Let’s Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

September 2009, Number 180

California Native Plants for the Garden

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On the Cover: California Collection of the Leaning Pine Arboretum
AUGUST SPECIAL EVENT AT QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS
Photos By Janine Free

Steve Brigham addressing the crowd.

Cathy Tylka (right) and Mo Price (left) cutting our 15th Birthday cake.

Julian Duval (left) and Steve Brigham (right) at the Hamilton Children’s Garden.

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

September 26 & 27
(Sat. & Sun.)
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Room 101, Casa del Prado
Balboa Park
www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

Begonia Show & Sale

The San Diego County branches of the American Begonia Society will hold a Plant Show & Sale on Saturday & Sunday October 3 and 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The show will be in Room 101 of Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Spectacular foliage and blossoms of the Begonias will be on display. There will be many beautiful begonia plants for sale. Begonia experts will be available to answer questions.

For more information call Marla Keith at (760) 753-3977 or e-mail nandmkeith@att.net
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

September 18-20  Fall Home/Garden Show, Del Mar Fairgrounds
October 12  Brian Endress on Native Seed Gene Bank Project
November 9  Liu Fan Yuan - From Dream to Reality: Development of The Huntington's Chinese Garden.

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org

Next Meeting: September 14, 2009, 6:00 – 9:00 PM
Topic: MIKE EVANS ON: “CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN: A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE”

Horticulturist David Fross will present a very timely program titled “California Native Plants for the Garden: A Personal Perspective,” which will inspire us to try native plants as we face increasing water restrictions. The California flora is celebrated for its remarkable diversity and many of the state’s best known parks and wildlands are defined by their plant life, from redwood forests to rolling oak woodlands. The cultivated landscape of the state — even after years of native plant advocacy from horticulturists and organizations — continues to be filled with plants from outside the state. This presentation will consider the history of native plant use and offer a reminder that California native plants can serve almost every garden and landscape function imaginable. From formal hedges and lawns to perennial borders and containers, our flora provides durable and useful selections suitable for all garden styles.

David Fross is the founder and president of Native Sons Wholesale Nursery, a grower specializing in plants from the Mediterranean-climate regions of the world. He teaches horticulture at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and is the co-author of Ceanothus and California Native Plants for the Garden. An extremely popular and dynamic speaker, Fross has a passion for native plants that is contagious! Copies of his books will be available for sale.

To learn more visit www.NativeSon.com and see page 5.

Important Member Information

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1: Treasurer

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

2: Volunteer Coordinator Co-Chair

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

3: A/V Backup Person

The folks who run the A/V equipment at our meetings need someone who can be an occasional backup for them. This is a fun task for someone who is familiar with using PowerPoint, slide projectors, and/or a video camera. If you can be on stand-by for this, call Susi at (760) 295-7089.

4: Calendar Editor

We need a volunteer to prepare the monthly calendar that is the gold insert in the newsletter. Basically, you get e-mails from local garden groups about their upcoming events, take this info, condense it, and format it chronologically for the newsletter. This takes about 12-14 hours per month. It’s a great task for a detail-oriented person; please call Susi at (760) 295-7089.

5: 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.
To Learn More...

California Native Plants for the Garden
By Ava Torre-Bueno

This month’s speaker is David Fross of Native Son Nursery. Here is their website: http://nativeson.com/

Here’s a blog spot about turning a front lawn into a meadow: http://bammorgan.blogspot.com/2007/09/my-california-meadow-almost-like-turf.html


This is a manifest about the down-side of lawns and the upside of a more complex ecosystem: http://www.humanhabitatrestoration.com/turfisdead.htm

And it always pays to check out the water conservation garden at Cuyamaca College to see how much water and fertilizer and MONEY your lawn is eating: www.thegarden.org/gardensExhibits.html

Helping Others
By Louise Anderson

Don’t let your extra garden produce go to waste! Got too much in the way of fruits, vegetables or other food that you want to share? The North County Food Bank is the place to go. The address is 680 Rancheros Drive, at Santar Place in San Marcos. They take donations Mon. to Wed. from 9:30am to 3:30pm, and Thurs and Fri from 9:30am to noon. They will provide a tax deduction letter for your donation.

For information call (760) 761-1140 at their location or I'll be glad to tell you what I know. You can contact me at spinner@pacbell.net or (760) 591-7644. Maybe other members in other areas of the county would be interested in sharing their information about places to donate hone-grown produce, too. If you know of a place, let Susi know at info@sdhortsoc.org.

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Steve Said it Best

On August 10 we were proud to honor one of our founders, Steve Brigham, at a terrifically fun event at Quail Botanical Gardens. In accepting his award as our Horticulturist of the Year, Steve eloquently expressed his heartfelt belief that volunteering is the key to long-term survival of any non-profit group, and he graciously thanked the SDHS and Quail volunteers for all they’ve done over the years. More importantly, he talked about the intrinsic value of being a volunteer: as a way of making friends, spreading useful information, connecting with other people, and doing one’s share of supporting a community benefit. His hope, and ours, too, is that through the on-going efforts of volunteers the SDHS and Quail will exist far beyond our lifetimes.

On page 4 of the newsletter we’ve been listing our needs for volunteers – and haven’t had much response to some of these requests. You might not realize it, but with the exception of our bookkeeper, ALL the work of the organization is done by volunteers. We need YOUR help to continue having the myriad of events and benefits that you now enjoy.

If you are not already a volunteer, now is the time for you to step up and help out. In addition to the tasks on page 4, we need volunteers to help with meeting check-in and outreach events. Just call and tell me you want to do your part – and thanks in advance!

There’s More On-Line

Hope you have checked out our upgraded website, which with Sally Sandler and Rachel Cobb have worked wonders. When you see the MORE ON-LINE symbol in an article it means we’ve added additional information on our website – more images, references, plant lists, etc. Also, check the website frequently for Plant Superstars and other exclusively on-line features you’ll appreciate.

Changes on the Board

In late September we have our annual board elections, but as we go to press we don’t have the results for that yet. However, we can say goodbye to board member Jim Wright. He joined us last fall for a one-year member at large position, and his input at our meetings and his generosity in opening his fabulous garden for our New Member Orientation were both much appreciated.

We’re very pleased to announce that Sally Sandler, another member at large, has agreed to remain on the board for a three-year term as our Website Coordinator. Her work to upgrade our website has been fabulous!}"
Let's Talk Plants!

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San Diego Horticultural Society

These days almost everyone is redesigning landscapes for one reason – to conserve water. We know lawn is the biggest water user and have chosen not to spend our water there. Would you remodel a kitchen without the benefit of some serious planning, either by yourself or by a professional designer? No!

Now your questions arise: How do I want to create a water saving landscape: simply take everything out and lay down gravel, create a state-of-the-art outdoor kitchen, or create a magnificent Mediterranean garden? Other questions might include:

- How can I turn this big blob of former lawn into garden?
- Where will my children play if we remove the lawn?
- My front entrance is unwelcoming. How can that be remedied?
- We need space to hang out in the back yard. We love to entertain. How can we do that?
- My current landscape is a maintenance nightmare. How do I prevent that from happening again?
- How can I pick a theme: e.g. formal/casual, Asian/Mediterranean, cottage/contemporary?
- Our front yard is really big but wasted, kind of like our living room, we never use it! What to do?
- What should stay and what should go? Where do I begin?

Asking and answering these questions is the first step to designing an aesthetic, functional garden that matures with grace and serves your needs. Are you starting to see how designing and planning can enhance your results?

After answering the questions, creating a plot plan is the next critical step. With a picture of the house and elements you want to keep, you will see the canvas evolve. To draw a scaled plot plan (like the one shown here) you will need a measuring tape (50’ or longer), a scale ruler and grid paper or a computer.

- A scale of 1” = 8’ or 1/8 scale is most common.
- Measure from the corners of the house to place it on the property.
- Place all elements to remain: patios, shade structures, etc.
- Draw all existing trees and plants to scale, using a circle the actual size of the drip line.
- The bottom of all slopes, called the toe, is designated by a dashed line.
- Be aware of local area setbacks.

A few basic design tips to get you started

- All hardscape should begin and end in relation to an architectural feature. This is most often a corner, but it could be a window or door; Hardscape should look as if it were designed at the same time as the home.
- For small spaces avoid numerous small elements. Clutter will make the space look and feel even smaller.
- Generally, straight geometric lines work best in small spaces and more organic, curved lines enhance larger areas.

Next Month: answers to the questions!

Member Pamela Homfelt, of pH Exterior Design, has been researching, studying, practicing, designing with and lecturing on low water use landscape techniques since the early 90’s. Collaborating with the Wild Animal Park, City of San Diego Environmental Services, and recently the County Water Authority on low water use demonstration gardens has been the highlight of her career.
Let's Talk Plants! September 2009, No. 180

Plants That Produce

Figs
By Richard Frost

It is September and here in San Diego many varieties of figs will ripen from now through November. If tasting figs has you thinking about planting them, our climate will accommodate that even in September or October. As for choosing a variety to plant, you may wish to peruse the over 400 fruiting figs at http://figs4fun.com/Varieties.html compiled by San Diego resident Jon Verdick. Several of the figs listed there are available from local and online sellers, although Jon certainly has a larger collection available by appointment at Encanto Farms Nursery, http://www.encantofarms.com/.

Plant your tree in the ground away from the house and water pipes. Dig a hole about 32” by 32” by 18” deep to loosen compacted ground and amend if necessary so that the soil is a loamy mixture. Alternately, choose one of the “container” varieties below and plant in a 20 to 40 gallon pot. After planting, cover the soil with at least 3” of mulch. Water trees in the ground once per week, about 5 gallons for young trees and 15 gallons for larger established trees. Feed your tree monthly during the growing season with subtropical or citrus formula, such as 9-3-6 or 28-8-18.

The San Diego County environment does not have enough accumulated heat early in the year to fully ripen “spring” or “breba” crops on fig trees. Therefore, all local trees should be pruned about waist high each year in early January. If the tree does not already have a crotch formation at this height one will certainly form. For containers, the crotch should be at the soil level. In the spring, long flexible whips will grow skyward bearing figs on the new growth as summer arrives. This single crop will mature by Fall.

Selected Fig Varieties For Regions of San Diego County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>San Diego Climate</th>
<th>Skin</th>
<th>Flesh</th>
<th>Fruit Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arencio</td>
<td>Inland, containers</td>
<td>green</td>
<td>pink</td>
<td>medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balsamoraka Nero</td>
<td>Coastal, Inland</td>
<td>yellow-green</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beall</td>
<td>Inland</td>
<td>dark</td>
<td>purple</td>
<td>medium-late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Mission</td>
<td>Coastal, Inland</td>
<td>dark</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>medium-late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celeste</td>
<td>Inland, cold hardy</td>
<td>brown-violet</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>small-med</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danny’s Delight</td>
<td>Inland, very cold hardy</td>
<td>purple</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>med-late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deanna</td>
<td>Coastal, Inland, cold hardy</td>
<td>gold</td>
<td>amber</td>
<td>medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duttro</td>
<td>Long warm &amp; hot summers</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>amber</td>
<td>medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Brown Turkey</td>
<td>Inland, very cold hardy</td>
<td>bronze</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclai</td>
<td>Inland, possibly Coastal</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>amber</td>
<td>medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardy Chicago</td>
<td>Mountains</td>
<td>dark brown</td>
<td>pink to red</td>
<td>small-med</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janice-Kadota</td>
<td>Coastal</td>
<td>yellow-green</td>
<td>amber</td>
<td>large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSU Gold aka Golden</td>
<td>Inland, possibly Coastal</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celeste</td>
<td>Inland, containers</td>
<td>purple</td>
<td>purple</td>
<td>med-large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Lune</td>
<td>Coastal</td>
<td>yellow-green</td>
<td>amber</td>
<td>medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ostom’s Prolic</td>
<td>Coastal, Inland</td>
<td>bronze</td>
<td>amber-red</td>
<td>medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panachee</td>
<td>Coastal</td>
<td>striped</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>small-med</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rouge de Bordeaux</td>
<td>Inland, possibly Coastal</td>
<td>violet</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>small-med</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Jean</td>
<td>Inland, possibly Coastal</td>
<td>bronze-grey</td>
<td>pink</td>
<td>medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verte aka Green ischa</td>
<td>Coastal</td>
<td>green</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violet de Bordeaux</td>
<td>Inland, Coastal containers</td>
<td>purple</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>med-large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vida</td>
<td>Inland, Coastal</td>
<td>dark</td>
<td>amber</td>
<td>med-large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Genoa</td>
<td>Coastal</td>
<td>very light</td>
<td>amber</td>
<td>medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Multi-Dimensional Gardening
By Nick Stavros

My secret to gardening is understanding and treating it as multi-dimensional.
Too often people look at a two-dimensional drawing of their garden and layout what plants they want where. In reality, a garden is at a minimum three-dimensional (length, depth and height). But, like the universe, a garden is more complex than just a three dimensional space. In our garden we have “stories.” The top story is occupied by large trees forming a high canopy and is home to hawks and crows. The next story down has the small under canopy trees that provide habitat for mockingbirds, woodpeckers and owls. Below the small trees, is the shrubby story where are large shrubs that are pruned-up allowing for a “ground floor.” At these two levels is where the hummingbirds and numerous “twitter” songbirds live.

Obviously, you can’t achieve all these stories in a new garden and it takes time, which provides us an entry into more dimensions of the garden. There are two aspects of time that need to be considered in a garden: linear time and periodic time. A gardener needs to plan for both. Linear time is the “long haul.” In other words, the trees grow slowly, year after year and the garden and the gardener need to use this to their advantage and adapt and evolve accordingly.

Periodic time basically refers to the seasons. In Disneyland, they want it to have a certain “look” that is unchanged, some would say perpetual spring. To Disneyland, this is important because it is part of the Disney brand. Real gardens vary through the seasons, and this is wonderful, exciting and acceptable. In San Diego, we need to understand and accept that August and September are our dormant times and gardens will start to look faded and worn, this is ok since everything is getting ready for the cooler weather and the rains (if they come).

As I’ve gotten older, I relate more and more to this season … faded and worn. Much like the Serengeti … things slow down and for the most part the status quo is maintained. Trying to keep everything looking like springtime is a mistake. Yes, there are plants that really shine during this time period, but they need to be part of the overall scheme.

Member Nick Stavros was born on a farm in the flat Midwest where there were basically only two dimensions. “We had a 5-acre woodland around our house and I noticed the richness and diversity of the animals that used the prairie for foraging and claimed our woodland as home. I studied Botany, Plant Pathology and Plant Ecology at Colorado State University in Fort Collins in the late 60s and earlier 70s.”
How To Compost In Your Backyard

By Bonnie Manion

Would you like to do something great for your garden, rewarding for you, and green for planet earth? It is called composting. All you need is about three square feet in a tucked away corner of your backyard, and a little discipline.

The rewards of composting are many. One, you save money on conserving water and by not having to buy commercial fertilizers and soil amendments. Two, you enhance your soil health, fertility, and inhibit weed growth. Three, your garden will require less water because the soil is able to retain water moisture more efficiently. Four, by composting and recycling, less of all of this is going into landfills, and the organic humus material is going back into your garden, for your benefit.

Think of making compost just like you would follow a recipe. Add alternate layers of approximately 50% greens and 50% browns. Add water as needed to keep your mixture moist throughout the entire process. Stir or turn over your compost pile to aerate on a regular basis, as much as every 1-2 days or as little as every 1-2 weeks. When your compost pile doesn't heat up anymore after stirring, your compost pile is finished. Let your compost pile cool completely for a few weeks before using it in your garden. The entire composting process time is really dependent on the size of your ingredients (the smaller or shredded the better), and how often you stir or turn over your compost pile. Generally speaking, you can have wonderful compost in 1-3 months. Finished compost looks like rich dark humus.

The greens in your compost pile represent the nitrogen or the fire. The browns in your compost pile represent the carbon or the fuel. Adding water and oxygen to this mixture creates optimum conditions for beneficial microorganisms to consume and break down organic material, and in turn generate heat.

For fun, splurge and buy a compost thermometer, which has a long stem to poke down into the heart of your compost bin, and read the temperature. Ideally, your compost pile should heat up to 120-150 degrees F to start the decomposition process and kill any weed seeds, pathogens, and insects.

Greens are fruit and vegetable clippings, fresh grass clippings, yard trimmings, egg shells, tea bags, coffee grinds and filters, and breads. Manure is nitrogen, and also considered greens, which is an extra bonus to your compost. Make sure to add greens other than manure to your mixture. Horse, cow, sheep, and chicken manure are wonderful to use. Be mindful that manure can be “hot,” as in having the potential to burn your plants, if not composted adequately and given time to break down.

Browns are dried leaves, wood materials, ground branches, twigs, bark, straw, hay, pine shavings, sawdust, shredded paper, and wood ashes. Some browns, such as pine needles, take a long time to break down, so I do not include them.

What does not go in your compost bin? Think of your compost pile or recipe as vegetarian, therefore no meat, fish, poultry, bones, oils, lard, grease, and dairy products. No dog or cat manure, or cat litter. No treated wood products, charcoal, or pressed-log ashes. If you are unsure of something, leave it out.

If you want to begin composting, check with your city first to see if they subsidize a “compost bin program.” For instance, the City of Encinitas is proactive in recycling, holds compost workshops, and encourages residents to compost by subsidizing Smith & Hawken brand compost bins. Over a $100 value, Encinitas residents can purchase them for $35 each. Limit two per year/per Encinitas household. These compost bins are available for non-Encinitas residents, too, for a special non-profit reduced price. The price and availability are subject to change. For further information visit, www.solanacenter.org, or call (760) 436-7986, x222.


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).
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:

Backyard Aquafarms
Barbara Anderson
Michael Epstein
Fallbrook Future Farmers of America
Linda Fiske
Michael Lee Garrow
Gary D. Lamb
Deanna & Bill Livesey
Jeff Lorenz
Heidi Parmell

NEW ADVERTISERS:
Begonia Show & Sale, PAGE 2
Bromeliad Show & Sale, PAGE 2
Plants Comprehensive, PAGE 21
Southwestern College
Green Scene (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:

Cathy McCaw (1)
Lori Johansen (1)
Karylee Feldman (1)
Linda Bresler (1)
Cecily Bird (1)
Connie Beck (1)
Kimbery Alexander (1)
Darlene Villanueva (1)
Cathy McCaw (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 Quail Botanical Gardens.


Sponsor Members
(names in bold have ads)

Agri Service, Inc.
Anderson’s La Costa Nursery
Aristocrat Landscape, Installation & Maintenance
ArtPlantae
Barrels & Branches
Botanical Partners
Briggs Tree Company
Buena Creek Gardens
Cedros Gardens
Coastal Sage Gardening
Courtyard Pottery
Guyamaca College
Dr. Earth
www.EasyToGrowBubs.com
EuroAmerican Propagators
Evergreen Nursery
Forget-Me-Not Landscape Design
Grangetto’s Farm & Garden Supply
GreenTree
Innovative Growing Solutions
Kellogg Garden Products
KRC Rock
Legoland California
Mary’s Good Snails
Nature Designs
Landscaping
Pardee Tree Nursery
Precision Irrigation Team
ProFlowers
Reegan Ray
Reene’s Garden
Schnetz Landscape
SECO Landscapes
Solana Succulents
St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center
Sterling Tours
Sunshine Gardens
www.TheMulch.com
The Yard Fairy
Tree of Life Nursery
Verdant Custom
Outdoors
Walter Andersen Nursery
Weidners’ Gardens
Pat Welsh
Westward Expos

What’s Up at Quail Botanical Gardens?

The Tenth Anniversary Gala in the Gardens, a spectacular outdoor party with an anticipated 500+ guests, will be Saturday, September 12th at 5:00 p.m. Tickets for the evening are $175 per person and can be purchased at www.qbgardens.org. As the honored guest, Huell Howser will receive the Paul Ecke, Jr. Award of Excellence. Huell visited the Gardens in 2005 and toured on-camera with Julian Duval, President and CEO, to tape one of his successful California Gold Road Trip segments.

All proceeds from this year’s Gala in the Gardens will contribute directly to the Garden’s special blend of programs and exhibits, including the newly opened Hamilton Children’s Garden. The evening includes fine cuisine, beverages, entertainment and beautiful floral displays all while strolling the many Garden trails and vignettes. A fabulous silent auction will also take place in a beautifully decorated open-air pavilion. The program will include an exciting announcement about the future of Quail Botanical Gardens and a tribute to Huell Howser, followed by dessert and dancing.

Sponsorships are still available. For Gala in the Gardens information, please contact Development Special Events Coordinator, Cheryl Mergenthaler; at (760) 436-3036 x 218 or cmergenthaler@qbgardens.org.

To purchase tickets go to www.qbgardens.org. 3rd

Contributing Members

Doris Engberg
Philip Tacklitt & Janet Wanerka
René van Rens
Village Garden Club of La Jolla

New E-Mail? New Street Address?
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**Book Review**

**Flower Confidential: The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful**

By Amy Stewart

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

They say you should never watch sausage being made. If you agree with that statement, this is not the book for you. But if you buy cut flowers from time to time, you may find this fascinating. A single statistic exemplifies the information in this book. Americans buy one and a half billion roses every year — yes, that's billion with a “b.” And that's not to mention the fern, baby's breath, lisianthus, carnations, gerberas, and all the other cut flowers and accessories that are sold with them.

Amy Stewart starts out wondering whether she'll still be able to love flowers after she learns about the industry. In her epilogue, she confesses that she does. I'm not so sure I can. And I definitely look much more favorably on the less-than-perfect flowers in my own back yard.

Cut flowers are a commodity in the international market the same way automobiles, clothing, and that perfect bunch of grapes at your supermarket in January are. Stewart points out that the bouquet of flowers on your living room table has probably been in more countries than you have and that you'd be astonished at how many languages have been spoken around those flowers by the locals and migrant labor in the U.S., Holland, Ecuador, Columbia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Israel, to name just some of the countries that participate in the international flower trade.

Her book is divided into three main sections — breeding, growing, and selling. The section on breeding covers several different flowers, but the book as a whole comes to center on the world rose trade. We learn a lot about factory farms, international transportation, migrant labor, employee health problems, environmental impact and degradation, and other things you don't usually think about when you think about flowers.

Her statistics are overwhelming, and in a way, that may be the one bad thing about this book. Numbers begin to blur, and I found it difficult at times to focus on the reading. I've written about a number of other books with this same basic format: the writer goes on a personal quest to understand an aspect of the plant world, for example: Coming Home to Eat, Otherwise Normal People, and People with Dirty Hands. In each case I said I'd found the author so interesting that I'd like to live next door to him or her. This book isn't like that. Although Stewart writes in the first person, you really get no sense of her as a person. It's all flowers all the time.

Still, I'd recommend this book to you. It will astonish you over and over: You'll definitely look at that bunch of flowers at the checkout counter of your local supermarket with a different eye.

Stewart has also written two other favorably reviewed books: From the Ground Up: The Story of a First Garden and Wicked Plants: The Weed that Killed Lincoln’s Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities, is getting smash reviews [your editor is reading it now and loves it!], and she'll be speaking to us about the poisonous plants in this book at our January 2010 meeting.

*Flower Confidential* (ISBN-13: 978-1-5652-603-9) is available in paperback at your local bookstore for $13.95. It includes a list of markets and growers you can visit.

**Community Outreach**

**Food and Water**

By Linda Johnson

**Seeds at City Urban Farm**

“The goal of Walking 4 Water is to both create awareness about the growing global and local water crisis and to promote water conservation.” Sponsored by the ECOLIFE Foundation, the Walking 4 Water event will further educate people about and promote conservation methods, actions and products. Water scarcity

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QUALITY never grew so good!

Briggs Tree Company, Inc.:

- Unusual plant varieties and new introductions
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Lockwood de Forest was born into an artistic family in 1896 in New York City. His father, also named Lockwood de Forest, was a landscape artist as well as an interior designer and amateur architect. He specialized in Indian-inspired designs and owned a wood carving factory in India. The elder de Forest traveled extensively, co-founding with Louis Tiffany a highly influential decorating firm.

Lockwood de Forest III (he was known as Lockwood de Forest, Jr.) was the youngest of three children. At the age of sixteen, he was sent to Ojai, CA, to attend the Thacher School. While there, he often went on weekend sketching and camping trips with his schoolmate and best friend, Wright Ludington. After graduating in 1916, de Forest went to Williams College in Massachusetts. However, World War I interrupted his college career. While awaiting his army assignment, he attended his first class in landscape design at Harvard University.

After the war, de Forest attended the University of California at Berkeley. There, he took several courses in landscape architecture. This field was so new that the studies were offered by a division of the College of Agriculture. De Forest left U.C. Berkeley after one year because he was eager to begin landscape design work. Eventually, he became licensed by the state as a landscape architect and became a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

De Forest’s first job was working for Ralph Stevens, a successful Santa Barbara landscape architect, who was responsible for landscaping a number of the area’s most impressive estates. He found Stevens’ style too inflexible and conventional. After six months, de Forest quit to pursue an independent career. Before resuming landscape design work, he and his school friend, Wright Ludington, traveled to Europe for a leisurely tour of great Italian Renaissance villas and gardens, and beautiful Moorish gardens in Spain.

From 1922 until his death in 1949, de Forest practiced landscape architecture in the Santa Barbara area. Although he studied traditional European designs, his own design style reflected his belief that each site should inspire its own natural landscaping. His designs showed a strong regional identity, and were notable for their simple detailing and bold, almost theatrical effects achieved entirely with plants. He disliked the ubiquitous use of lawns in the landscape, and was one of the first landscape architects to question the heavy use of water to irrigate them.

De Forest pioneered the use of native plants in the landscape. This was especially evident in his design of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, in collaboration with Beatrix Farrand. In fact, this garden represents the earliest application of native plants in a botanical collection in California. De Forest and his wife, Elizabeth, used the botanic garden as a laboratory and classroom to promote the use of native plants and championed these ideas in the monthly periodical, The Santa Barbara Gardener, which he and Elizabeth started as a regional gardening publication in 1925.

The Santa Barbara Gardener carried articles on every aspect of gardening, many written by nationally known horticulturists. It continued until 1942, when it was discontinued due to de Forest’s World War II military service. It began as the only magazine of its kind in the state, and ended as a popular, widely copied periodical.

De Forest spent a good amount of his career educating Santa Barbara gardeners. Along with writing articles for his gardening...
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magazine, he taught horticulture courses at Santa Barbara State College (now the University of California, Santa Barbara) and acted as an advisor to city and county planning groups. He played a major role in introducing and experimenting with new plants from South Africa. His work influenced Thomas Church, a leading twentieth century landscape architect. After his untimely death at 53 in 1949, his wife became a landscape designer and completed his unfinished landscape projects.

Member Linda Bresler is a certified landscape designer living in Poway. She specializes in drought-tolerant, low maintenance designs that provide four-season beauty. [NOTE: To enjoy the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and seven other exceptional gardens in Santa Barbara, including Ganna Walska Lotusland, consider attending the Lessons in Sustainable Gardening symposium on October 2-4. The symposium is being organized by Pacific Horticulture magazine; details are at www.PacificHorticulture.org/programs.php.]

is an issue that affects the majority of the world's population, and particularly affects those of us living in Southern California. San Diego County imports over 85% of its water, and is faced with depletion of the two main sources of water, the Colorado River and the California State Water Project. As all gardeners know and appreciate, water is a precious resource to be carefully utilized. Become part of the solution to help preserve our water, and our gardens.

Walking 4 Water will take place at Mission Bay on October 4, 2009. The course will end at a Water Education Expo where water conservation organizations will share their sustainable water solutions and gardening/landscaping tips. Entertainment, food and drinks will also be available.

COLIFE, in collaboration with the San Diego Zoo and Groundwork San Diego, also coordinates an education program that works with underserved students in San Diego. The hands-on course teaches them about watersheds and provides them with simple tools to protect their local watersheds. Funds from Walking 4 Water will help ECOLIFE Foundation launch additional conservation and education programs in San Diego. Visit www.ecolifefoundation.org to sign up and to learn more about ECOLIFE Foundation and its programs.

Community Outreach  Continued from page 10

Bring a plant from your garden to show off at the September Plant Forum!
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?

**Kara Calderon** uses compost: “My garden did pretty well with the water cutbacks due to the fact that most of the new plantings have been mulched with about 3” of compost. The major changes I have made are getting plants in the ground so they don’t suffer through the summer in small pots, wilting and trying to bounce back again, and buying only natives to my area so I know they are content with the actual rainfall they will be receiving, with minimal watering once they are well established.”

**Julie Ann Callis**’ garden did great: “Great is the word! We have no grass or ground cover and our yard has been in for two years. With the use of standard landscape plants and perennials which were all established, we haven’t had a problem. Those more delicate or water hungry plants we planted in what we call the woodland garden. Situated between the two houses, ours and the neighbors, the house shadows make for a lot of shade and the relatively narrow space, 10 to 15 feet wide, makes even sprinkler coverage easy. Occasional watering here is all that’s necessary. The house faces south, so the back yard has a lot of shaded areas for much of the year. Paying attention to the different exposures can make a real difference, and a small yard is an advantage.”

**Margaret Davis** gets help from mulch and umbrellas: “My California native garden is in the front of my home in Fallbrook. I have spread mulch 3” deep over the area to conserve water. The neighbors say it looks good, too! Old beach umbrellas are a good source of extra shade for heat sensitive plants and they look funky-cute in the corners of my garden.”

**Mary Feyk** says, “I live in Rancho Palos Verdes and so far we have not had water rationing, although we have been asked to reduce our water usage. My husband installed drip irrigation in the garden several years ago, and that has reduced our water usage, but if rationing is established we will have a low point to start from. We have a small lawn and use sprinklers twice a week for that. We change the length of time we run the sprinklers according to the season. Our hanging pots have automatic drip irrigation and it runs for four minutes three times a week. I have my plants grouped according to water usage, and I use native and drought tolerant plants more now and they are easier to find in nurseries. South Coast Botanic Garden has a very active Native Plant Society. Last year the rainfall total was 7 inches. I think that’s a little higher than San Diego County, but still not very high. I hope El Nino brings us rain but not floods next year.”

**Irina Gronborg** has an artist’s eye: “Visitors to our garden comment on how few flies and mosquitoes we have. Perhaps because the ground is dry this summer and because we no longer hose off the leaves, the flies and mosquitoes that have escaped our resident birds have ended up in the gauze yardage of our resident spiders’ webs that drape our succulents and cacti. (It’s a nice look – kind of like Old California – dusty, golden, and shimmery).”
Al Horowitz has an intriguing story about chlorine: “I have in place all the known methods of conserving water before the current shortage, i.e. drip irrigation, mulching, and stretching out the watering cycle. I recently put in a total water conditioning system for the landscape and the house after receiving a city generated water report that showed the chlorine content in the city water to be 89 mg. per liter for my area. The acceptable level is 14 mg. per liter. The surprising result was that my clematis started blooming again and three plants that have not grown to any noticeable extent for two years are now thriving. After about 3 weeks, the whole garden took on a new, healthy look. Vines that were hardly growing or flowering before were now doing just that! In the past, an area with baby tears would wilt under a direct spraying of water. Now, between longer intervals of direct watering, no wilting occurs. I mentioned this change to the supplier of this system and he said that when the weather gets hotter, the bacterial count in the water goes up, so apparently chlorine levels go up to bring the bacterial levels down. All my efforts to improve the soil, etc. pale in comparison to the effect that has occurred in my garden from just removing the chlorine in the water.”

Janice Johnson is using indoor water for plants: “We have lived in Poway for 40 years and have over an acre of land on the Green Valley Creek. This last spring we removed 8 very large 50-year old eucalyptus trees as they were diseased, caused a huge mess, and cost us time and money, but we will miss the shade. When August and September are over we will see how well our garden survived. We are eliminating sprinkler heads to areas that seem unnecessary and evaluating which plants might go. I have eliminated some potted plants. I can water most of my potted plants with the water saved from washing vegetables in the kitchen sink and some from the shower. I calculate we recycle about 21 gallons a week from these two sources. Later I will move roses to one area instead of scattered all over. We both take short showers, as our plants are more important! We have giant redwood trees that must be saved! We are monitoring our water meter and water our back lawn carefully. Our front lawn has been gone for over 10 years and was replaced with mulch edged in shrubs and rocks. We heavily mulched everything with the eucalyptus tree mulch. My husband spoke at the Poway City Council session concerning our water rate hike penalizing those of us who have large lots, but to no avail.”

Anne Murphy tells us, “I had already been incorporating natives, succulents and Mediterranean plants in my garden. What I have done in the last year is to look a lot more carefully at plants that I buy to see if they will to be able to survive on minimal watering after becoming established. I am also removing plants that take too much water and giving them away or moving them to a shadier location where they might survive under minimal watering. I am making sure that I am getting trees in my new garden early, as they bring down the temperature of the garden and help reduce watering needs. This whole process has been educational and fun. I realize that eventually I will have less work as less water means less weed growth. I have come a long way since I stared gardening in Vista, using roses, pansies, hollyhocks and foxgloves reflecting the gardens that I grew up with in England!”

Katrin Utt says, “I have cut down my water usage by one third by watering every fourth day for longer periods instead of every second day for shorter periods. I water before sunrise and after. I also use soaker hoes for deep watering once a month. And I mulched everything to the max. We keep our patio umbrellas up all the time to lend some shade to the roses. Everything is doing just fine! But I sure hope we get that El Niño they promised!”
Marilyn Wilson has a refreshingly light-hearted response: “The budget didn’t allow for installing drip irrigation nor purchasing drought-tolerant plants. So, patches of lawn are losing their green color. Flowers are fewer. Hibiscus has become infested with giant white fly for the first time in many years. Squirrels ate all my peaches (they’re thirsty too). I considered avoiding all bathing, but instead I installed a little push-button cutoff at the showerhead. I eat with my hands more often so there is less tableware to wash. And I have started drinking out of the can and out of the bottle. Soon I am enrolling in a class to learn how to rain dance.”

The question for next month is:
What do you always bring with you when you go into your garden?
Send your e-mail reply by September 5 to info@sdhortsoc.org.

Rainwater Harvesting News

By Susi Torre-Bueno

As I write this in mid-August we’re very much in drought mode in San Diego County. However, the rains will come in a few months, and some folks are even predicting an El Niño year with above-average rainfall, which would be a welcome respite after three dry years. Don’t let the rain that falls on your property go to waste and run down the storm drains. Capturing rainwater, sometimes known as rainwater harvesting, can be accomplished in many ways and can help reduce your water bill and also keep this valuable resource from being wasted.

Capture techniques don’t necessarily mean storing it for long-term use in containers, either, although that’s a great way to get pure water for orchids and other special plants. You can establish berms and other earth features on your property to channel the rainwater into low-lying areas, where it can slowly seep into your soil and raise the water table (I’m doing this at my garden in Vista).

Our May 10, 2010 speaker will be Brad Lancaster, who literally wrote the book on rainwater harvesting – two books, in fact! I heard him speak a year ago and he was terrific – very inspiring (he sure got me to do this!) and full of great information. For details visit www.harvestingrainwater.com.

Felice Tacktill, the Engineering Specialist at Encinitas’ San Dieguito Water District (and daughter of Phil Tacktill, who brings the great bonsai to our meetings), has sent the following link for, “rainwater harvesting and the proposed state of California graywater regulations (they are working to ease up restrictions). [Gray water is the water from your showers, bathroom sinks, and washing machine, which can be re-used in the garden.] Here’s the link: www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/shl/graywater_emergency.html

She also sent a link for the Tucson take on water capture. There is an interesting Rainwater Harvesting Ordinance for new commercial buildings in Tucson, AZ:

To learn more about what they’re doing in Los Angeles, go to: http://larainwaterharvesting.org
California-Friendly®
Landscape Contest Winners

Winners of the sixth annual California-Friendly® Landscape Contest gathered to collect their prizes at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College on May 16th. Twenty homeowners from across the county received honors for outstanding examples of beautiful, drought-tolerant landscapes. Creative winners walked away with prizes ranging from $250 - $500. A tie in the Professionally Designed category saw Susan Hurwitz (San Dieguito Water District) and Cynthia Winters (Otay Water District) each receive $500, as did the regional best in Do-It-Yourself, Maggie Walton (Helix Water District), and Native Landscape, Fritz Brecke (Lakeside Water District).

The San Diego Horticultural Society was one of the sponsors, and each winner received a 1-year family membership. Each of the participating water agencies also chose a Best of District winner, with a $250 prize:

- Santa Fe Irrigation District: Paul and Ruth Parker
- City of Oceanside: Mike Garrow
- Otay Water District: James and Cynthia Galli
- Padre Dam Municipal Water District: Rick and Rosi Crouch
- Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District: Ellen Pettit
- Ramona Municipal Water District: Ron Parks
- City of Escondido: John and Barbara Horst
- Olivenhain Municipal Water District: Lorene Rice
- San Dieguito Water District: Costa and Allison Haramis
- City of San Diego: Katharina Krause
- Helix Water District: Peggy Chambers
- Sweetwater Authority: Glenda DeVane
- Lakeside Water District: Frank and Cheryl Barraco
- Vallecitos Water District: Gisela Gelbing
- City of Poway: Patrick and Roberta Korch
- Vista Irrigation District: Susi and Jose Torre-Bueno

When asked why she decided to have a drought-tolerant landscape, Peggy Chambers said, “It was to cut down on water use and expense. I wanted an easier to maintain landscape, and I was slowly drawn to the so-called ‘California-friendly’ shrubs and...

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Happy 15th Birthday to Us!

By Susi Torre-Bueno

Our annual birthday report always begins with a warm thank you to the far-sighted founders who sowed the seeds of our Society in 1994: Don & Dorothy Walker, Steve Brigham, Diana Goforth, Laurie Bussis, Linda Teague, Adele Snyder and Kathy Musial. Their vision was of having a friendly group, sharing information and the joy of gardening with members from beginners to skilled professionals. In the past 15 years we have grown to include over 1300 members, making us one of the largest and most active garden groups in the nation. Our wide-ranging meetings attract a diverse audience, and our volunteers make possible a wide variety of other activities.

If you're one of the members who joined this year I hope you'll become an active participant (see pages 4 and 5). We've also gained new sponsors, and we thank all our sponsors (see page 9) for the financial support that enables us to accomplish as much as we do. Some of the year’s highlights are below. For the names of all the volunteers and more details, see previous newsletters.

What new things have we done since last September? We initiated New Member Orientation gatherings, which have been a very popular way for our new members to meet old members and find out more about the SDHS; thanks to everyone who participated. In order to save resources we began sending dues notices via e-mail. To save money and reduce our carbon footprint we've been encouraging members to get the newsletter in digital format. We amended the by-laws to have a First and Second Vice President who will be learning the ropes so they're ready to move up when the President's term ends (mine ends in 2011). In early 2009 we distributed a questionnaire to members to learn what they'd like the SDHS to be doing; results will be available soon. This May, as one of the sponsors of the California Friendly Landscape Contest we awarded 18 family memberships to contest winners across San Diego County. Finally, our website received a total overhaul and is now both beautiful and greatly expanded, thanks to board member Sally Sandler and graphic artist Rachel Cobb.

Our monthly meetings are the heart of what we do, and we are grateful for help every month from these great volunteers: Everett Mehner for video taping, Sandy Shapiro for running the projector, librarians Bonnie McNamara and Tim Thornton, and Jeff Belitnikoff for setting up the meeting room. Hats off to Janet Warneka & Phil Tackstil for setting up the blue bottles for the Plant Forum, and Evey & Ava Torre-Bueno who sell raffle tickets. We appreciate Diana Goforth, who handles the membership table with the very able assistance of Pat Venolia. Bill Teague arranges for the Opportunity Drawing and Plant Forum speakers. Other regular meeting helpers we want to thank include Cheryl Leedom, Susan Morse, Teri Schmidt, Jerry Thirloway, Paula Verstraete and Lucy Warren. Thanks to all of our check-in volunteers, vendors and to everyone else who helps out on occasion.

Judy Bradley and CarolAnn Lewin, our Program Co-Chairs, and their committee do an exceptional job of bringing exciting speakers; about 350 people attend our meetings. Topics this past year ranged from Bamboo, The Earth and Us and Backyard Vineyards in San Diego County to How to be Part of Your Native Plant Garden. In May we held our second plant nerd night, and five horticulturists

Landscape Winners Continued from page 17

plants.” She discovered, however, there were other benefits. “I love watching the birds and butterflies flit around the shrubs. The colors and scents are intense, and I love being in the midst of it all.”

Cynthia Winters came to be a California-Friendly gardener by an entirely different route. “About 5 years ago a friend introduced me to a few succulents. The plants were much easier to take care of than my flowers. Then 2 ½ years ago I met Karen Suggs who lives in Campo, and her entire yard is California Natives and succulents. The design and her unique approach to ‘reusing every cutting’ were appealing to me. I purchased many books on how to garden this new way and became committed to moving in this direction.”

On the other hand, Susan Hurwitz made the decision in conjunction with her landscaper and her architecture. “We like the southwestern flora. It was recommended by our landscape designer, and of course the water issue was considered. Our inspiration was from Santa Fe, New Mexico. The fact that our house is a flat-roofed Santa Fe style building was a consideration, and we worked closely with our designer to achieve a cohesive look.”

The winning sites are superb examples of landscapes appropriate for San Diego and its increasingly dry climate. Water shortages and cutbacks will continue to be a fact of life in Southern California. The winners of the contest influence their neighbors and friends and serve as inspiration for other county residence.

Photos of the Landscape Contest winners can be seen at the Water Conservation Garden, located on the grounds of Cuyamaca College and can be viewed at: www.landscapecontest.com.
talked about their specialties: heirloom tomatoes, herbs, low-chill blueberries, Japanese veggies and rare fruits to grow at home. At our Special Evening in June garden artists George Little and David Lewis, of the Little & Lewis Garden on Bainbridge Island, Washington, spoke about the garden they created, a water- and plant-filled garden that draws thousands of people a year to this little corner of the Pacific Northwest.

Our newsletter continues to be a major member benefit, and is now available on-line at our website. I truly love being the newsletter editor (this is my 13th year), and I want to thank those folks who have been regular contributors this past year: Linda B. Bresler, Sharon Corrigan, Stacey Dores, Sandi Feick, Richard Frost, Joan Herskowitz, Linda Johnson, Cheryl Leedom, Alice Lowe, Caroline McCullagh, Christy Powell, Carl Price, Ellen Reardon, Cindy Sparks, Trudy Thompson, and Ava Torre-Bueno. This year we had additional articles and photos from Louise Anderson, Marsha Bode, Steve Brigham, Janine Free, Pamela Hornfelt, Will Johnson, Roxanne Kim-Perez, Vince Lazaneo, Bonnie Manion, Sue Marchetti, Jeff Moore, Al Myrick, Gayle Olson, Sally Sandler, Sandy Shapiro, Dave Shaw, Nick Stavros, Pat Venolia, Lois Walag, Lucy Warren and Pat Welsh. Also, many members contributed to the Sharing Secrets and Plant Forum columns.

Every month a great group of folks gets the newsletter ready to mail. I want to thank this cheerful crew: Louise Anderson, Joyce Berry, Doris Engberg, Linda Freithaler, Pat Lang, Marianne Light, Susan Morse, Mo Price, Diane Scharar; Janet Smith, Catherine & John Swan, Evey Torre-Bueno, Cathy Tylko, and Sandy Wiksten. Also, many thanks to graphic artist Rachel Cobb, who makes it look so wonderful every month! We’re thankful to our advertisers who help pay the printing costs, and especially those who give discounts to our members.

Plenty of other members volunteered this year, and we appreciate their efforts. Thanks to the volunteers for the Spring and Fall Home/Garden Shows. We couldn’t manage without Al Myrick, who coordinates our college scholarships and our awards for the Greater San Diego High School Science & Engineering Fair. Thanks to Pat Venolia, who mails dues notices; and Victoria Schaffer, our historian. Members who staffed information tables at various events include our membership co-chairs Sheldon Lisker and Susan Morse. We thank Paula Verstraete for organizing our Volunteer Appreciation Party. Finally, our board members work overtime to keep things running smoothly – their names are on page 4.

I want to thank all our volunteers for making it a joy for me to be your president. I also know you get so much more out of the group because of your increased participation in it. If you haven’t volunteered yet – you can start now (see page 4). We have plenty of opportunities available for you to share your knowledge and enthusiasm working with some terrific people!

So… what’s in store for the coming year? The board has been working on some exciting plans, and we’ll be keeping you posted through the newsletter and the website. We’re hoping to have at least one garden trip or tour in 2010, maybe two (including a possible out of town tour). Many of our 2010 speakers have been selected (see page 16 for info about Brad Lancaster’s talk on Rainwater Harvesting), and we’ll start listing those upcoming meetings on page 3. You’ll see some changes in how we do the Opportunity Drawing at our meetings, and we’ll continue to add valuable information to our website. How much we can accomplish really depends on you, so volunteer now and get involved and make friends with some truly dedicated gardeners.
Fall Home/Garden Show

How to Save Water and Still Have a Beautiful Landscape

By Lucy Warren

The Fall Home/Garden Show is coming right up on September 17, 18, and 19. In keeping with the season, this show is more about home than garden, but knowledgeable Southern California gardeners know that fall is one the most important times in the garden.

This year the show is featuring more in-depth information important to gardeners. We have developed a two-hour seminar that will be given twice daily on “How to Save Water and Still Have a Beautiful Garden.” Leading local experts will share their knowledge, tips, and experience in water-saving plants and landscaping techniques that will increase the beauty and minimize water resources, as well as maintenance.

* Learn how to take out your lawn and create beautiful living spaces in its place.
* Find out about low water using lawn-alternative plants
* Learn why and how trees save water
* Learn the importance of design in keeping a lush look but still minimizing water use.
* Take the tour of the display gardens to see the water-thrifty plants up close and personal.
* And much, much more.

Of course, the San Diego Horticultural Society will have a booth and would love to have your help (see page 4). Bring your questions to the Master Gardeners and learn from the experts about other gardening groups you may want to join.

Learn how to take out your lawn and create beautiful living spaces in its place.

It’s all FREE for the price of admission.
August Special Event Report

In August we held a Special Event at Quail Botanical Gardens in lieu of a regular meeting at the Fairgrounds. Several hundred members attended this enjoyable afternoon-into-evening occasion, which combined garden tours with an award ceremony and a peek into Quail’s future. Photos of the event are on pages 2 and 23, with more on our website. It was a relaxing and low-key change of pace in a gorgeous setting.

People began arriving at 4 PM, and it was very special to have the gardens almost entirely to our own at that hour. Shortly thereafter we enjoyed docent-led tours of the marvelous new Hamilton Children’s Garden. Members walked through a labyrinth, sat in chairs so large they felt like dolls, and played various user-friendly instruments. We climbed up and into an amazing treehouse, and checked out the water features. Opened in June, this garden is a delight for kids of all ages, and it was especially fun to see our members enjoying it thoroughly with nary a youngster in sight. SDHS is proud to be a supporter of this important garden, which will help kids connect with nature at a time when opportunities to do so are becoming scarcer. If you haven’t yet visited we urge you to do so, with or without your offspring or grandchildren in tow.

By 6 PM everyone was near the gazebo area, enjoying our annual birthday cake and assorted beverages. The SDHS was founded at Quail (more about that later), so it was quite fitting to celebrate our 15th birthday there. Without the distractions of plant vendors, printed handouts, or a plant forum, we were able to sit around and have a nice old fashioned visit with each other, and it was great to see people at Quail who don’t come to many meetings. The celebrity of the day, of course, was Steve Brigham, our 2009 Horticulturist of the Year, and everyone wanted to catch up with him (and his charming wife, Donna).

Once we were happily full of cake, it was time for a talk by Julian Duval, President/CEO of Quail. After a brief overview of the history of the Gardens, which started as the home garden of Ruth and Charles Larabee, Julian talked about the future. One important change is a new name. Quail will now be called the San Diego Botanic Garden – which will make it easier for people to find the garden when searching for it on-line, and will identify it with the larger community it is part of. However, he was also quick to point out that to him, and for many of us, it will always remain Quail Botanical Gardens. Attendance at the Garden has been increasing every year, and it is probable that over 250,000 people will visit in 2009! SDHS members get a 10% discount on their memberships, so if you aren’t already a member please consider joining to show your support and also take advantage of the many member benefits.

Susi Torre-Bueno then reminisced about the night of SDHS’s first meeting, held at the Ecke Building, which was then being remodeled and had minimal electrical power (Don Walker ran an extension cord from the gift shop to run the projector) and no doors on the restrooms. Our Society has strong ties to Quail, even though we grew so quickly that in just two months we had to find a larger meeting space. She talked about our co-founder, Steve Brigham, and how the nursery he founded, Buena Creek Gardens, remains a destination nursery for gardeners from all over the Southwest. Susi gave Steve a plaque commemorating his being honored as our Horticulturist of the Year, along with a pair of Felco pruners, the traditional gift we bestow on our annual awardee.

In a short and modest speech Steve talked about his life in horticulture and his love of plants. He stressed the importance of volunteering – for the Society and for Quail – as a way to share your love of plants. He urged us to become volunteers to insure the future of these fine institutions, and also as a great way to meet like-minded individuals. Steve recalled his years at Quail when it was first becoming a real botanical garden and had a miniscule budget, and that many of the plants he planted were from his personal collection.

As the sky darkened we left this scenic garden, but we know that our members will return again and again to enjoy all that Quail has to offer. What a fitting place to celebrate another successful year as one of the largest garden societies in the U.S., and we thank the Quail staff and our volunteers for making this evening possible.
Free - round, above ground container (formerly a spa) 68” diameter by 30” high. Good for a pond, water garden, really big planter or kids pool. Has a drain. Still has some love left in it. Louise Anderson 760-591-7644
Let's Talk Plants!

September 2009, No. 180

San Diego Horticultural Society

SDHS members enjoying the Hamilton Children's Garden.

SDHS SPONSOR

AUGUST SPECIAL EVENT AT QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS
Photos By Janine Free

More on-line @ SDHortSoc.org

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Let’s Talk Plants! September 2009, No. 180
San Diego Horticultural Society 23
Sponsored by and held at Quail Botanical Gardens

15th Annual Orchid Show and Plant Sale

An AOS Sanctioned Judging Event with 25 Vendors and Ongoing Lectures on Culture and Care

Come and enjoy hundreds of orchids in the beautiful setting of Quail Botanical Gardens, one of San Diego’s best family-friendly attractions with over 35 acres of gardens including the new Hamilton Children’s Garden and a world famous bamboo collection.

Friday, October 2 • 1 PM to 5 PM
Saturday, October 3 • 9 AM to 5 PM
Sunday, October 4 • 9 AM to 4 PM

This ad is good for $2.00 OFF admission for up to two people

For further information visit www.qbgardens.org or call 760/436-3036 x206.

Quail Botanical Gardens is located at 230 Quail Gardens Drive in Encinitas, a beach community in the northern part of San Diego County.
Saturday, September 5th
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Southwestern College
Free Admission!

Tour the
“South Bay Botanic Garden”
and get some great planting ideas
for your home!

For Booth Rental or Other Information,
Call 619-421-6700 ext 5371 or
Email: whomyak@swccd.edu
Hello to all and welcome to our September garden tips and update.

What's New:
- Fun ornamental Peppers in all of the colors (2", 4" & 6") – great for an early Fall touch.
- Cyclamen – first arrivals for the coming "cooler" season. We have them in 2", 4" & 6" in all colors.

Some very interesting vines:
- Vigna caracalla 'Mascagnia macroptera (Butterfly Vine)'. An evergreen vine with glossy green leaves and produce fruit despite these conditions. Some good
- Vigna caracalla 'Mascagnia macroptera (Butterfly Vine)'. A fast growing vine from the Euphorbia family, the flower clusters include clusters of showy purple bracts that measure 2-3 inches wide and 3 inches long. These "flowers", looking like purple butterflies appear nearly year round.
- Masca a macroptera (Butterfly Vine) - An evergreen vine native to Mexico, this vine produces clusters of showy orchid-shaped flowers followed by papery, winged chartreuse seed pods that turn tan. Fruit resembles a green to brown butterfly, hence the common name Butterfly Vine.

Cool season Tomatoes are in plentiful supply. Cool days and nights slow tomato plant growth. Fruit will not set or ripen if nights dip below 55 degrees. Cool-season tomatoes grow and produce fruit despite these conditions. Some good varieties are Legend, Taxi, Siberia and Glacier.

Late summer and fall favorites also arriving in the Greenhouse – check out the Crossandra - glossy green leaves and vibrant orange flower spikes. We should be able to see some early Cymbidiums this month too. Also big (4-5 ft. tall) Breynia 'Hawaiian Snowbush'. Super color for inside or out.

Some September thoughts for your gardens:
Unwritten rules of gardening ...

The best way to garden is to put on a wide brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell your husband where to dig.

(continued on other side)
September 14, details on page 3
California Natives for the Gardens

Resources & Ongoing Events

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS: Open daily 9-5 (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s Day); 230 Quail Gardens Dr., La Jolla. Free ($1;Guides, $7;Seniors, $5; kids, parking $1). Free to members and on the first Tuesday of each month. (760) 436-3944 for details.

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


MARTER GARDENING Hotline: Gardening questions answered by trained volunteers Mon-Fri., 9-3, (858) 694-2860, www.martergardening.com

SAN ELOY 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) 767-6487. For convenience, availability, and additional info, etc. call (760) 767-5311 or visit http://desertsusa.com/wildlifeflora/wildlifeduges.htm

WILDFLOWER HOTLINE: March to May; call the Theodore Payne Foundation hotline: (818) 768-4444. Base line: A phone number that exists in California and elsewhere; visit http://thedebridespayne.org

BALBOA PARK:

Off-Shore 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) 235-122.


Japanese Friendship Garden: Tues to Sun, 10-4; Free; fees 3rd Tuesday, $5/family; $2/child. (858) 453-5919 or www.niwa.org

Canoe Walks: Free guided nature walk, Saturdays & Sundays. (619) 232-3821 X203 or www.sdnhm.org

Balboa Park Ranger Tours: Free guided tours of architecture/horticulture, Tuesdays & Sundays 1pm. (619) 232-1286 or www.sdmh.org

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

S.D. Zoo: Garden day 3rd Friday of every month from 10am. Pick up schedule at entry. Info: (619) 231-1551, ext 4306; www.sdzoo.com

San Diego Botanical Garden

Garden TV and Radio Shows

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

Down To Earth with Host Tom Piergrosso: Award-winning TV show on local gardening, daily at 12:30pm and 7:30pm. CTN (County Television Network; www.ctn.org). Tapes available from SDSU Library.

Garden Radio Show: Saturday and Sunday, 8-10am. XEFE 1700AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Bynum, 73scale. Call-in questions: (619) 570-1360 or (800) 660-4769.

Garden Tips for September: September is our transition into Fall here in Southern California and the start of the best planting season of the year. Start cleaning out faded flowers and vegetables but leave the good ones in place to enjoy as long as they last. Remember - The basis for every good garden is the soil. Fall is the time to start feeding your garden. For the next few weeks, you will feature more than 100 salvia varieties and for sale. 1900 Associated Rod, Fullerton. www.fullertonarboretum.org

Sep 13, 10 am - 4 pm, San Diego Iris Society Fall Iris Rhizome Sale: Casa del Prado courtyard, Balboa Park. www.sdfs.org

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