

Let's Talk Plants!

Newsletter of the San Diego Horticultural Society

May 2010, Number 138

Water Harvesting

SEE PAGES 3 & 5

PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP
PAGE 5

TREES MAKE SCENTS
PAGE 7

STYLE & WHIMSY IN THE SUSTAINABLE GARDEN
PAGE 8

GARDEN TOURS
PAGE 10

MARGARET MEE
PAGE 12

PLANT PROPAGATING SECRETS
PAGE 14



**SAN DIEGO
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

On the Cover: Rainwater basins absorb runoff

APRIL MEETING PHOTOS BY JANINE FREE

Echinocereus caespitosus



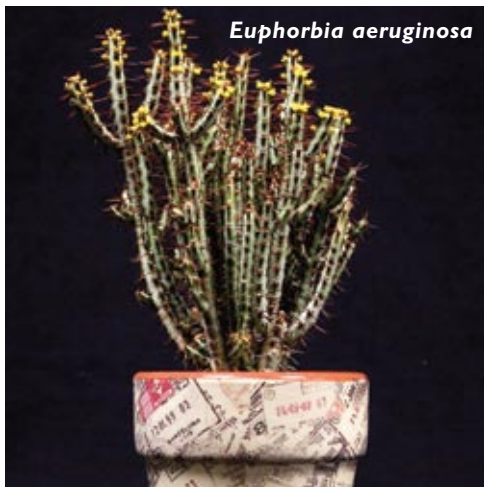
Epiphyllum hybrid



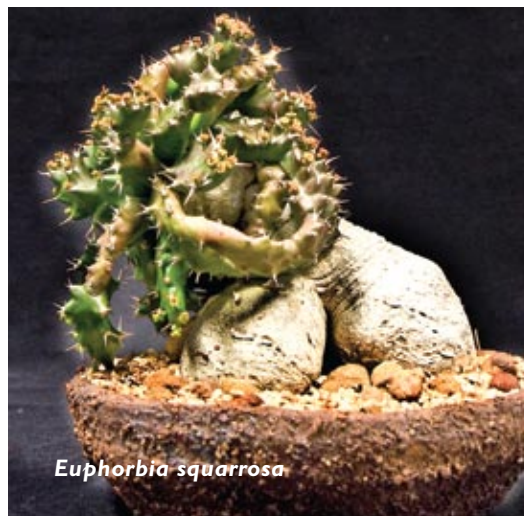
Hibbertia stellaris



Euphorbia aeruginosa



Euphorbia squarrosa



Protea cynaroides



Sarcocilus hartmanii



Tillandsia schiedeana



March Coffee in the Garden at Jim Wright's garden. Thanks to Scott Borden for this photo.



Hellebores & Weigela



Grevillea 'Poorinda Blondie'



In This Issue...

- 4 Important Member Information
- 5 To Learn More...
- 5 Science Fair Winners
- 5 From the Board
- 6 SDHS Garden Tour to Portland, Oregon
- 7 Plants That Produce
- 7 Trees, Please
- 8 Mediterranean Skies
- 9 Welcome New Members!
- 9 Discounts for Members
- 9 What's Up At San Diego Botanic Garden?
- 10 Book Review
- 10 Community Outreach
- 12 The Real Dirt On... Margaret Mee
- 14 Thanks April Volunteers
- 14 Sharing Secrets
- 19 April Plant Forum
- 21 April Meeting Report

Inserts: Calendar/Resources/Ongoing Events

COVER IMAGE: The cover photo, by May speaker Brad Lancaster, shows, "Milagro Cohousing basins with a living sponge of mulch and vegetation. Basins are designed to infiltrate water quickly so there are no problems with mosquitoes or anaerobic soils. These basins, with their spongy mulch and soil-burrowing plant roots, infiltrate all water within 20 minutes."

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 2010

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| May 23 | Coffee in the Garden (La Jolla) |
| June 11 to July 5 | Visit our Display Garden at the San Diego County Fair |
| June 27 | Volunteer Appreciation Party (save the date!) |
| June 19 | Coffee in the Garden (University City) |
| July 3 | Coffee in the Garden (Clairemont) |
| July 6-11 | SDHS Garden Tour to Portland (see page 6) |
| July 12 | Debra Lee Baldwin on <i>Succulent Container Gardening</i> |

www.SanDiegoHorticulturalSociety.org

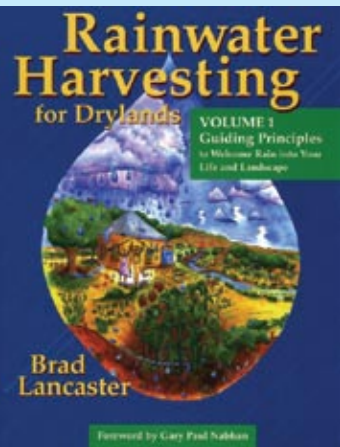
Water Harvesting: Turning Drains into Sponges and Water Scarcity into Water Abundance

A Special Evening with fascinating **BRAD LANCASTER**

Monday, May 10, 7:00PM (doors open 6:00 pm)

LOCATION (our regular meeting place):

Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar



Brad Lancaster, a highly-respected leader in the water harvesting movement, shares eight universal principles of water harvesting along with simple strategies that turn water scarcity into water abundance. These principles empower you to create integrated water-sustainable landscape plans at home and throughout your community. You'll be inspired – and empowered – to start harvesting this precious resource for *your* garden. His award-winning books will be available for sale. Come early and shop with our vendors!



Seating is Limited - \$15/members, \$25/non-members

Reserve your seat TODAY at www.SDHortSoc.org

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
Jason Kubrock – Second Vice President, Chair-Events & Outreach Committee
Sheldon Lisker – Co-Chair Membership Committee
Susan Morse – Co-Chair Membership Committee, Program Committee
Ida Rigby – Tour Coordinator
Susi Torre-Bueno – President, Newsletter Editor
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; (760) 295-7089; newsletter@sdhsoc.org

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

Sponsorship Info: Susan Morse, sponsor@sdhsoc.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@sdhsoc.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

Good karma comes from volunteering! Just ask the gal who volunteered to help with the Opportunity Drawing at the March meeting. She spent 10 minutes doing it – and won the first two plants!

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. Please contact Susan Morse at (760) 599-0550.

Tour Committee

Would you enjoy previewing gardens for tours? Do you have ideas for one day or weekend excursions? Are there botanical collections, specialty nurseries or gardens you would like to suggest for SDHS sponsored tours? Would you like to participate in selecting cities for our longer tours (recent selections include Portland, Philadelphia, Seattle)? Do you have designer skills to help us with announcements, posters or maps? If so, the Tour Committee is for you. Please contact Ida Rigby at califsalvia@gmail.com or 858-748-9189.

Events & Outreach Committee

Share your passion for plants! We are seeking committee members and volunteers to help plan and participate in exciting events. Help us promote horticulture and the society at local events, such as the Spring Home/Garden Show and the San Diego County Fair. There are rewarding opportunities for gardeners of all skills and interest levels. For more details about how you can contribute your talent please contact Jason Kubrock at (760) 521-3292.

Program Committee

The Program Committee is looking for members to help with a variety of interesting activities involved in recruiting and organizing our monthly speakers. The committee meets approximately three times a year. Please contact Judy Bradley at (619) 792-6715.

Monthly Meetings

Every month we need people to help for less than an hour. Sell tickets for the Opportunity Drawing, or copies of our tree book. Help with the Plant Forum display by holding up plants so people can see them better. Be a backup for our A/V volunteers. Please contact Susi Torre-Bueno at (760) 295-7089.

Volunteer Committee

Outgoing and love to meet new folks? How about helping for an hour once a month with the meeting room check-in? Help also needed with the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party and other activities. Please contact Paula Verstraete at pverstraete@cp-sandiego.com.

Garden Ambassadors

Become a Garden Ambassador and help share news about our activities with another garden club you belong to, and bring their flyers to our meetings. Please contact Cindy Sparks at plantsparks@gmail.com. 🌿

SDHS SPONSOR ↓



SAN DIEGO'S LARGEST WHOLESALE NURSERY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

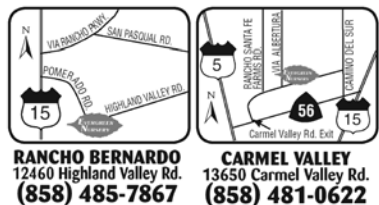
Over 500 Acres of Plants & Landscaping Materials from Saplings to Specimens



Best Quality Soils
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- ♦ Amended Top Soil
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- ♦ 3/4" Gravel ♦ Fill Dirt
- ♦ Medium Fir Bark
- ♦ Fine & Coarse Ground Cover Mulch
- ♦ Decomposed Granite

See our web site
www.evergreennursery.com



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

To Learn More...

RAINWATER HARVESTING FOR DRYLANDS LIKE OURS

By Ava Torre-Bueno

We are living in drying times. Global heating is making the desert Southwest drier by the decade. Rainwater harvesting may seem like a chore now, but in ten years, you'll mostly all be doing it. To get started, you can't do better than checking out the web site and the book of this month's speaker, Brad Lancaster: www.harvestingrainwater.com

You can find five star reviews of Brad's book (including one by moi ;) at: www.amazon.com/Rainwater-Harvesting-Drylands-Beyond-Vol/product-reviews/0977246418/ref=cm_cr_pr_viewpnt_sr_5?ie=UTF8&showViewpoints=0&filterBy=addFiveStar

To get a consult on how to get started locally, talk to Candace Vanderhoff at <http://www.RainThanks.com>. She presents workshops on how to install rainwater harvesting tanks and on how to hook up your laundry for grey-water recycling.

Here's some back-story:

Fresh water the world over is precious and dwindling. Even if we lived somewhere it actually rained, the wise and careful use of water would be essential. A BBC report on the world water crisis says, "Ninety-five percent of the United States' fresh water is underground. As farmers in the Texan High Plains pump groundwater faster than rain replenishes it, the water tables are dropping. North America's largest aquifer, the Ogallala, is being depleted at a rate of 12 billion cubic meters (bcm) a year. Total depletion to date amounts to some 325 bcm, a volume equal to the annual flow of 18 Colorado Rivers. The Ogallala stretches from Texas to South Dakota, and waters one fifth of US irrigated land. Many farmers in the High Plains are now turning away from irrigated agriculture, as they become aware of the hazards of over-pumping, and realize water is not in endless supply."

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in_depth/world/2000/world_water_crisis/default.stm

Continued on page 13

Science Fair Winners

By Al Myrick

Spring is here, so the SDHS judging team was, once again, hard at work selecting two winners in botanical sciences at the San Diego Regional Science Fair last month. Every year, the Society awards a \$100 cash prize, a one-year family membership and complimentary newsletter subscription to each of two students whose science fair projects out of a field of more than 50 competitive projects in the area of botanical sciences have been found, by our team of judges, to be exceptionally well done and presented.

This time, in keeping with growing concerns of our state's long and persistent water shortages, our team awarded two projects that demonstrate water recycling and reclamation in supporting plant growth. Both were done by students still in junior high school!

Mary LaRochelle, a 7th grader from Carlton Hills Junior High, won for her project entitled "Aquaponics vs Soil." Our judges thought that her demonstration of a closed watering system that included the waste from aquarium fish as an organic fertilizer was an exceptionally creative study. She received a 3rd place in the general judging.

Riley Adams, an 8th grader at The Rhoades School, was awarded for his study of community wastewater for growing algae. His project, "Seeking the Green Gold: Optimizing Growth Parameters for Algae Biofuels," was almost over-looked by some of our judges because of its focus on "green fuels." However, the procedures demonstrated an excellent model that we found could be adapted for horticulture on an important scale. Riley's project also won a first in general judging and an opportunity to compete in the State Fair competition. In 2009 we awarded Riley's

Continued on page 13

From The Board

By Susi Torre-Bueno

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

Paula Verstraete, our Volunteer Coordinator, wants to remind you about our annual party for volunteers: Hello to all volunteers who donated their time over the past year. We are in the planning stages for our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party. The date is set in stone (or gravel, or clay), so mark your calendars for Sunday, June 27. The venue has been picked (but I can't tell you yet). Invitations will be going out (via e-mail) within the next month, so keep your calendar open for this special day when we say "thank you" to all our volunteers.

PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP

When you pay your dues you become, in a sense, an owner of this organization, with a very real stake in its future. We need more members to step up and show their pride of ownership by being more active in the SDHS.

See page 4 for a host of volunteer opportunities, or call me at (760) 295-7089 or e-mail Volunteer Coordinator Paula Verstraete at volunteer@sdhortsoc.org and let us know you're willing to do your share.

OUR MOST IMPORTANT EVENT THIS YEAR IS ON MAY 10!

Our annual Special Evenings always feature especially well-known or important speakers, and on May 10 we're bringing Brad Lancaster, one of the world's leading experts on Water Harvesting, to San Diego. I've heard this guy speak and he's a real dynamo with a very timely message we can all profit from. Purchase your tickets TODAY at our website, and invite your friends and neighbors to join you. You'll go home with ideas you can put to use immediately to save the graywater you're currently throwing away. In addition, you'll also have valuable information about how to save the rain that falls on your property during our future rainy seasons.

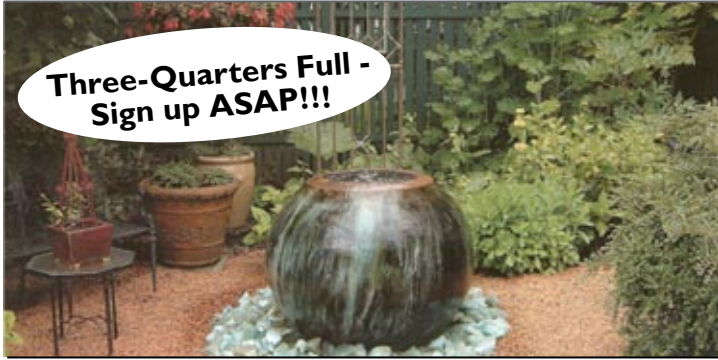
This may well be the most important single event you'll attend this year! If you learn only one helpful fact it could enable you to reduce your water bill immediately - tho I'm sure you'll get a lot more out of it than just one idea.

SEE US AT THE FAIR

Board member Jason Kubrock is working now on our display garden at the San Diego County Fair, which opens on June 11. He can use more volunteers right now to put together this very important - and fun! - display. Put your talents to work for thousands of people to appreciate. For details please contact Jason at (760) 521-3292. ☺

SDHS & Sterling Tours Present

PORTLAND'S EXTRAORDINARY GARDENS, JULY 6 - 11



Tuesday, July 6

Travel independently to Portland; check into the Inn at Northrup Station for five nights. The all-suite hotel, located on the streetcar stop, is surrounded by restaurants & boutiques. 6:00 PM wine and cheese reception at the hotel.

Wednesday, July 7

We will be greeted by the curator of the Portland Japanese Garden, Sadafumi Uchiyama, and enjoy entrance to the gardens before they open to the public. This is considered the finest Japanese garden in the U.S., and we'll have a private, guided tour with the curator and head gardener. • Next we visit Lucy Hardiman, one of Portland's best-known designers. • After this we tour Nancy Goldman's Nancyland, where plants and art mingle. The front garden includes two unique pebble mosaics by Jeffrey Bale. The garden has been seen in numerous publications and on Canadian TV's *Weird Homes*. • Our day ends with the fabulous garden of Jeffrey Bale, featured in many books and magazines. Jeff was originally trained as a landscape architect, and his fabulous pebble and stone mosaics grace some of the most fascinating gardens you are likely to see.

Thursday, July 8

We start at garden designer Susan La Tourette's garden, featured in *Sunset* magazine in June 2009. • Next, our escort, Mike Darcy, will give us a personal tour of his garden, where he tries out new plants and pushes the zone. • After lunch we will enjoy a visit to Bob and Mignon Ervin's urban farm on a hillside overlooking Lake Oswego and Mount Hood. Their sustainable garden is dedicated to organic food production, with ducks, chickens, honeybees, and a family vineyard. • Next we will tour Susan Bates' garden, formerly belonging to Lord and Lady McDonald. • Later we visit the English-style Elk Rock Garden of the Bishop's Close, designed by Olmstead and Son (who also designed Central Park in New York City).

San Diego Horticultural Society members and friends are invited to join us on a fabulous garden tour to Portland, Oregon, July 6 – 11, 2010. We'll visit 11 private gardens featuring the creative use of plant materials and garden art. Public gardens include the Classical Chinese Garden and the Japanese Garden. We will also visit two specialty nurseries. Mike Darcy, Portland garden radio show host, will escort the tour.

Friday, July 9

We first visit Tom Vetter, known as "Portland's Picasso of Plant Combinations," whose garden is beautifully planted to shine in every season. • We continue to designer Bee Smith's very large and personal garden. Bee has wonderful stories to share about all of the great aspects of her garden that shows her love of rust and the color blue. • Next we visit Luscher Farm, which houses a Clematis display garden surrounding a century-old farmhouse. • Our day concludes at Terra Nova Nursery, owned by cutting edge plant genius Dan Heims, who is responsible for the huge popularity of the many new *Heuchera* varieties. The nursery is where they do their breeding and tissue culture. There are no plants for sale here.

Saturday, July 10

We start with visits to two small private gardens. One, belonging to Fe Neely, will amuse us with a "blast of color" from brilliant annuals, perennials and roses. • Our next visit is to Carolyn Guinther's woodland garden with log gazebo, perennials, rock garden, evergreens, waterfall and pond, all conceived as a natural coast range landscape by a gardener who does all her own work. • Our last stop is to the beautiful display gardens Joy Creek Nursery. Plant collections include clematis, hydrangeas, penstemon, and hosta, with many choice plants for sale. • Tonight we will enjoy a very special farewell dinner in the garden at Meriwether's Restaurant, which was featured on a television show directed by Mike Snyder, one of our hosts.

Sunday, July 11

Today features a private docent-led tour of Lan Su Chinese Garden, an authentically built cultural heritage garden and living museum of Chinese trees and flora. Within this scholar's garden serpentine mosaic pathways lead to harmonious landscapes of plants, water, stones, pavilions, and poetry. The collection includes hundreds of native Chinese plant species and forms.

After our visit we will proceed to the airport.

Tour Land Cost per guest:
Based on 35-42 guests: \$918;
Single supplement: \$398

Costs Include:

- 5 nights accommodations, all suite rooms with kitchen or wet bar
- All hotel taxes and service charges
- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 special dinner
- Deluxe private coaches
- Escorted by radio garden guru Mike Darcy, and Cheryl Hedgpeth
- All sightseeing and entrances as per the itinerary
- Gifts to the private garden owners
- Portfolio of documents
- Donation of \$100 to San Diego Horticultural Society

Costs do not include:

Airfare or Travel insurance

Prices quoted are based on a minimum number of guests. In the event of lower numbers, Sterling Tours reserves the right to adjust rates accordingly.

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www.sterlingtours.info

Plants that Produce

SELF-SUFFICIENT PRODUCE GARDENING

By Richard Frost

I am very curious about the growing number of advertisers offering “self-sufficient crop systems” for outdoor patios and indoor/outdoor hydroponics. I see them at the Fairgrounds, Garden Shows, and the like. One sign read “Never Go To The Grocery Store Again”. Now in my childhood there were several years we did grow all of our vegetable foods – and of course went to the store for grains and meats. I’m really having a hard time imagining the magnitude of our vegetable crops fitting on a balcony at Chateau de Del Mar or in a suburban San Diego backyard, let alone the additional area it would take to produce the grains et al. So I decided to do some checking on what really is possible.

In the world of high-efficiency commercial agriculture, you can find farmers achieving amazing outputs, such as last year’s 93 ton per acre tomato harvest by a Kings County CA farmer¹. Ninety three tons of tomatoes would meet the 2,000 calorie per day requirement for 21 people for an entire year. But of course, we need more nutrients in our diet than just those found in tomatoes.

Agronomic studies have shown that by conventional farming methods, a minimum of 1.2 acres per person are needed annually to produce the volume and varieties of foods that constitute a nutritionally balanced diet. Using updated high-density commercial farming methods, this figure can be reduced to about 0.6 acres per person per year when averaged over a large population. About ¼ of that is for vegetables, another ¼ for grains, a little less than a ¼ for fruits, and the remainder for dairy, fish, meat, or vegetable protein production².

A homeowner can’t benefit from some of the efficiencies of scale possible on a medium size farm, but they can make improvements over traditional gardening practices. For this I refer you to the classic book *Five Acres and Independence*, which details how to meet

the annual food requirements for 5 people on 5 acres³. From the presentation in this book and many subsequent publications it is clear that a homeowner can not be completely self-sufficient with soil-based crops on much less than an acre.

Hydroponics does offer higher crop densities over conventional methods, not only because it can be done in isolation from the weather but also because the fertilizer program can be tailored to maximum crop performance. To understand what is possible hydroponically in a home setting, I first examined the proper spectrum of crops to grow from Cornell University studies⁴ and then computed capacity requirements from papers published by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Allowing for re-use of idle space, I obtained 1200 to 1600 linear feet of hydroponic troughs per person on an annual basis. In a very compact factory-like implementation, this works out to 4500 square feet of floor space, or 1/10th of an acre. The largest system I have seen advertised to date is 120 linear feet, so apparently these sellers of balcony and small backyard food garden kits for “self-sufficiency” are only offering false advertising.

¹http://westernfarmpress.com/mag/farming_huge_tomato_crop/

²Food, Population, and the U.S. Economy. Pimentel & Giampietro, 1994.

³<http://dieoff.org/page40.htm>

⁴*Five Acres and Independence*. Kains, 1973. ISBN 0486209741

⁴Testing a complete-diet model. Peters & Wilkins, 2007. *Renewable Agriculture & Food Systems*, v.22 #2

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

Trees, Please

TREES MAKE SCENTS

By Robin Rivet

Nothing captivates our primal connection with nature like scent. A glow descends on my patio, but the statuesque *Brugmansia versicolor* will mysteriously withhold its intoxicating perfume until dusk, despite an afternoon profusion of long, golden-hued trumpets. Although there are many cultivars of Angel’s Trumpet, the ‘Charles Grimaldi’ often takes the most tree-like form. These showy and glamorous flowers defy the common perception that luscious aromas often emanate from marginally interesting blooms. However, if waiting for nightfall is not your strong suit; the sweet smell of Citrus will permeate your garden all day long.

Ripe, rich, Page Mandarins are filling our April juice glasses, and the trees’ powerfully fragrant blossoms are already emerging from new branch tips, anticipating next year’s harvest. Did you know San Diego also boasts *Citrus aurantium* ‘Bouquet de Fleurs’, a sour orange? Now who would deliberately grow a “sour” orange? Well the French do, and truly revere the perfume. However, if you are starting to think I have gone soft on sustainability, think again. Grand Marnier and Cointreau liqueurs derive their exotic taste from sour orange, and the high-pectin fruit is a source for classic marmalade. Along with the rind’s high essential oil content, these have the strongest flower scent of any citrus.

As spring warms up, the non-showy, pale yellow blooms of the Cherimoya tree (*Annona cherimola*), will also compel closer

inspection, as they release their wild, fruity fragrance. Unusual in the plant world, the flowers initially emerge as female, ripe for pollination; but a day or so later, the same petals open wider and male anthers release the pollen needed for cross-pollination. Odd but true. Handy home gardeners frequently collect and hand-pollinate these handsome trees to improve production of this sensuous tropical fruit. Unbelievably, the alluring, heady aroma makes this gardening task anything but tedious.

The lack of winter chill in Southern California usually precludes growing scented lilacs, but our balmy winters host *Michelia* x ‘Allspice’ which can captivate your nose beginning in January. With white crocus-like buds busting through abundant brown velvet casings over several months, this small evergreen tree adds cool weather fragrance. It is a cross between the lanky *Michelia doltsopa* and the smaller banana shrub *Michelia figo*. What about planting a somewhat larger, but related tree, which can bloom intermittently *all year*? So what if the flowers are innocuous? The shiny, large yellow-green leaves of *Michelia champaca* ‘Alba’ can be glorious, but the often hidden flowers emit truly legendary perfume. I swear I can detect a Champaca a half mile away. In the same family, *Magnolia grandiflora* may be our stalwart feature tree, blooming from late spring through fall. It is a wildlife magnet too, as ours is harboring its second hummingbird

Continued on page 13



Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies VIII: Style & Whimsy in the Sustainable Garden

September 23 - 26, 2010, Pasadena, California

Co-sponsored by L. A. County Arboretum & Botanic Garden, APLD Greater L A District, Mediterranean Garden Society

Complete details & brochure: www.PacificHorticulture.org/education-events

The *Style & Whimsy in the Sustainable Garden* symposium will be held in the fascinating Pasadena area on September 23 - 26, 2010. There is always room for fun and charm and joy in the garden, and this symposium will be focused on the lighthearted side of gardening in harmony with our climate. We'd love you to join us for one, two or all three days of lectures and bus tours. A fourth day with optional workshops and garden tours will give you a running start.

Nine engaging speakers will show you how to increase the fun and style in your garden. Bus tours to nine exceptional private gardens will demonstrate how personal and artistic a garden can be without necessarily breaking the bank and while following sustainable garden practices. Yes – it can be done, and we'll show you how!

Thursday, Sept. 23 - Optional Events

- ♦ Two day-long bus tours (*Architecture & Gardens* includes the Gamble House, 4 private homes and gardens. *Native Gardens & Art* goes to the Sam & Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts & Crafts, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 3 private gardens).
- ♦ **FREE** tour of Arlington Garden in Pasadena.
- ♦ Three workshops (Hypertufa Container Making, Nitty-Gritty of Sustainable Garden Design, Advanced Broken Concrete Techniques).
- ♦ **FREE** Roundtable Panel Discussion on *The Science Behind a Sustainable Plant Palette*.

Friday, Sept. 24 - Speakers

- ♦ Debra Prinzing on *Renew, Refresh, Repurpose: High Concept Design Meets Sustainability*
- ♦ Keeyla Meadows on *Sustaining Spirit with Color and Whimsy*
- ♦ Patrick Anderson on *Succulent Gardens: Plants as Art and Architecture*

Saturday, Sept. 25 - Speakers

- ♦ Steve Brigham on *Sustainable Wildlife Gardening: Attracting Birds & Butterflies to Your Garden & Keeping Them There*
- ♦ Anthony Exter on *The Modern Garden: Urban Stress Relief and Emotional Sustainability*
- ♦ Jeffrey Bale on *Beautiful Stonework for a Sustainable Garden*



Sunday, Sept. 26 - Speakers

- ♦ Steve Gerischer on *Losing the Lawn*
- ♦ Richie Steffen on *Inspiration in a Responsible Garden*
- ♦ Marcia Donohue and Brandon Tyson on *Dreamscaping*

The Gardens (3 on tour each afternoon)

☼ One artists' garden, the centerfold story in the April 2010 issue of *Pacific Horticulture*, features an extensive native plant palette, plus art evoking agriculture and urban development, edible & ornamental plants, & sustainable elements including rainwater harvesting. [Saturday & Sunday]

☼ A city garden whose stylish front garden of colorful succulents in mass plantings makes the most of a sloping yard, with a back garden that is home to more succulents and low-water plants, shaded sitting areas, a small veggie garden and outdoor pizza oven! [Friday & Saturday]

☼ A secluded garden by award-winning garden designer Mayita Dinos has a grotto, whimsical sculptures, raised beds of succulents, and a striking water feature. Many materials were repurposed and recycled. [Friday & Saturday]

☼ Native and water-thrifty grasses are the striking feature of a "dog friendly" hilltop garden designed by John Greenlee, with modern art complimented by thoughtful plant choices and walls of broken concrete. [Friday & Sunday]

☼ Shown on the cover of the September 2009 *Garden Design* magazine (and winner of their Green Award), a garden by landscape architect Anthony Exter sets off its mid-century modern home with stylish plantings in what was formerly wasted space. [Friday & Saturday]

☼ Art in a succulent front garden by landscape designer Steve Gerischer includes a horse and cacti sculptures, plus an intriguing standing rock water feature. The back garden features an 8-foot tall blue angel. [Friday & Sunday]

☼ High water bills prompted the owner of this exceptional garden to replace a lawn with a water-thrifty landscape of decomposed granite paths around voluptuously curving beds of low-water perennials and shrubs. [Friday & Sunday]

☼ Two passionate artists created an amphitheater on a steep lot, with grass-covered broken concrete terraces, many recycled materials, a vast array of succulents and low-water plants, and lots of garden art. [Saturday & Sunday]

☼ Designed by Christopher Mercier and Ania Lejman, the homeowners love the very low-maintenance and casual charm of their garden, which features island beds of natives, shaded sitting areas, great privacy, a subtle water feature, kitchen garden, and an outdoor shower. [Saturday & Sunday]

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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:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Eric Arlenso | Mary LaRochele |
| Kathryn Blankinship | Rosemarie Loranu |
| Debbie Boston & Jeff Sargent | Sue Mansour |
| Jan Bowden & Urbana | Tania Mayer |
| Schneider | Gretchen & John McArdle |
| Cheryl Coates | Melissa McClave |
| Salvatore Dacquistio | Penny Moreau |
| Darlene & Gene Gerow | Tricia Pompo |
| Charlotte Gumbrell | Martin Schmidt |
| Deane Hall & Brad Bates | Nicole Schott |
| Nelda Johnson | Nancy Strauss |

NEW ADVERTISERS:

**SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW –
PAGE 16**

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 2010:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Ken Blackford (1) | Susan Oddo (1) |
| Lorie Johansen (1) | Diane Scharar (2) |
| Tami Joplin (1) | Jan Spooner (1) |
| Patti Keyes (3) | Susi Torre-Bueno (2) |
| Susan Marchetti (1) | Cathy Tyka (1) |
| Bill Nugent (1) | |

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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).

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Take 10% off membership fees at **San Diego Botanic Garden** (formerly **Quail Botanical Gardens**).

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LIFE MEMBERS

*Horticulturist of the Year

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chuck Ades* (2008) | Penelope Hlavac |
| Walter Andersen* (2002) | Debbie & Richard Johnson |
| Norm Applebaum & Barbara Roper | Lois Kline |
| Bruce & Sharon Asakawa* (2010) | 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) |
| | Betty Wheeler |

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

| |
|---------------------------------|
| Alta Vista Gardens |
| Philip Tackitt & Janet Wanerka |
| René van Rems |
| Village Garden Club of La Jolla |

What's Up at San Diego Botanic Garden?

CELEBRATING CHOCOLATE: THE FOOD OF THE GODS

Linnaeus was right on when he named the chocolate tree *Theobroma cacao*. From the Greek, *theobroma* means "food of the gods."

Join us in celebration of this amazing food product at San Diego Botanic Garden's Chocolate Festival on Saturday, May 8th, the day before Mother's Day. Over 15 chocolatiers will offer samples that will give you a delightful tasting experience of the incredible variety of chocolate available that day. There will also be a host of vendors with gifts for Mom, chocolate demonstrations in the Walled Garden, and many activities for children.

In honor of chocolate's pre-Hispanic roots, a group of Aztec dancers known as Xipe Totec will perform a ceremonial dance to open the grand event. Afterwards, one of the members of the group, Martin Espino, a well known scholar, performer, and educator will present the sounds of his ancestors throughout the day, inviting audience members of all ages to participate with him by playing his percussion instruments as well as learning simple native songs. These are the sounds of the origins of chocolate, when royalty drank it, when the ancient wisemen mentioned it in their poetry.

In *The True History of Chocolate*—a great read by Sophie and Michael Coe—we learn that chocolate has been enjoyed for almost four millennia. The origin of processed chocolate goes back to the village farmers of Southern Mexico's Pacific coastal plain, and to the Olmecs who followed them. Chocolate drinking was enjoyed by the rulers and royal courts of the Classic Maya, and for the Aztecs, it was used as both drink and coinage.

It is truly remarkable that a spindly understory tree so difficult to grow came to bear seeds of such global importance and enjoyment. With few exceptions, *T. cacao* refuses to bear fruit outside a band of 20 degrees north and 20 degrees south of the equator. Even within this band of the tropics it must stay within a certain altitude so the temperature never falls below 60°F. It requires year-round moisture, and if grown in poor conditions it succumbs to a multiple of diseases.

So there is much to celebrate. To find out more, visit www.SDBGarden.org.

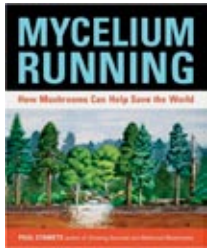
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Book Review

MYCELIUM RUNNING: *How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World*



By Paul Stamets

Reviewed by Caroline McCullagh

What would you think about a book that is recommended by Michael Pollen—author of *The Botany of Desire* and *The Omnivore's Dilemma*—and which has a forward by Dr. Andrew Weil? You might think that the book is out on the fringe, or you might think—as I did—that it must be something special. And was I right.

This is Paul Stamets' fifth book on mushrooms. He has created a book that is so comprehensive it's difficult to imagine there's much more to say about mycelia and mushrooms, although I'm sure other authors will try. Do you want to learn how to grow mushrooms? This is your book. Do you want a list of mushrooms that "can be naturalized outdoors in your backyard and . . . have proven beneficial medicinal and ecological properties"? It starts on page 210. Do you want to see photos that will knock your socks off? Open the book to almost any page. Do you want to know about the mushroom lifecycle? Start with Chapter 2.

Most interesting, though, is Stamets' discussion of how mycelia work in the natural world. They are much more important than we knew. We are beginning to realize that in addition to providing the interface between plant roots and nutrients and water in the soil, they may be the keys to repairing and restoring the land we have damaged with our toxins and other chemicals. And they may even be used to purify water and combat insect pests. He thinks mycelia are "sentient," and can be trained to perform many of these tasks. He describes the success he's had in experiments using mycelia to clean up oil spills.

He also thinks that mycelia have evolved to fight bacteria and viruses in their competition for resources. He thinks they can be used to create medicines to combat many human diseases caused by similar pathogens.

Mushrooms, the fruiting bodies of mycelia, produce the spores that create the next generation. Of course, not all fungi that produce mushrooms are benign. Some, like the armillaria that killed my pomegranate tree, are parasitic. Others are poisonous. But many others are signs of the health of your garden. They should be cherished.

I do have one small quibble with *Mycelium Running*. It's printed on glazed paper. I don't know why this kind of paper is used. It's classy looking, but I find it difficult to read a book on glazed paper. No matter how I hold it, I always get a glare off the page.

Mycelium Running (ISBN-13:978-1-58008-597-3) is available at your local bookstore or at Ten Speed Press (www.tenspeed.com) for \$35. It's a trade paperback and includes a glossary, an extensive bibliography, and an index. While you're at it, check out the Ten Speed Press catalog. They have an interesting selection of books. ☘

Community Outreach

By Linda Johnson

GARDEN TOURS CONTINUE TO OFFER BEAUTY, VARIETY

Fallbrook Country Garden Tour ~ Saturday, May 8 ~ 10am-4pm

Visit seven Fallbrook-Bonsall area gardens to enjoy country gardens, edible landscapes, groves, pools and water features. Shop for garden items, art and used books; proceeds benefit educational programs of the American Association of University Women. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 day of the tour, which starts at the Palomares House, 1815 S. Stagecoach Rd., Fallbrook, where refreshments will be also served. Contact: (760) 451-9532.

Mission Hills Garden Club Walk ~ Saturday, May 8 ~ 10am-4pm

Twelve gardens (!) are showcased on this tour reflecting Kate Sessions' design influence in the Banker's Hill area. Proceeds benefit the club's community-related projects; tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 day of event; children are FREE. Musicians, artists, sales of garden art and crafts, and an opportunity drawing are featured. Ticket includes trolley service, water, and a wine reception at Mission Hills Nursery (1525 Ft. Stockton Dr.) For more info and to purchase tickets visit missionhillsgardenclub.org or call (619) 923-3624.

San Dieguito Art Guild Garden Tour ~ Saturday-Sunday, May 8-9 ~ 10am-4pm

Visit eight artists' studios and gardens in the Encinitas area, and enjoy prints, paintings, pottery, jewelry and other art along with the gardens. Order tickets (\$20) at offtrackgallery.com; proceeds benefit art departments in several area schools. Or, purchase at the OffTrack Gallery in Encinitas at the Lumberyard Shopping Center.

Bonita Valley Garden Club Garden Tour ~ Wednesday, May 12 ~ 10am-3pm

"Bonita in Bloom" features six unique and beautiful Bonita Valley gardens, highlighting water-wise landscaping with natives, edibles, and award-winning designs. Students in the Southwestern College Horticulture program benefit from the tour proceeds and plant sale. Call Vera Matthias (619) 479-0429 for tickets (\$15) and optional box lunches (\$10).

Fallbrook Garden Club Annual Garden Tour ~ Saturday, May 22 ~ 9am-3pm

This year's tour will be better than ever! Pick up tickets at the Fallbrook Historical Society at 260 Rockycrest Road, Fallbrook (\$20 each or two for \$35). This tour showcases seven lovely and creative gardens (one is pictured here) of all sizes and in various styles, including: drought tolerant, poolside, Victorian, scenic, vineyard, whimsical, and, a botanical garden designed by Tom Piergrossi featuring plants from the five Mediterranean zones. Plant sales and garden items are available from on-site artisans, plus see vintage cars! Proceeds support student scholarships and other community projects. Contact: (760) 468-5842.

SD Floral Association Historic Garden Tour ~ Saturday, May 22 ~ 10am-4pm

Celebrate Kensington's Centennial with a visit to six historic homes and gardens. Included are homes and courtyards by architect Richard Requa, gardens by Milton Sessions, and an exotic garden designed by Sinjen. End the tour with a complimentary wine reception at the French Garden Shoppe in Little Italy. Proceeds benefit the San Diego Floral Associations' programs. Tickets (\$15) are available at various nurseries (call 619-232-5762 for details) or at the SD Floral Association office in Balboa Park, Casa del Prado. ☘

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The Real Dirt On...**MARGARET MEE**

By Linda Bresler



Margaret Mee (1909-1988) was a gifted botanical artist who painted hundreds of botanical paintings of orchids, bromeliads, and other plants of the Amazon rain forest region of Brazil. She was also among the first activists to champion the conservation of the rain forest habitat.

Mee (nee Brown) was born in 1909 in Chesham, England, a bucolic London suburb. At an early age, she showed a talent for drawing but did not pursue that interest for some time. At a young age in the late 1920's, she left her family to live in London. There, she met her first husband and became caught up in the political issues of the day. She became a Communist and took a stand against fascism and other political causes.

During World War II Mee worked in an aircraft factory. After the war, she studied art at St. Martin's School of Art to earn a better living. While an art student there, she met her second husband, Greville Mee. In 1950, she received her diploma in painting and design.

In 1952 Mee and her husband moved to Sao Paulo, Brazil to help take care of her ailing sister, Catherine. She taught art and hiked in the coastal forests nearby. During that time, she began painting plant portraits. In 1956, at the age of 46, Mee undertook her first journey into the Amazon rain forest.

After her first exhibition of plant paintings in 1958, and a London exhibition in 1960, Mee became a botanical illustrator at the Instituto de Botanica de Sao Paulo. She was then commissioned to illustrate the *Flora Brasílica*, an ambitious project to catalogue and illustrate the plants of Brazil. This project involved many expeditions to paint plants over the next 32 years. During her trips to the Amazon region, Mee recorded a number of previously unknown plant species.

Over the years, Mee established her reputation as an outstanding international botanical artist. She worked with many notable botanists in the field, gaining additional skill and greater accuracy in depicting the artistic details of plants, which allowed for precise identification of species. At the same time, she provided aesthetic enjoyment of her artwork. Mee depicted many of her plant subjects against an elaborately composed pictorial background rather than against a plain white background. Her work stands as one of the finest records of plants and their habitats ever made.

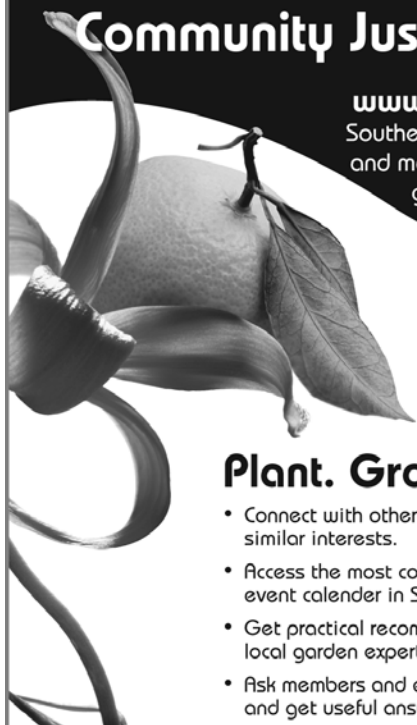
By the 1980's Mee realized that it would be important to create a collection of her Amazon paintings to serve as a record of what she perceived to be an increasingly vanishing world. This collection, comprised of sixty paintings, was to become permanently available to the public. She enlisted the help of her friends in a fundraising campaign to purchase the collection for Kew Royal Botanical Gardens. In 1988, on the eve of her Amazon Exhibition at Kew, Mee was tragically killed in a car accident.

Mee made an enormous contribution to the international effort to Save the Amazon. She crusaded to save the rain forest against the forces of colonization and commercial exploitation. Her botanical art continues to speak to the world about preserving the incredible life she explored in the Amazon forests.

Linda Bresler is a landscape designer who specializes in drought-tolerant, low maintenance designs that provide four season beauty in the garden. 🌿

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Learn More Continued from page 5

And here's an article about the world's fresh water crisis in National Geographic: http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/06/0605_030605_watercrisis.html

So, do the right thing, and make your home and garden more water efficient. Local water districts want to help you with this web site:

www.sandiego.gov/water/

Under "water conservation survey" you can take a quick on-line survey and be rewarded with a free CD, Southern California Heritage Gardening Guide.

An article from the Union-Tribune in October 2006 has a lot to say about landscaping with a view to conserving water; and has many useful links: www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20061015/news_lz1hs15yard.html

In South Bay, Montgomery High School has a native plant garden created and maintained by students:

<http://nativeplants-geo.org/index.html>

You haven't been to the excellent water conservation garden at Cuyamaca College yet?!? Go virtually, but then go for real!

www.thegarden.org/index.html

The Wild Animal Park has its own waterwise demonstration garden too:

www.sandiegozoo.org/CF/plants/gardendetail.cfm?ID=24

More and more nurseries in San Diego are carrying California native, and California-friendly plants. It's time to start adding these beauties to your garden! Start at my favorite: www.cityfarmersnursery.com.

Member Ava Torre-Bueno is a psychotherapist in private practice and the organizer of Gardeners 4 Peace. This group of volunteers is helping to create a peaceful, organic, permaculture garden at the San Diego Friends Center. To learn more contact Ava at gardeners4peace@hotmail.com and visit <http://www.sandiegofriendscenter.org/volunteers.htm>.

Science Fair Continued from page 5

7th grade project on "Experimental Methods of Eradicating Invasive Pampas Grass" an honorable mention.

We congratulate our winners!

We hope to have our two winners demonstrate their projects at our July monthly meeting. Don't miss it!

This year our judges were: George Yackey, Phil Tacktil, Janet Wanerka, Cindy Sparks, Dale Rekus, and Al Myrick; veterans all. Carl Price and Ellen Reardon, who have served the Society so well as judges for many years, have retired from judging activity. We appreciate all that they have done in this and other efforts to promote the education of our young people in horticultural sciences, an important part of the mission of SDHS. Their help and input will be missed by others of our team. 🌿

Trees, Please Continued from page 7

nest of the season. As summer approaches, the large waxy flowers waft their aroma along the driveway. Plucking just one bloom can envelope the whole house with its intense bouquet.

To round out the year, just one whiff from a flowering Loquat tree (*Eriobotrya japonica*) in late fall/early winter, and you will march to your nearest nursery. Grafted varieties usually produce the tastiest fruit, but the Ornamental Bronze Loquat (*E. deflexa*), also produces clusters of creamy, intensely fragrant blooms.

Now wiggle that nose. Gardens need our trees, and planting more trees really makes surprisingly good scents.

Member Robin Rivet is an ISA Certified Arborist and member of the San Diego Regional Urban Forestry Council. She serves on the Environmental/Sustainability Commission for the City of La Mesa and welcomes public inquiries and rebuttals. Websites for local information about fruit trees and fragrant trees, see:

<http://www.crfg.org/index.htm> and

http://selectree.calpoly.edu/search_resultsb.lasso?-session=selectree:4B03CFFD09d1228131vjT2489ACF 🌿

Thanks April Volunteers

We had one late March event and two events in April, and some wonderful volunteers who made all of them possible.

First, thanks to Hilda & Neal King and Evey Torre-Bueno for staffing our information table at the Master Gardener Spring Seminar. We signed up a number of new members, and it was great to see so many current members, too!

Second, on April 18 we held our New Member Orientation gathering at Marcia Van Loy's lovely garden. It's easy to see why she's a Master Gardener – the place is totally charming! A sloping hill with succulents, California-friendly and low water plants attracts multitudes of birds and butterflies. At the bottom of the slope is a twelve-foot waterfall aerating a koi pond; the setting is lovely and serene. Thanks to Susan Morse for organizing these events for new members. You can see this garden for yourself at our July 3rd Coffee-in-the-Garden, when Marcia shares it with us again.

Finally, I hope you were one of the fortunate members who attended the April 25 Coffee in the Garden at Wanda Mallen's and Gary Vincent's delightful garden in Fallbrook. Theirs is the only garden I've ever visited with a dwarf conifer collection, and how about those wonderful greenhouses and lath houses!!! Wanda and Gary have spent years perfecting their garden, and we thank them so very much for graciously sharing it with us. Our volunteers for the event were Evey Torre-Bueno, Ida Rigby, Connie Forest, Eva Heuser and Pat Huff – thanks! 🌿

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SHARING SECRETS

This column is written by you, our members! Each month we'll ask a question, and print your responses the following month.

The question was: What is your favorite plant to propagate from cuttings, and why?

Louise Anderson said, "I think the easiest to propagate are succulents 'cause all you have to do is stick them in dirt and they do their thing."

Sheryl Bennett remarked that, "Successful propagation is so rewarding. I've had very good success with *Brugmansia* (Angel Trumpet). In the spring, I take a cutting about the size of a pencil from new growth, strip off all but a few leaves, dip in rooting compound, and stick in the ground in an area that gets morning sun and afternoon shade, and then keep it moist. In our San Diego climate, it's an easy propagation. I'm always propagating all types of succulents too; they are by far the easiest plant to propagate and share with friends."

Tom Biggart had a favorite shrub: "One of my favorite plants to propagate is *Cistus x skanbergii*. It is a wonderful rockrose! The foliage is grey (a great part of the xerophytic plant palette). The plant grows to 3 feet tall and will spread out to at least 8 feet. I water this area about once a month during the hot, dry season in El Cajon. Now (early April) the plant is literally covered with 1-inch rockrose-type pick flowers. It is a knockout!!"

Ken Blackford posted photos on-line: "I would have to say *Sedum nussbaumerianum* is my favorite plant to propagate from cuttings because it is SO EASY!!! You don't have to wait for the cut to callus over... just cut and plunk into any kind of soil... even clay! Many succulents share this capability, but you can't argue with the fantastic color of *S. nussbaumerianum*... that beautiful orange glow! It contrasts nicely with the dark purple of *Aeonium 'Zwartkop'*, another favorite! Wait! Can we have two favorites? How 'bout 3 ... no, 4, ... 5 ... 6 ... there are so many! Here are some shots of *Sedum nussbaum* (for short) I've posted on Flickr:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amarguy/2562883905/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amarguy/3943469781/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amarguy/1046031278/>

Linda Bresler is another succulent fan: "They are so easy to work with! All you do is cut off a piece, put it into the ground and *voila!*, another plant. The cuttings root quickly and provide additional beauty and color in the garden for no money at all."

Jo Casterline had three favorites: "I have 3 plants that I propagate for the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club plant sale in November. They are so easy and usually sell. The best one is a fuchsia that was a cutting from a friend who did not know its last name but said it came from Los Angeles. It quickly grew into a huge bush and frequently needs control. It never gets a disease nor does it succumb to frost. It lives on the northwest corner of a flowerbed in front of the dining room. Also my apricot colored *Brugmansia*, which always needs trimming back and roots easily. The other one is *Justicia* (the pink one), a rampant grower that lives behind the fuchsia."

Barbara Clark is another shrub fan: "My favorite plant to propagate from cuttings is the hydrangea because it is easy to start this way, and is so beautiful in the garden and in a vase as a fresh or dried cut flower. Just take a 6-inch piece from the tip of one strong shoot,

remove the bottom few leaves, stick it in moist perlite, and keep moist. After a few leaves have shown growth, add a little potting soil on top of the perlite. When growth shows several inches, transfer the new plant to a six-inch pot when the plant has filled the pot with leaves, or roots can be seen coming out through the bottom of the pot. I have taken cuttings and started them any time of year and they always start. I have started several this way and they will be blooming this spring. The plant makes a dramatic cut flower in the full flower form, or separate the florets and use them in mixed bouquets, or float in a flat dish. In the fall, let the flowers partially dry on the plant, but before the flower turn brown, cut the stalk long and hang to dry for use in dried bouquets; they last for years this way. Or put flower stalks in a vase in an inch of water and let the water evaporate gradually. This is also a way to dry them for latter use in dried bouquets. The dried flower can be used as is (they dry many different colors: green, tan, pink depending on the variety and the drying conditions) or they can be lightly sprayed with flower paint to produce a different color."

Carol Costarakis says, "Succulents cause they're sooo easy."

John Gilruth also likes succulents: "My favorite plants to propagate from cuttings are almost any and all succulents. I sell plants at four farmers markets a week and my succulents are very popular as they do not require much water and are easy for my customers to propagate, too. I sell many small plants to children, and always make the child promise to take good care of their new plant - and I give them tips on proper care. It is very rewarding to me to see the number of children who want to take home a plant, and to see how the parents encourage the little ones with their excitement of having their very own little plant."

Cheryl Hedgpath had 2 favorites: "I love tropical gardens, so my favorite two plants to propagate from cuttings are Ti plants and Plumeria. Both are quite easy. I just stick the Ti plants in soil and the plumeria in a mixture of soil and bark, and they take off! I am what is known as a lazy gardener, or as my friend Sinjen used to say, a 'stepmother.'"

Ron Hurov replied that he likes to propagate, "*Pittosporum resiniferum*. It produces gasoline -short chain alkanes - in the fruits."

Wally Kearns wrote, "When I read this question my thoughts went immediately to when I was a kid. I have really warm memories of my grandfather coming to visit and always taking me to the backyard where I lived and sitting me down by our 'well used' *Aloe vera* plant. He would always explain to me the powers it had to heal your cuts. That is when he would cut off a piece and rub it on a scratch I had. Scratches were always easy to come by, being a very active boy. After applying it to my scratch he would then grab this little pot we had and fill it with some garden soil and pop the cutting right into the soil and say, 'With water and light you can give this plant life, it is up to you.' I do not remember the cutting growing, but I do remember whenever he visited a few more times after that we were always planting the new cutting in that same little pot. Looking back I do not know if the cutting ever lasted past the day we planted it, but I do know that it did root in my memory of precious time I was able to spend with my grandfather, who passed away from cancer a few years ago. So *Aloe vera* will always be my favorite plant to propagate from cuttings."

Marla Keith said, "I propagate many plants but begonias are my favorite. Each spring begonias benefit from pruning. It is so easy to put the cuttings into perlite, vermiculite or loose potting mix to have

Continued on page 16

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Secrets Continued from page 15

them root. Free plants result, which can be shared with friends, planted in my garden or grown to sell at our annual begonia show and plant sale the first weekend in October at Balboa Park."

Kathy LaFleur's favorite is scented AND tasty: "My favorite and easiest plant to propagate are scented geraniums. I can always find another place in the garden to tuck one in. Wonderful to use in lemonade or iced tea in the summer."

Alice Lowe likes "succulents, of course! Because they're so easy to grow from cuttings, enabling you to have a magnificent array of plants and varieties you might never find otherwise, and at no cost. Succulent gardeners are generous and always willing to share their bounty - the pruning and pinching is good for the parent plants too. And of course, you must in turn pass on your own cuttings to perpetuate the good vibes."

Sue Martin loves a low-water perennial: "*Gomphrena decumbens* 'Airy Bachelor Buttons' is a newer entry into my garden and I've happily been able to share cuttings and rooted plants with many friends. My plant came from Garden Glories Nursery (at a Hort Society meeting). It's very easy to root. A handful in a cheery bouquet by my kitchen sink will root well within a few weeks and all before the flowers fade. The cut flowers are great fillers in bouquets. In the garden they tread lightly and weave plants together. Kelly Kilpatrick, propagator for Annie's Annuals describes the plant's virtues on their website (www.AnniesAnnuals.com). He found it at a small out-of-state nursery and characterizes it as 'one of the coolest plants I've grown.' I agree."

Cathy McCaw shared her idea for using cuttings as wedding favors for her son's wedding: "I planted succulent cuttings for everyone with a note on a bamboo skewer that said: 'From my garden to yours... These cuttings are like relationships...with love and nurturing they will blossom and grow. Thanks for sharing this special day!'"

Al Myrick had a fun choice: "It is so easy...and so exotic: so-called SPANISH MOSS! Of course, it is an epiphyte bromeliad. You take a gob or strand of it, hang it from a tree limb or nail or hook or wire, in light shade, or eastern sun, or filtered sun. Make sure it has good air circulation. Drench it once or twice a week and when you think about it give the strands or gobs a few poofs of fish emulsion spray. Or don't. And then it grows and multiplies and you can pull the newbies apart and keep doing the same thing to them until your entire backyard and ponds and trees and bushes all have this great hanging curtain of Spanish moss! So that is what we have...this wonderful tropical curtain amongst everything else. And hey, it even blooms (but you have to look closely)!"

Robin Rivet's favorite plants from cuttings are "the ones that eventually remind me of the friends or places that 'donated' the greenery. One of the easiest plants to propagate from even a large woody stem is the *Brugmansia* spp. or Angel's Trumpet. My latest adoption (from a good friend and deposited at my doorstep this winter), has already doubled in size and re-bloomed twice. All I did was stick the broken, naked branch of the fallen 'Charles Grimaldi' fragment into an empty large pot. Since I am a tree lover, some of these perennials can become most tree-like in habit, and oh what fragrance! Go out at night and share the perfume with the pollinating bats and moths."

Diane Scharar said, "I like to propagate *Cuphea micropetala* because the humming birds love it and it is pretty. Just chop off 6 inches and place cutting in a moist shady place with a topless bottomless frosted milk jug over it and it will root quickly. Run a planting stake down through the top and into the soil to keep the hot house jug from blowing off."

Sue Ann Scheck loves "propagating scented geraniums. Lemon and Chocolate are my favorites. They are terrific in salad and are easy to grow, almost drought tolerant after they are established."

Jackie Seidman likes a challenge: "My favorite plant to propagate from cuttings is *Impatiens sodei*. I am not sure why, but I get a very poor success rate, so that when I succeed I am extremely happy. Plus, I love that plant so I can never have too many."

Ron Stevens replied, "The easiest plant I ever propagated by cuttings was *Russelia equisetiformis*, which is sometimes called the Firecracker Plant or Coral Plant. As a matter of fact, the propagation was entirely unintentional. One afternoon as I was doing some garden trimming, I inadvertently broke off a few blooming branches; and since they were so pretty, I decided to put them in a glass of water in front of the kitchen window just to see how long they would last as a cut flower. To my amazement, not only did they hold their bloom well, but in a couple of weeks they began to put out roots and grow. They even broke new buds and continued to flower. It was amazing. And all this happened in a glass of water in the windowsill behind my kitchen sink. These plants do very well in my hot Escondido garden and provide an almost year round display of pretty coral colored flowers. Sometimes in the late afternoon when the light is just right, they seem to explode into color. And as an added bonus they thrive on very little water."

Katrin Utt likes, "the rose of course!!! I have over 100 roses in my garden. Many of them are old or Heirloom roses, dating back to the eighteen hundreds. I have cloned many of them and given them to friends. Old roses are usually very fragrant, disease free and easy to grow. One of my favorites is "Eugene de Beauharnais", a dark red China bred by Napoleon's wife Josephine in 1838."

Marilyn Wilson is one more fan of succulents. "It takes absolutely no brains to propagate a succulent from a cutting."

Melissa Worton likes "Geraniums and Pelargoniums. These drought-tolerant plants are easy to propagate, forgiving to grow and the rewards are colorful. A cutting of a Regal Geranium (Martha Washington type) is a wonderful way to get new gardeners started. These easy to share plants can withstand a piece being broken off and pushed into the ground to start another plant. Once established, the water quantity is minimal and the blossoms fantastic. With thousands of varieties, the sharing is endless."

Tynan Wyatt does best with, "anything that is a succulent because my luck with everything else is miserable! My advice is that if you want to feel like an expert propagator use succulents and work on your skills with herbaceous plants once you have the time and wherewithal to do so."

The question for next month is:

What do you do before or after gardening to protect and/or repair damage to your skin?

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

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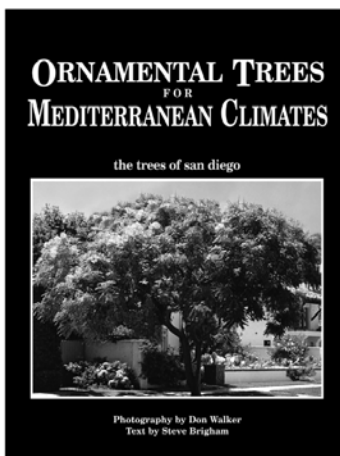
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April Plant Forum

By Mo Price and 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.

Eremophila hydrophana EMU BUSH (Myoporaceae) Australia

This plant is very drought tolerant once established. Does best in full sun. Grows to three feet tall and wide. Light purple flowers appear in spring. The foliage is light in color, covered with grey hairs to combat the rigors of the harsh, arid environment of the Australian outback. (Mo Price, Encinitas, 4/10) – M.P.

Grevillea juniperina 'Molonglo' (Proteaceae) Australia

The foliage is notoriously prickly; in Australia, this species has been used as an animal-proof hedge. An evergreen shrub, it does not mind being pruned and will grow to about two feet tall and 10 feet wide. It bears a heavy show of deep gold flowers from fall through spring that are rich in nectar and supply birds with an abundant source of winter food. This plant, which is dense enough to smother weeds, needs full sun and is drought tolerant. (Mo Price, Encinitas, 4/10) – M.P.

Grevillea 'Poorinda Blondie' (Proteaceae) Australia

Grevillea 'Poorinda Blondie' is a large shrub (to nine feet tall and wide) that has flowers typical of the "toothbrush"-flowered Grevilleas, with individual flowers arranged in a terminal one-sided raceme. The most striking feature is the color of the sprigtime flowers, which is a straw-yellow darkening to an orange yellow. The plant is a hardy and reliable cultivar in most reasonably drained soils in full sun or semi-shade. It responds well to pruning and is tolerant of at least moderate frosts and is an excellent screening plant. (Mo Price, Encinitas, 4/10) – M.P.

Hibbertia stellaris (Dilleniaceae) Australia

Hibbertia stellaris is a small shrub, usually less than about 18" high (to about two feet wide) with small, linear leaves about 1/2" long. This species has been in cultivation for many years and is a very desirable and showy plant that does not require a great deal of space. It prefers dry climates and is suitable for Mediterranean gardens in a sunny or partly shaded location. It will tolerate at least moderate frost. It makes an excellent container plant or may be grown as a ground cover. Yellow/orange flowers appear in spring. (Mo Price, Encinitas, 4/10) – M.P.

Lomandra longifolia MAT RUSH (Xanthorrhoeaceae) Australia

This tough perennial tussock (bunching) grass grows to about three feet tall and wide and is closely related to the Australian Xanthorrhoea (Grasstrees). This hardy plant prefers well-drained soils and grows well in full sun or shade. It is tolerant of heavy frost and drought. In spring it produces shoots of small, interesting cream flowers. (Mo Price, Encinitas, 4/10) – M.P.

***Philothea myoporoides* LONG LEAF WAX FLOWER** (Rutaceae) Australia

Formerly known as *Eristomen*, *P. myoporoides* is the best-known member of the genus and is one of the most widely cultivated of all of Australia's native plants. It has been available in general horticulture for many years and has proven to be a hardy and adaptable garden plant. The leaves have a pleasant aroma when crushed due to the presence of volatile oils. The waxy, white flowers are seen from late winter through to late spring and are about 1/2" in diameter. *P. myoporoides* is hardy in a range of climates in reasonably well-drained soils. It is grown in sun or semi-shade and, once established, the plant can withstand extended dry periods; tolerant of moderate frosts. This shrub grows from three to seven feet tall and wide, and responds well to pruning after flowering to shape plants or simply to encourage vigorous growth. (Mo Price, Encinitas, 4/10) – M.P.

***Protea cynaroides* KING PROTEA** (Protaceae) Australia

P. cynaroides is the most spectacular and largest-flowered protea, bearing white, pink to deep red flowers in spring. Although this can grow to 8' x 8' in its native habitat, it typically grows to 6' x 6' in cultivation. Best in full sun. Because it has an underground rootstock from which it can shoot into new growth after fires, it can be rigorously pruned back to a stump if it becomes leggy. (Mo Price, Encinitas, 4/10) – M.P.

More info on great low-water plants is available at the SDHS website (go to the Water Conservation page and scroll down to Plant Lists for Water Conservation).

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Thanks to everyone who participated in last month's plant forum, especially to Mo Price, who did a first-rate job as our Plant Forum Host.

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 April newsletter was *Lathyrus odoratus* 'Stripper' DISROBE SWEET PEA.

Aquilegia chrysantha GOLDEN COLUMBINE
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/10)

Babiana sp. or cv. BABOON FLOWER
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/10)

Baptistonia echinata (Jim Wright, San Diego, 4/10)

3 *Centradenia* cv. or sp. (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 4/10)

3 *Cerinthe major* 'Purpurascens' HONEYWORT
(Jane Coogan Beer, Los Angeles, 4/10)

Dendrobium canaliculatum (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/10)

Dendrobium jenkinsii (Jim Wright, San Diego, 4/10)

Echinocereus caespitosus HEDGEHOG CACTUS
(Peter Walkowiak, Poway, 4/10)

Echinocereus viereckii var. *morricallii* (Peter Walkowiak, Poway, 4/10)

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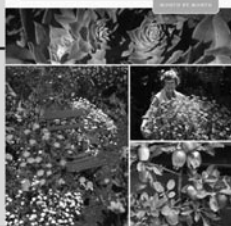
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April Plant Forum

Epiphyllum hybrid [hybridized by John Gilruth, who will register it and
name it for his mother] (John Gilruth, Rainbow, 4/10)

Epiphyllum hybrid (John Gilruth, Rainbow, 4/10)

Euphorbia aeruginosa (Steve Mediano, San Diego, 4/10)

Euphorbia squarrosa (Julian Duval, Encinitas, 4/10)

Helleborus cultivars: 'Blue Lady', 'Herronswood Pink', 'Ivory Prince',
'Royal Heritage Strain' HELLEBORE (?, 4/10)

Helleborus lividus 'Pink Marble' PINK MARBLE HELLEBORE (?, 4/10)

Helleborus orientalis 'Winter Queen Strain' HELLEBORE (?, 4/10)

Heuchera 'Canyon Pink' CANYON PINK CORAL BELLS
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/10)

Iris cultivars (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/10)

Lathyrus malodoratus SOUR PEA (Onery Gardener, Los Angeles, 4/10)

Lathyrus odoratus SWEET PEA (Jane Coogan Beer, Los Angeles, 4/10)

Lavandula stoechas 'Silver Anouk' (Susi Torre-Bueno, Vista, 4/10)

Narcissus poeticus var. *recurvus* PHEASANT'S EYE NARCISSUS
(Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/10)

Pachypodium succulentum (Peter Walkowiak, Poway, 4/10)

Ranunculus sp. or cv. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/10)

Salvia africana-lutea BROWN SALVIA (Mo Price, Encinitas, 4/10)

Sansevieria suffruticosa (spiral form) (Cathy Tylka, Escondido, 4/10)

Sarcocylus sp. (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/10)

Sarcocylus hartmanii (Charley Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/10)

Thomasia solanaceae 'Velvet Star' SOLANUM LEAFED THOMASIA
(Mo Price, Encinitas, 4/10)

Tillandsia schiedeana AIR PLANT (Jim Wright, San Diego, 4/10)

3 *Watsonia* sp. or cv. (Sue Fouquette, El Cajon, 4/10)

Weigela 'Apple Blossom' HELLEBORE (?, 4/10)

HOW TO READ THE PLANT FORUM ENTRIES

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

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

[2] Cultivar ['Cheerio']

[3] Common Name [DONUT PLANT]

[4] Family [Pastryaceae]

[5] Distribution [7-Eleven to Vons]

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

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

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

April Meeting Report

It has been more than thirty years since April speaker Joe Walker started working with the government of Australia on a breeding program to bring Australian native plants into cultivation for the cut flower industry and to create improved hybrids. Joe and his wife, Julie, founded Obra Verde Growers in 1974 to sell what has grown to over 100 varieties of these beautiful and long-lasting flowers. They're going retail, too, so check out their website, www.obraverde-flowers.com.

In his fascinating and detailed presentation to over 350 members and guests, Joe shared the nitty-gritty on about two dozen of his favorite plants that should do well in home gardens. As a general rule, Australian natives don't like phosphorus, tolerating only 3% of this element in fertilizer, and South African natives (a few of which Joe also showed) have a zero tolerance for phosphorus. Most Australian natives do best in soils with a pH between 6 and 8 and prefer well-drained soil and full sun. Because Joe's primary interest is in plants for cutting, we learned that the plants he discussed thrive with either hard pruning (where you remove 20-40% of the plant) or light pruning (where you leave over 40% of the plant). For home gardeners this translates to a lot of good material for making bouquets!

The plants we heard about in detail also share the following characteristics: full color in fall and winter; attractive to birds and butterflies, tolerant of a wide range of temperatures, and evergreen foliage. In addition, many have scented flowers and/or foliage. Many other Australian native plants are similarly garden-friendly, and because they are water-thrifty they are excellent additions to our home gardens. Here are details about some of the plants Joe described.

Agonis flexuosa is a large small tree to about fifteen feet tall and wide. It tolerates clay soil and is good for hedges and borders. The foliage is redder with cold weather, giving it a common name of "Red Southern Cross." Native to Western Australia, this plant needs only 1-3 gallons of water a week and is very frost-tolerant. It resembles a weeping willow, but is far more suitable for our dry climate.

Chamelaucium 'Bridal Pearl' is a cross of two species: *Chamelaucium uncinatum* and *C. megalopetalum*. There are currently seven named cultivars in the "Pearl" series from Western Australia. 'Bridal Pearl' blooms from November through March with flowers that start out white and gradually age to red over about 90 days. As a cut flower is boasts a two-week vase life. The plant grows to about 4' tall by 5' wide in full sun to part shade. You can grow it in containers as well as in the garden, and it needs only 2-3 gallons of water a week to survive. It will also tolerate temperatures from about 20° to over 100° F, making it a good choice for anywhere in the county.

Chamelaucium 'Matilda' is a really fascinating eye-catcher, with bi-colored blooms that change from white (in November or December) to deep maroon over a span of five months. Flowers of several colors can be present on the plant at one time. It is excellent in containers, growing only 2-3 tall and 3-4 feet wide, and does well in sun to part shade with as little as 1-3 gallons of water per week. In addition, it tolerates frost well, and responds well to heavy pruning, so you'll have lots of flowers for arrangements and to share with friends. This outstanding plant is a new (2009) introduction by Joe Walker, receiving a U.S. patent in March 2010.

Leucadendron 'Safari Sunset' is a South African shrub that is excellent both in containers and in the ground. It has colorful foliage all year, with redder leaves in winter. A good hedge plant, it grows to about 6' tall (can be taller) and 8' wide, and thrives on 2-4 gallons of water a week.

Thanks, Joe, for a thoughtful look at some outstanding plants that can have a big impact in our own gardens, and also for donating 15 gorgeous plants for our Opportunity Drawing. We're honored to count you and Julie among our members. 🌿

On the SDHS website there is a handout from Joe with photos of all the plants he discussed. Go to our Water Conservation page and click on Plant Lists for Water Conservation until you see the section from our April 12, 2010 meeting.

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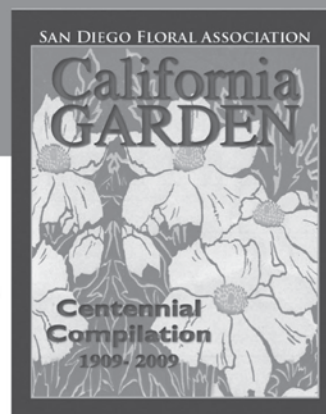
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
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Chocolate Festival

Saturday May 8 • 10AM - 4PM

**Spend the Saturday before Mother's Day
at San Diego Botanic Garden's
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-  Enjoy dozens of delectable chocolate tastings from our many chocolate vendors
-  Demonstrations about Chocolate
-  Children's Activities
-  A variety of Mother's Day gifts
-  "Tasting" tickets starting at \$1 will be sold on site the day of the event.

Cost: Free with admission or membership, plus tasting and children's activity tickets as desired.

For more information visit
www.SDBGarden.org or call 760/ 436-3036 x206.

San Diego Botanic Garden
230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024



What's Happening? for May 2010

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.

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.....Expect the Unusual



Hello to all and welcome to the merry month of May:

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

Lots of **Perlargoniums** in now – Cranesbill, Cordifolium, Johnson's Blue, Lavendar Lass, Chocolate Candy and Jolly Bee.

Agonis flexuosa 'After Dark' – a small spreading tree, gets to 18ft tall and 15ft wide. Dark burgundy foliage with small creamy flowers in spring. Drought tolerant and evergreen.

Crimson **Mandevilla 'Sun Parasol'**; vigorous, heavy blooming sun lover. Fast growing vine with huge crimson red flower to 5" across.

In the Shade Area:

- ❖ Lots of New Guinea Impatiens in pink, lilac, orange & purple.
- ❖ Coleus, at least 10 different varieties
- ❖ Colored Callas
- ❖ Plectranthus 'Troy's Gold' – gets 1ft tall and to 3ft across, an Australian native grown for the lovely foliage.
- ❖ Ground covers for the shadier spot – Lamium (Spotted Dead Nettle), Ajuga Reptans, Lysmachia
- ❖ Hydrangeas—all coming into bloom—pinks, blues and whites.
- ❖ Fuchsias – 4", 1gal, patio trees and fabulous hanging baskets (Profuse bloomers from now thru fall or until it gets cooler – maybe November!! Make sure the hanging baskets get plenty of water – they'll complain by drooping promptly if they need more water.

❖ **Water plants are here in force** – Water lilies many in bloom, Water Hyacinths, Aquatic Irises, Cannas, Green Taro, Dwarf Horsetail. Double Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) – bright yellow flowers. Water Forget-me-not, Lavender Musk (looks like Linaria), Water Snowflake (yellow flowers), Water Pennywort and much more.

❖ **15-gallon Baby Queen Palms**. Will grow no taller than 12 – 14 feet with a trunk like bright green Bamboo.

❖ **Bedding plants** (get ready for the list): Sunflowers, Marigolds, Salpiglossis, Ageratum, bedding Dahlias, Browallia, Lobelia (many colors), Dusty Miller, California Poppies, Zinnias, Petunias and Supertunias, 4" Penstemon, Satureja, Celosia (yellow, orange and red), 6 packs of Lantana & Erodium, Hypericum, Vinca, Verbena, Camanions (and more).

❖ It is the peak time to plant **Tomatoes**. We have so many – here are a few: Abraham Lincoln (popular since the 1920's), Carbon (one of the darkest black tomatoes), Celebrity (large (continued on other side)

The Water Conservation Garden (see other side for address)

May 2 1:30-2:30pm Ask The Horticulturist Tour: Enjoy an informative walk through the Garden, Free

May 16 9:30-10:30am Special Access Tour: Special tour for individuals who may have difficulty navigating the terrain of the Garden. Explore the Garden from the comfort of a shuttle. Free; reservations required call 619-660-6841

FREE Community Workshops

Starting to Grow Your Own Food? Learn to Win the Battle Against Pests! Saturday, May 1, 10:30 AM-NOON, 4S Ranch Library, 10433 Reserve Drive, San Diego, CA 92127

Saturday, May 8, 10:30 AM-NOON, Rancho San Diego Library, 11555 Via Rancho San Diego El Cajon, CA 92019

Free gift for the first 50 attendees. Sponsored by: UCCE San Diego County Farm & Home Advisors Office, <http://cesandiego.ucdavis.edu/Horticulture>, (858) 694-2184

San Diego Botanic Garden (see other side for address)

May 1, 9am-1pm Build a Sustainable Kitchen Garden Using Hydroponic Wick Method: Learn the principles of applying hydroponics. Cost: Members \$70, non-members \$90 Pre-registration required

May 15 10-noon Composting Workshop: Learn how to compost your food scraps and yard trimmings. Also covers vermicomposting (worms). Compost bins and worm bins for sale afterward. Free. To register contact the Solana Center at (760) 436-7986 or www.solanacenter.org.

May 22 9am-3pm Palm and Cycad Sale: limited and rare palm and cycad species from exceptional Southern California nurseries. Free with admission or membership. For info call Phil Bergman at (619) 291-4605.

Walter Andersen Nursery FREE Saturday Classes:

9:00am Point Loma Nursery:

May 1 Cactus & Succulents

May 8 Gifts for Mothers Day

May 15 Grafting & Budding with Kurt Peacock

May 22 Artificial Turf: Questions, Information & Installation

May 29 Attracting Butterflies

9:30am Poway Nursery:

May 1 Lawn Care

May 8 Rose Show Prep Class; How to Prepare Flowers for Show

May 15 Annual Rose Show

May 22 Veggies for Containers

May 29 Floral Arrangements with Flowers from your Yard

Details at www.walterandersen.com; addresses in ad on page 17

Evergreen Nursery Seminars (see page 4)

9:00 am, 13650 Carmel Valley Road, San Diego/Carmel Valley

10:00 am, 3231 Oceanside Blvd, Oceanside

11:00 am, 12460 Highland Valley Rd, Escondido

May 1: Learn how to save time and money with low water plantings and practices. Find out about lawn substitutions, watering techniques, and proper landscape design.

May 15: Learn about plants that grow and thrive in those shady areas. Plus learn what trees and bushes are best for creating shady areas.

Free, refreshments provided

Cedros Gardens Saturday 10am classes:

Details at www.cedrosgardens.com; address in ad on page 19.

May 1, 10:00 am-4pm, Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Plant Sale: Alta Vista Gardens 1270 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. Free. For info contact ymbroughton@cox.net or see altavistagardens.org/html/directions.html

May 1, 1-4pm, California Coastal Rose Society Rose Show: Flower Fields, 5704 Paseo del Norte, Carlsbad. Entries will be accepted from 6:00-9:30am. Prizes awarded at about 2pm. Free with admission to Flower Fields. Info (760) 967-3856 or www.californiacoastalrose.com.

May 7, 12:30pm, Carlsbad Garden Club: Petals for Patriots award of appreciation to Dos Gringos flower company for supplying fresh-cut flowers for bouquets delivered to wounded warriors. Free. Dove Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad. Info at carlsbadgardenclub@hotmail.com or (760) 845-6339.

May 9, 12:30pm, Mabel Corwin Branch of the American Begonia Society: Tour the Kartuz Nursery. Kartuz Greenhouses, 1408 Sunset Dr., Vista. Call Marla Keith at (760)753-3977 or email to marybegonia@att.net for info.

May 9, 1-3pm, S. California Plumeria Society: Fertilizing plumerias to achieve the best blooms. Raffle. Free. War Memorial Building, 3325 Zoo Drive. For info see socalplumeriasociety.com or call (760) 461-5942.

May 10 SDHS Special Evening Details on page 3

Brad Lancaster on Water Harvesting

May 11, 7pm, San Diego Geranium Society: TBA. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room101. Free. See www.sdgeranium.org

May 12, 10am, Point Loma Garden Club: Debra Lee Baldwin, author of "Designing With Succulents" and "Succulent Container Gardens." Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego. Guests \$10. See www.plgc.org

May 12, 10am, Poway Valley Garden Club: Meet at Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway and carpool to San Diego Botanic Garden. www.Powayvalleygardenclub.org

May 12, noon, Ramona Garden Club: Creative floral arranging by George Speer, California Garden Clubs. Womens Club, 524 Main St., Ramona. Info: (760) 787-0087 or www.RamonaGardenClub.com .

May 15&16, 10am-4pm, San Diego Geranium Society Annual Show & Sale: 'Geranium Galleria.' Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101. Free. For info see sdgeranium.org

May 17, 7:30pm, San Diego Rose Society: Little Rose Show. Room 101 Casa del Prado Balboa Park. Free. See sdrosesociety.org/sdrs_calendar.htm#may

May 18 7pm California Native Plant Society: Reproductive Biology of Southern California Rare Plant, the Orcutt's Goldenbush. 6:30pm bonus meeting, "Natives for Novices." Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, room 101. Info www.cnpsd.org.

May 25, 2:00pm, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club: The Mysterious World of Grasses, by Jeremy Bugge. Rancho Bernardo Library Seinar Room. (760) 749-5930; www.lhnpc.org.

May 26, 6pm, Mission Hills Garden Club: Advantages of natives in your new landscape plans. \$10 for guests/visitors. United Church of Christ 4070 Jackdaw St. San Diego. See missionhillsgardenclub.org

May 26, 7pm, Rare Fruit Growers San Diego Chapter: Blueberries and cane berries. Rm. 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park. For info see cfrgsandiego.org

May 27 6:30pm Del Mar Rose Society: Waterwise, Firewise Landscaping 2010. Powerhouse Community Center in Del Mar. For info contact Ellen Breen at ebreen@ucsd.edu or Linda Gluckman at lindagluckman@att.net or see www.debraleebaldwin.com and www.succulentchic.net.

GARDEN TOURS/EVENTS

See Page 10 for * items; See April newsletter for ** items

**** May 1, Clairemont Town Council Garden Tour.** Call (858) 863-0908 or visit gardentour@clairemontonline.com

May 1, 9am-3pm, AAUW Through Garden Gates Garden Tour: 5 fabulous gardens in Rancho Santa Fe, Del Mar, and Encinitas. \$25; \$35 day of event. For info/tickets, (760) 603-9287 or e-mail throughgardengates2010@gmail.com. Tickets also available at The Book Works in Flower Hill Mall, 2670 Via De La Valle, Del Mar.

May 1, 1-5:30pm, ASLA Garden Tour: "A Landscape in Transition." Bus Tour of 4 private gardens and public projects. Kilroy Business Center Del Mar, 3611 Valley Centre Drive, San Diego. \$45. See <http://www.asla-sandiego.org/gardentour.html> or call Navid Mostatabi (619) 225-8155

*** May 8, 10am – 4pm, Mission Hills Garden Club's 12th Annual Gardens Tour**

*** May 8, 10am – 4pm, Fallbrook Country Garden Tour (AAUW)**

*** May 8 & 9, 10am – 4pm, San Dieguito Art Guild Tour**

*** May 12, 10am – 3pm, Bonita Valley Garden Club Garden Tour**

*** May 22, 9am – 3pm, Fallbrook Garden Club Garden Tour**

*** May 22, 10am – 4pm, S D Floral Assoc. Historic Garden Tour**

Resources & Ongoing Events

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN (formerly QUAIL 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 10:00am. 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

GardenLife Radio Show (national). Saturday from 8-9am and Sunday from 8–10am. KCEO 1000AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: 866-606-TALK. If your local station does not carry GardenLife, hear it streaming live on lifestyletalkradio.com. GardenLife shows are also archived at lifestyletalkradio.com

Garden Compass Radio Show (local). Saturday from 9–10am. XEPE 1700AM radio, hosts Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, John Bagnasco. Call-in questions: (619) 570-1360 or (800) 660-4769.

glossy red tomatoes), Sweet Million (red cherry), Black Krin, Siberian (Heirloom, juicy red fruit), Red Cherry (what else to say?), Prince Borghese (large Italian heirloom), Yellow Pear (tiny yellow pear shaped fruit), Lemon Boy (high yielding, mild flavored, lemon-yellow fruit), Champion (solid, meaty fruit – great for sandwiches), Old German (large meaty heirloom) and Stupice (another heirloom).

❖Lots of Peppers, Sages (new nice looking one there today is Ecuador Sage).

❖Also Basils, Dills, Italian Squash, Cabbage – Ruby Perfection, Eggplant and Lemon Verbena.

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

❖We have a new display of **Hummingbird and Oriole feeders**, and food. We have a pair of Orioles that return to the nursery every year and they are back once again. They love to bathe in the fountains.

❖The **gift shop** is fully stocked with lots of new season home and garden décor – remember Mother’s Day is coming up!

Into the garden -

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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