nov. 7, 8:45am – 1:30pm, Macadamia Annual Field Day: University of California Cooperative Extension California Macadamia Society and the Gold Crown Macadamia Association will have classes germane to the macadamia industry. \$20, 6686 Via de la Reina, Bonsall. For info call (760) 728-8081 or see www.macnuts.org/fieldday.htm

Nov. 7, 1 – 3pm, Free Composting and Manure Management Workshop: Presented by the Solana Center for Environmental Innovation at the Lakeside Polo Club, 10631 Ashwood St., Lakeside (gravel driveway on the left). Pre-register at www.solanacenter.org or call (760) 436-7986.

Nov. 8, 1:30pm, American Begonia Society: Begonia propagation by seeds and cuttings. Encinitas Community and Senior Center 1140 Oakcrest Park Dr., Encinitas. Call Marla Keith at 760-753-3977 for more info.

November 9, details on page 3
The Huntington's
Chinese Garden

Nov. 10, 7pm, San Diego Geranium Society: Geranium Bake-Off & Vendor meeting. Members will bring in baked and cooked items from recipes that incorporate geraniums. Free. Room 101 Casa Del Prado. See www.sdgeranium.org or call (858)472-0540.

Nov. 11, 12:00, Ramona Garden Club Meeting: Cary Sharp, Curator of Horticulture at the Wild Animal Park, will speak about the diverse gardens at the Wild Animal Park. Ramona Woman's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona. (760) 787-0087 or www.ramonagardenclub.com

Nov 11, 10:00am, Point Loma Garden Club: Let Rene Van Rems take you on a tour of the latest trends in floral design. Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego, www.plgc.org

Nov. 18, 9am, Poway Valley Garden Club: “Unusual Container Gardening” presented by Joanie Espy and Bette Childs, Flower Girls. Templars Hall at Old Poway Park. www.powayvalleygardenclub.org or contact us at (858) 672-0459.

Nov. 21, 8 – 10am, Free Composting Workshop: Presented by the Solana Center for Environmental Innovation at the San Diego Zoo, Otto Entrance (one block south of main entrance). Pre-register online at www.solanacenter.org or call (760) 436-7986. Registration limited to 25 people.

Resources & Ongoing Events

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN (formerly OUAL BOTANICAL GARDENS): Open daily 9-5 (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day); 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Fee: \$12/adults, \$8/seniors, \$6/kids; parking \$2. Free to members and on the first Tuesday of every month. (760) 436-3036; www.SDBGarden.org .

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

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

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

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

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

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

BALBOA PARK:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Garden TV and Radio Shows

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

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

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

And finally in the **Gift Shop**...Christmas is on the way. Patrick has started setting up the shop for the Holidays, and here's a taste of what we have:

- Stunning hand blown mercury glass ornaments. Heirloom quality
- Cut glass starburst candle holders. These beauties really catch and refract the light.
- Mercury glass Christmas trees, simply gorgeous.

November in the Garden

Onion seed, garlic and strawberries all need to be planted in the first half of November so don't delay. Transplant strawberries now so they'll develop sturdy root systems over the winter, ready to burst into lush foliage and heavy fruit set in the spring. Dig in lots of organic material and compost first to feed roots over the winter and through the summer.

New Plantings

Natives: November is an excellent time to plant California natives. There are many natives that are wonderful landscape plants including: California Lilac (Ceanothus), Toyon or California Holly (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Monkeyflower (Diplacus), California Tree Mallow (*Lavatera assurgenteum*), Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*). Several low-growing varieties of Manzanita (Arctostaphylos) also make great native ground covers.

Garden Maintenance

Chrysanthemums:

After they finish flowering cut chrysanthemums back leaving 6-inch stems. They will begin to grow again next March. Old clumps can be lifted and divided - cut the roots apart and discard woody centers and then replant.

Hydrangeas:

Do not prune hydrangeas this late in the year. Hydrangeas bloom on one-year-old stems (except for the 'Endless Summer'). Pruning now will eliminate most of next year's flowers. To try to get blue or lavender flowers on an otherwise pink plant start applying Aluminum Sulfate to the soil now. White flowered varieties will not change color and not all pinks will be effected the same.

Tropicals & Subtropicals:

Many of these will still be blooming and looking good. It is not unusual for many of these to have a big fall flower burst now. Look for lots of color now on plumerias, hibiscus, bougainvillea and ginger.

Let these heat loving plants harden off a bit before the cool temperatures of late fall and winter. Reducing or eliminating nitrogen fertilizer and cutting back on watering will help the plants get ready for the cooler months ahead.

Plan your **dormant fruit tree spraying** schedule to coincide approximately with cool weather holidays (Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, and Valentine's Day). Specific cues are the fall of the last leaf (Thanksgiving), the height of dormancy (New Year's Day), and bud swell (Valentine's Day). Spraying at the precise period of bud swell is especially important – before the buds swell is too early and after the blossoms open is too late.

Plant **colorful ornamental cabbage** and kale for vibrantly rich reds, blues, and purples to accentuate other garden colors all winter long.

Plant azaleas, camellias, forsythias, dogwoods, and oriental magnolias so they'll settle in nicely. Renew acid mulches under azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons. Water them well to make sure they don't dry out from winter sun and winds. Twist off small buds on camellias for fewer but larger blooms.

Prune to shape evergreens such as arborvitae, juniper, magnolia, pines, pittosporum, and spruce. This is a great way to get trimmings for holiday decorations while manicuring the plants. But don't let your zeal for snipping spread to pruning spring-blooming shrubs or you'll cut off the blooms (they form on new wood); instead, prune after blooming is done.